
Mark Pont, Assessment Programme Lead

Alastair McAlpine
Chief Statistician
Scottish Government
(By email)

15 May 2024

Dear Alastair

Compliance Check of the Scottish Health Survey Statistics

We recently carried out a compliance check of the [Scottish Health Survey \(SHeS\)](#) statistics against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). These statistics were designated as National Statistics in 2010, and we are pleased to confirm that they should continue to be accredited under the status now known as accredited official statistics (AOS).

The SHeS is a longstanding annual survey in Scotland providing data about the health of the population on a diverse range of topics including mental and physical health; diet and food security; and alcohol and smoking. It therefore provides a vital picture of the health of the Scottish population living in private households. It is used by the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and many health organisations, including charities for planning or for decision-making. The Scottish Parliament also regularly refers to the survey results when debating health issues. Endorsed by the Chief Medical Officer in Scotland, the SHeS has a [Project Board](#) consisting of stakeholders, the survey contractor and users which helps to increase confidence in the statistics. The Project Board also reviews the survey topic questions used each year to ensure that they remain relevant and are both appropriate and proportionate for the survey interviews, which span multiple age groups.

In carrying out our review, we consulted some users and took their views into account. We have set out our findings along with some recommendations in the annex that we consider would help to further improve the statistics. We will follow these up informally with the team as it works towards the next release.

I would like to thank your team for its positive engagement with us during this review. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss any aspects of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Pont
Assessment Programme Lead