

# **Proposed domains and headline indicators for measuring national wellbeing**

## **Consultation response form**

Please see the Discussion paper for detailed information on domains and measures referred to in this form.

### **Section A: Proposed domains**

#### **1. Do you think the proposed domains present a complete picture of well-being? If not, what would you do differently?**

We think that the proposed domains do not go far enough to recognise 'what we do' and 'where we live', nor reflect the contribution that arts and culture can make to both individual and national wellbeing in these respects. Your published analysis of the answers from the first consultation found that: 'what is important is how we spend our time, including the balance we achieve between our work and home lives, the time we spend outdoors (and the availability of green spaces for us to use) and the extent to which we participate in cultural or creative activities.'<sup>1</sup> However, the current proposal does not suggest any measures which take into account cultural participation.

Arts Council England is a partner in the Culture and Sport Evidence programme (CASE) which has previously undertaken research into the value and impact of engagement in culture. The research established a statistically significant relationship between sports and arts engagement and increased subjective well-being. Other research by CASE and others also demonstrates that arts and culture contributes to longer term societal benefits (many of which are factors described in Office for National Statistics discussion papers as being an 'objective' measure of well-being, such as educational attainment, health and building family and community connections).

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<sup>1</sup> *National statistician's reflections on the national debate on national well-being* (Office for National Statistics, July 2011, p6)

A principle source of data for research in this area is the Taking Part survey which captures individuals' levels of participation in culture and sport, the benefits they derive from it, and the barriers and enablers (economic, physical, social and psychological) to engagement. The Taking Part survey measures a wide variety of activities which fall within the concept of 'leisure'. The survey also asks a standard wellbeing question: how happy would you say you are?

**2. Are there any areas where proposed domains should be merged or divided further? If yes, please give details.**

Given the analysis of the first consultation responses, we believe that the natural environment domain could be merged with the 'where we live' domain, which in turn could be broadened to include aspects of the natural, social and cultural environment.

**3. Do you think that the proposed domains adequately reflect the responses to the national debate?**

No.

See responses to question 1 & 3

**Section B: Proposed Measures**

**4. Are there any measures which should be added? If yes, please give details. If an alternative measure is suggested, which measure might be removed, to keep the total number the same?**

As discussed above, we believe that some culture measures would be essential to give a complete and more in depth understanding and assessment of wellbeing. We would welcome further discussion between ourselves and the DCMS with ONS to explore the options of using cultural measures of wellbeing.

**5. Are there any variants on the measures suggested which would be more appropriate? If yes, please give details.**

Various measures from the Citizenship Survey are suggested in the consultation, but the survey was discontinued in 2011.

Some of the questions that used to be asked in the Citizenship Survey now feature in the Taking Part survey— such as those around volunteering, trust etc. Specific examples include questions about belonging (Taking Part asks people how strongly they belong to their local area, and to Britain) and volunteering (Taking Part asks people if they have undertaken any voluntary work in the last year).

Taking Part is therefore an obvious replacement for the Citizenship Survey in a number of places, and the existing presence of a standard wellbeing question (how happy would you say you are?) suggests that a number of measures within the survey could then be correlated against each other.

**Section C: About you**

**6. Which sector do you primarily work or study in? (To assist in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached)**

**Public Sector**

Central government department or agency	X	School or college
Local or regional government		University
Financial public corporation		Health
Non-financial public corporation		

**Private Sector**

Financial corporation		Health
Non-financial corporation		Manufacturing
School or college		Service industry
University		

**Other sectors**

Non-profit institution		Not in paid employment or education
Media		Other, such as full-time carer etc

**7. Are you:**

An analyst?		A teacher or lecturer?
A researcher?		A student?
A policy maker?	X	A consultant?
A journalist?		Not in paid employment or education?



Thank you for completing the consultation. ONS will publish a response in Spring 2012 to the views expressed during the consultation on the National Well-being pages.

If you have any queries regarding this consultation, please contact Jen Beaumont on (0)1633 651 622 or e-mail [nationalwell-being@ons.gov.uk](mailto:nationalwell-being@ons.gov.uk)

Please return your completed form by e-mail to [nationalwell-being@ons.gov.uk](mailto:nationalwell-being@ons.gov.uk) or by post to

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## **Confidentiality and data protection**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you would like the information, including personal data, that you submit to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, among other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. Before disclosing any information that is personal to you, we will inform you of this in advance of any disclosure. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Office for National Statistics.

Please ensure that your response is clearly marked on Question 16 if you wish your response and your name to be kept confidential. Confidential responses will



be included in any summary of numbers of comments received and views expressed.

### **Consultation timetable**

This consultation will run from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

### **After the consultation**

We will publish a summary of the comments made approximately eight weeks after the consultation closes.

### **How to comment on the consultation process**

If you would like to make any comments about the consultation process we have followed, please contact:

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