



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport



# Taking Part 2014/15, Focus On: Barriers to Participation, Disability



Statistical Release

November 2015



# Introduction

## This report

This report is one in a series of ten “Taking Part, Focus On” reports, presenting findings on the tenth year of the Taking Part survey (2014/15). Taking Part is a continuous face to face household survey of adults aged 16 years and over and children aged 5 to 15 years old in England. The series expands on and complements the Statistical Release published on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 that presented headline adult findings from the survey, covering April 2014 to March 2015. The “Focus On” series looks in more detail at specific topics, with each report covering one of the following areas:

- 1) Art forms
- 2) Sport
- 3) Heritage
- 4) Free time activities
- 5) Barriers to participation, disability**
- 6) Society
- 7) Wellbeing
- 8) Digital engagement
- 9) Newspaper readership
- 10) First World War Centenary

This *Taking Part, Focus On... Barriers to Participation, Disability* report focusses on the proportion of the adult population in England who have a physical or mental health condition or illness that limits their ability to carry out day to day activities. It compares the wellbeing of this group with that of the general population and explores some of the reasons why adults with a limiting health condition or illness may not participate in culture or sport.

## Forthcoming releases

The next adult release, to be published on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, will present data covering the period October 2014 – September 2015.

Future adult releases of Taking Part will be published every six months. The next biannual release is therefore scheduled for July 2016 and will present data covering the period April 2015 – March 2016. Future adult releases will follow a similar schedule, being released every six months in July and December.

In addition, another series of “Taking Part, Focus on...” reports will be published in April 2016. Like the current report, each ‘short story’ in this series will look at a specific topic in more detail, providing more in-depth analysis of the 2014/15 Taking Part data than seen in the biannual report.

If you would like further information on these releases or the Taking Part survey, please contact the Taking Part team on [TakingPart@culture.gov.uk](mailto:TakingPart@culture.gov.uk).

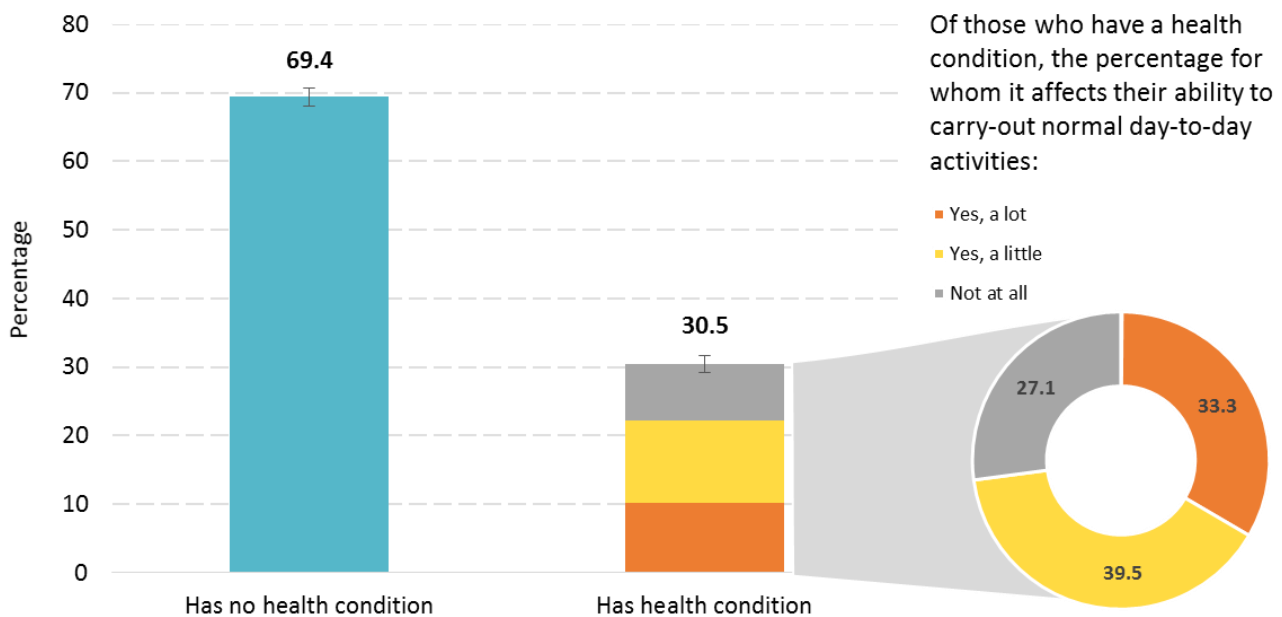
# Health conditions

In 2014/15, 31 per cent of adults asked said that they had a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more. 69 per cent said that they had no such health condition.

Of those adults who stated that they had a health condition, 33 per cent said that it limits their ability to carry out day to day activities a lot (10 per cent of the whole adult population) (see Figure 1).

There has been no significant change in the percentage of adults reporting a health condition or illness between 2013/14 and 2014/15, or in the percentage of those adults with a health condition or illness who say that it limits their day-to-day activities a lot.

**Figure 1: Health conditions for adults lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more, April 2014 to March 2015**



## Notes

(1) Confidence intervals on the main bar chart, shown as error bars, are equal to +/-1.3.

## What is a confidence interval?

A confidence interval provides a range in which there is a specific probability that a true value will lie. For this survey, 95% confidence intervals are used. This means that, had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 percent of these intervals would contain the true value.



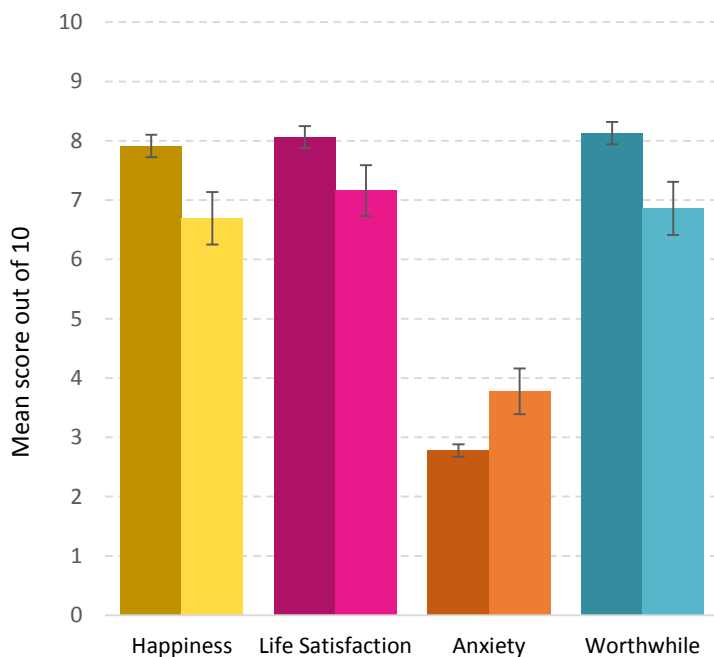
# Wellbeing

The accompanying *Focus On... Society* report details the wellbeing of all adults in England, while *Focus On... Wellbeing* looks at the relationship between different aspects of wellbeing and the factors associated with wellbeing.

Respondents were asked four questions on their wellbeing including: how happy they are; how satisfied they are with their life; how anxious they felt the day prior to interview; and to what extent they feel things in their life are worthwhile. Average wellbeing scores for those with and without a health condition or illness that limits them a lot are shown for each wellbeing measure in Figure 2.

Average wellbeing scores for those with and without a health condition or illness that limits them a lot are shown for each wellbeing measure in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Mean wellbeing scores for those with and without a limiting illness or health condition lasting or expected to last 12 months or more, April 2014 to March 2015**



## How does this compare?

A 2013 [ONS report](#) shows that self-assessed health is particularly strongly related to wellbeing.

Comparing those with a limiting illness or health condition to those without, distributions of wellbeing responses differ significantly.

## How does this compare?

A 2014/15 [ONS report](#) calculated mean well-being scores for all adults in the UK as follows:

- 7.5 out of 10 for happiness yesterday,
- 7.6 out of 10 for life satisfaction,
- 2.9 out of 10 for anxiety yesterday,
- 7.8 out of 10 for feeling that what one does in life is worthwhile.

### Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-0.5.

(2) Darker shaded bars denote adults not limited by a health condition or illness: lighter shaded bars denote those limited by a health condition or illness.

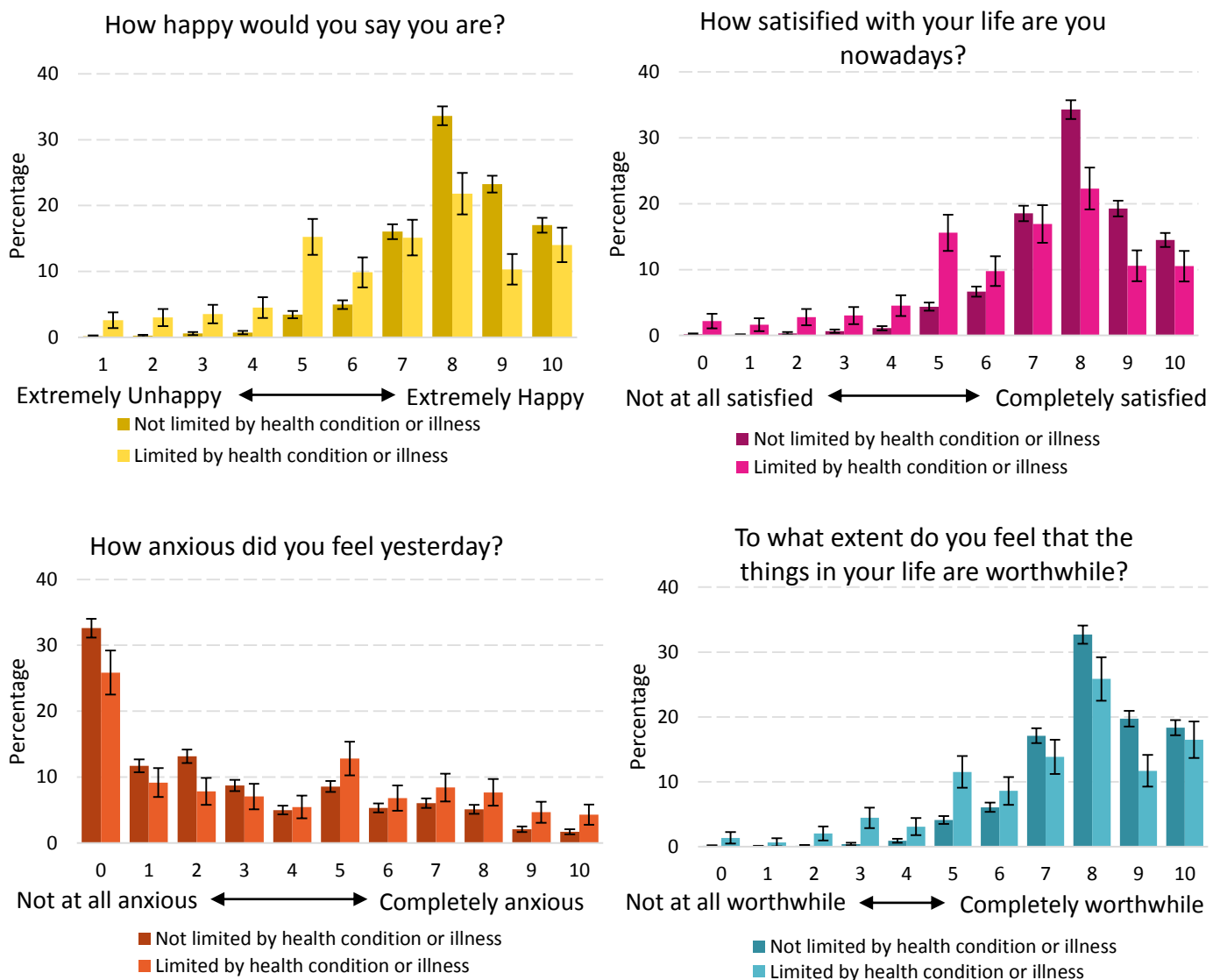
Between April 2014 and March 2015, 14 per cent of adults with a long term health condition considered themselves to be extremely happy, marking their happiness with a score of 10 out of 10, versus 17 per cent without (Figure 3). The largest difference between these two groups was in the percentage who gave themselves a score of 9 out of 10 for happiness: 10 per cent of adults with a long term health condition scored 9 out of 10, as opposed to 23 per cent of adults without. All these differences are statistically significant.

As with happiness, the largest difference between the two groups was in the percentage scoring themselves 9 out of 10 for how worthwhile they felt life was. The largest difference for life satisfaction was in the percentage scoring themselves 8 out of 10. The differences are 8 and 12 percentage

points respectively: in both cases, fewer adults with a long term health condition or long term illness chose the aforementioned score than those without (Figure 3). These differences are statistically significant.

The largest difference in anxiety was seen for those scoring themselves 0 out of 10: 26 per cent of adults with a long term health problem reported they were “not at all anxious yesterday”, versus 33 per cent of those without a health problem. At the other end of the scale, 4 per cent of adults with a long term health problem scored themselves 10 out of 10 (“completely anxious yesterday”), compared to 2 per cent without (Figure 3). Again, these differences are statistically significant.

**Figure 3: Wellbeing for those with and without limiting health conditions or long term illness, April 2014 to March 2015**



**Notes**

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-3.3.

For more information, including figures for all scores for both groups, please see the accompanying tables.



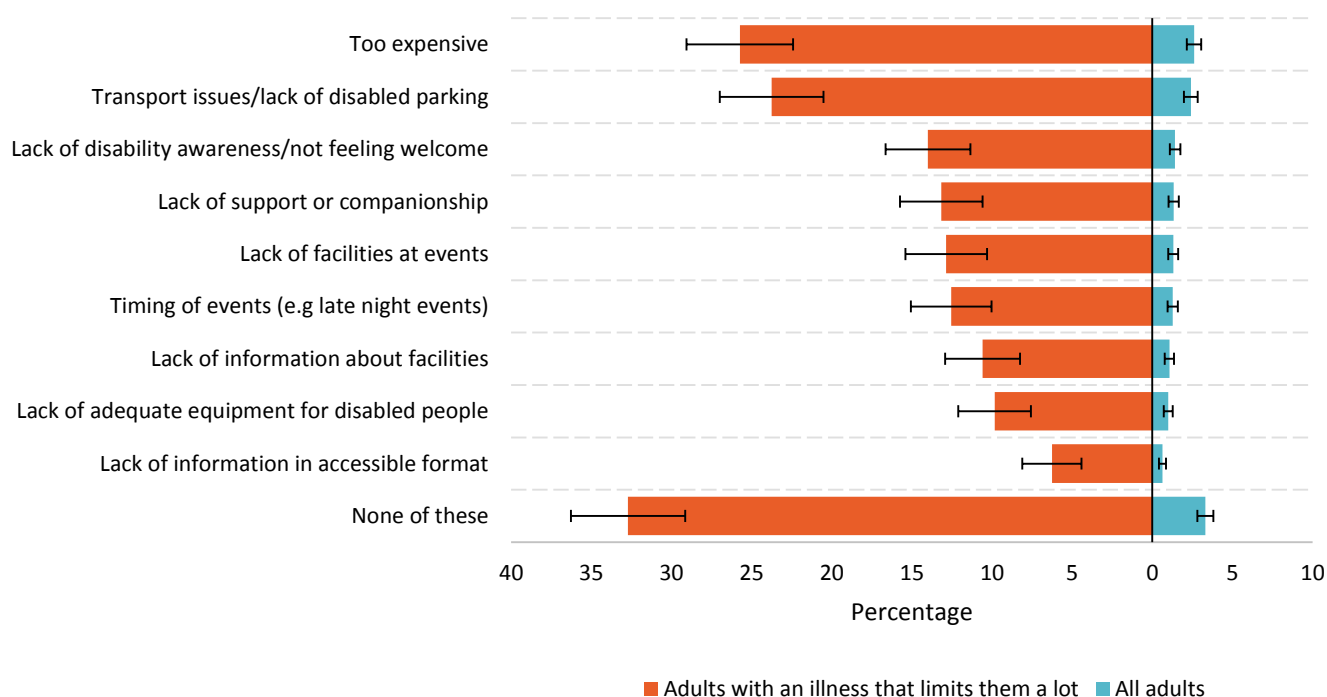
# Factors affecting participation

Those who report that their illness or health condition limits them a lot are asked what factors limit their ability to participate in or attend cultural or sporting activities. They are able to provide multiple responses to this question.

26 per cent of adults with a limiting illness or health condition (3 per cent of all adults) reported that activities were too expensive, while 24 per cent of those with a limiting illness or health condition (2 per cent of all adults) said that transport issues or a lack of disabled parking limited their participation. These results are consistent with 2013/14, when the same two factors were given as the most common reasons for not participating. This said, it is evident from Figure 4 that other factors are also important: 33 per cent of adults with a limiting illness or health condition answered that none of the possible responses to the question about factors limiting participation were the reason they had not participated.

All factors asked about are shown in Figure 4. Each bar in this figure represents the same group of people who cited that factor, expressed both as a percentage of those who reported a limiting illness or health condition (orange), and as a percentage of all adults (blue).

**Figure 4: Factors affecting participation in or attendance of culture or sporting activities for those whose illness or health condition limits them a lot, April 2014 to March 2015**



**Notes**

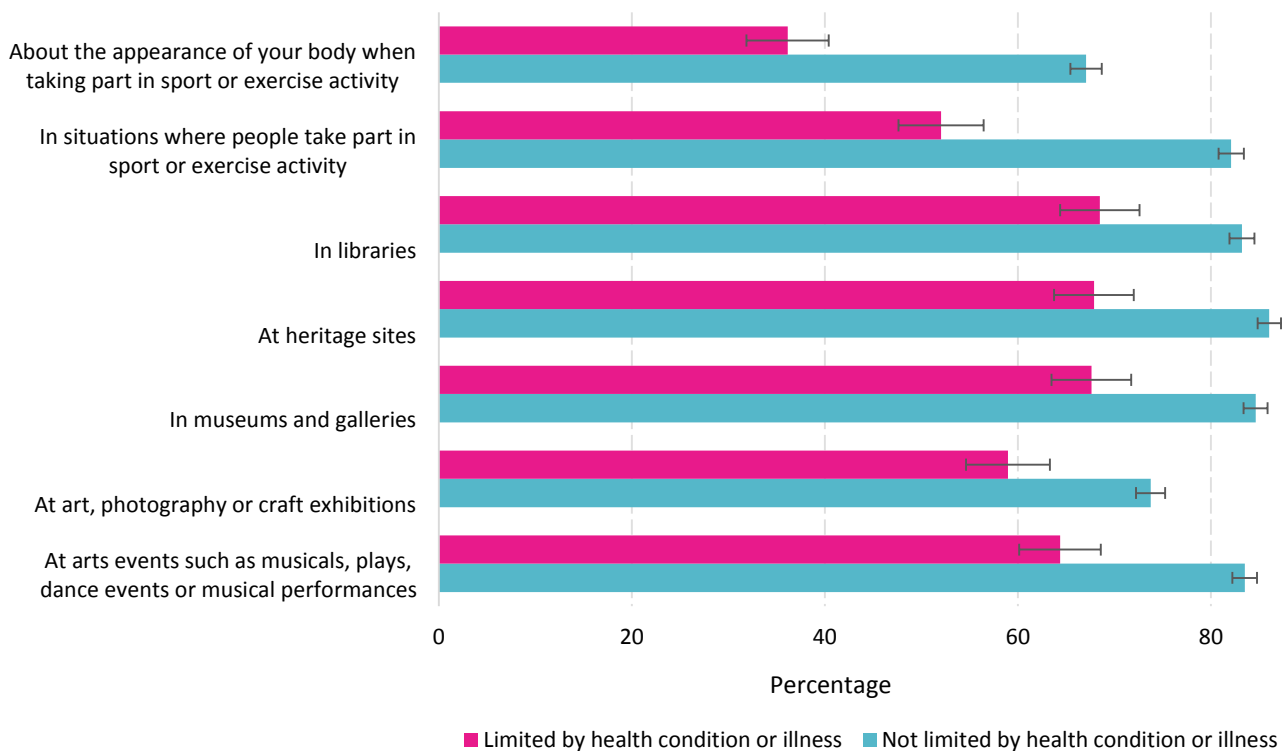
(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.2 and +/-3.6.

# Feeling at Ease

Longitudinal respondents, those who have responded to the Taking Part survey more than once in consecutive years, are asked whether they feel confident and at ease while participating in cultural or sporting activities, or in situations where sporting activities are taking place. Those adults who reported that they have an illness or health condition that limits them a lot were significantly less likely to agree that they feel completely confident and at ease in all circumstances asked about than those who did not report having or being limited by an illness or health condition (Figure 5).

The most marked difference between the two groups is in relation to whether they feel completely confident and at ease about “the appearance of your body when taking part in sport or exercise activity”. 36 per cent of those with a limiting illness or health condition agreed that this statement was “very true” or “somewhat true” for them, compared to 67 per cent of those without a limiting illness or health condition.

**Figure 5: Percentage of adults who feel at ease participating in or attending cultural or sporting activities, April 2014 to March 2015**



**Notes**

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.2 and +/-4.3.



## Annex A: Further details

1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and its partner Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). For 2011 to 2015 these are Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England.
2. Taking Part is a National Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. See the [Statistics Authority code of practice](#) for more information.

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. See the [UK Statistics Authority assessment](#) for more information.

3. The latest results presented here are based on interviews issued between April 2014 and March 2015. The total sample size for this period is 9,817.
4. Statistical significance tests have been run at the 95% level. A significant increase at the 95% level means that there is less than 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents was not also observed in the English population as a whole.
5. For more information see the [Taking Part Survey](#) webpages, including previous publications. Versions of the [questionnaires](#) from all years of the survey are also available.
6. The fieldwork for the survey has been conducted by TNS-BMRB. For more information, see <http://www.tns-bmr.co.uk>.
7. The series of reports has been produced by Helen Miller-Bakewell, Wilma Deda, Becky Woods, Catherine Mottram and Niall Goulding (DCMS), Louise O'Sullivan, David Bade and Adala Leeson (Historic England), Eloise Poole (Arts Council England), Rachael Whitney and Helen Price (Sport England). Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within the DCMS, partner ALBs and TNS-BMRB for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.
8. The responsible statistician for this release is Helen Miller-Bakewell. For enquiries on this release, please contact Helen on 0207 211 6355. This release was prepared by Helen Miller-Bakewell.
9. For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200 or email [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk).
10. To be kept informed about Taking Part publications and user events, please sign up to the Taking Part online newsletter [here](#).



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