



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

DCMS Statistical Publications: Consultation response summary

October 2017

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Response summary

This report summarises feedback DCMS has received in response to the DCMS Statistical Publications user consultation¹ which ran from 10th July until the 7th August 2017 and our proposed response. It has been structured to reflect the headings under which views were sought in the user consultation.

Overall summary

DCMS received 16 responses to the user consultation. These were from a range of organisations, including umbrella organisations that represent and/or support large numbers of groups in DCMS sectors, Arm's length bodies, and internal teams in DCMS (see Annex A).

School Games Indicator: There was little awareness or use of this publication. The small number of respondents who commented had different views on the impact of discontinuing this publication.

Entertainment Licensing Statistics: There was little awareness or use of this publication by respondents.

Taking Part Quarter 2: While most respondents stressed the importance of an annual release and continual data collection for Taking Part, most did not make extensive use of the Quarter 2 publication. Some commented that this publication was useful to monitor headline trends in engagement.

Exports of Objects of Cultural Interest: A small number of respondents had an interest in this publication and they generally felt that ceasing this publication would have a negative impact on their work as the data would be less timely and less easy to access if it was only available in the annual report on the Export of Objects of Cultural Interest by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest.

Broadband Performance Indicators: There were no responses to this section of the consultation.

DCMS Statistical Releases: Most respondents were positive about the content and format of DCMS Statistical Releases. Several respondents argued that the Heritage sector was understated in Economic Estimates due to the number of codes allocated to the sector under the Standardised Industrial Classification system. A number of other specific comments were made about the content of releases.

Our response to the comments received on each publication is set out below. In some cases this involves reducing or discontinuing some publications in order to free up resource for other priorities and to develop our key outputs, including DCMS sector Economic Estimates, the Taking Part survey and analysis to inform the UK exit from the EU. However, we will keep our publications under review and are always interested in feedback from users. To comment on any of our outputs, please contact us at evidence@culture.gov.uk.

¹ Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-dcms-statistical-publications>

School Games

Consultation questions

1. The School Games Indicator was last published on 27th September 2016. Were you aware this had been published? Are you aware that this is an annual release?
2. Have you ever used this publication? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.
3. If yes, which elements of the release did you use?
 - a) Number of registered schools
 - b) Public funding allocated to the School Games
 - c) Number of eligible students
 - d) Methodological section
 - e) School Games alumni section
 - f) Background of the School Games and its aims
 - g) Other (please state)
4. If this publication ceased, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?
5. Are there any data items within the existing publication to which it would be essential for you to continue to have access?

Summary of feedback – School Games

- One respondent felt discontinuing the publication as Official Statistics made sense given this is no longer a stated departmental indicator and nearly 90% of schools were engaged which meant the existing key performance indicator no longer reflected the priorities of the programme.
- One respondent said that, although they were not previously aware of the publication, they felt it contained useful information and were concerned that discontinuing it would remove an accessible form of data they required for their work.

Our response

- DCMS will cease publication of the School Games Indicators as this is no longer a departmental indicator and is not widely used. However we will work with DCMS policy colleagues to ensure that they can still access the level of data they need from the key source organisations when required.

Entertainment Licensing

Consultation questions

6. The Entertainment Licensing Statistics was last published on 23rd November 2016. Were you aware this had been published? Are you aware that this is an annual release?
7. Have you used this publication at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.
8. If yes, which elements of the release did you use in your work?
 - a) Premise Licenses – total figures
 - b) Premise Licenses – individual categories
 - c) Premise Licenses – regional rates by 1,000 population
 - d) Club premise certificates – total figures
 - e) Club premise certificates - individual categories

- f) Club premise certificates - regional rates by 1,000 population
- g) Premise Licenses – total figures

9. If this publication became biennial (i.e. every two years), what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

10. If this publication ceased altogether, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

11. Are there any data items or information within the existing publication to which it would be essential for you to continue to have access on an annual basis?

12. Would de-designating this series from National Statistics to Official Statistics change whether and how you used this release? If so, how?

Summary of feedback – Entertainment Licensing

- Only one organisation responded to this set of questions. This respondent was not previously aware of this publication but felt the contents were useful.

Our response

- DCMS will look to de-badge this release from National Statistics to Official Statistics.
- DCMS will continue to publish the total number of premise licenses and club premise certificates on an annual basis but will cease collection and publication of the breakdown by type of premise that has previously been published from when the Home Office next issue the data collection.

Taking Part: survey of cultural and sporting activities

Consultation questions

13. The latest Taking Part Quarter 2 release was published on 31st January 2017. Were you aware that this had been published?

14. Have you used this publication at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or interest areas.

15. If yes, which elements of the release did you make use of?

- a) Report
- b) Dashboard
- c) Infographics
- d) Spreadsheets/Tables

16. Which topics did you use the release to gain data/information on?

- a) Arts
- b) Heritage
- c) Museums and galleries
- d) Libraries
- e) Archives
- f) Digital participation
- g) Volunteering and charitable giving
- h) First World War

17. If the Taking Part Quarter 2 release was no longer published, what impact would this have on you as an individual and/or on your organisation (if applicable)?

18. Are there any data items or information within the existing publication which would be essential for you to continue to have access to in a quarter 2 publication?

Summary of feedback – Taking Part

- Most respondents were aware of this publication and had engaged with the contents in their work.
- Around half of respondents made use of the report and spreadsheets/tables. One third of respondents made use of the dashboard and infographics.
- Around half of respondents had used the publication for information on Arts, Heritage, Museums & Galleries, Archives, Digital Participation and Volunteering/Charitable Giving. Around one third of respondents used data on Libraries and First World War.
- Most respondents felt that discontinuing the quarter 2 release would have little or no impact to their work although some felt it was important to be able to monitor headline trends.
- Data identified as being essential by respondents were: on site and online engagement statistics, Heritage, Museums, Digital Participation and public library use.

Our response

- DCMS will replace the detailed quarter 2 release with a mid-year dashboard, which will allow users to continue to monitor trends at a high level.
- DCMS will continue to collect Taking Part data throughout the year and will publish detailed annual reports covering the adult and child data each Summer. In addition DCMS will publish a series of Focus reports during the year (generally in April and October).

Objects of Cultural Interest

Consultation questions

19. The Exports of Objects of Cultural Interest was last published on 15th December 2016. Were you aware this had been published?

20. Have you used this publication at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.

21. If this publication ceased, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

Summary of feedback

- Respondents were aware of the publication and engaged with the content in their work.
- Respondents suggested if this publication were not available they would have difficulty in advising on exports reform; sharing information with the Heritage sector; and accessing data in a format that allowed for easy analysis.

Our response

- DCMS recognise the value some respondents place on this statistical release. However, given resource pressures and the availability of these figures in the annual report of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, DCMS plans to discontinue this statistical release.

Broadband Performance Indicators

Consultation questions

22. The Broadband Performance Indicators are published quarterly. Are you aware of this publication?

23. Have you used this publication at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.

24. If this publication ceased, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

Summary of feedback

- There were no responses to this set of questions.

Our response

- DCMS plans to cease publication of the Broadband Performance Indicators, publishing the final release in May 2018 covering data up to March 2018.

DCMS Statistical Releases

Consultation questions

25. Which of these other DCMS statistical releases have you used?

26. Do you have any comments on the content of any of our releases? For example, do they provide a sufficient level of detail to meet your needs?

27. Do you have any comments on the format of any of our releases? For example, do you think we have the correct balance between providing commentary versus raw data that users can analyse for themselves?

28. Which elements of our statistical releases do you find most useful?

- a) Main release in pdf format
- b) Main release in html format
- c) Infographics
- d) Spreadsheets/Tables
- e) Other (please state)

29. How do you usually hear about DCMS statistics? (eg Gov.uk website, @DCMSInsight twitter account, Newsletter, Word of mouth, Media / Press)

30. Do you have any other comments on how we could improve the content, format or dissemination of our statistical releases and associated outputs?

Summary of feedback

- Taken together, all of the listed statistical releases were used by respondents.
- Most respondents felt that the content of releases provided sufficient information.
- Several respondents were concerned that the Heritage sector was understated in the DCMS Sector Economic Estimates due to classification under the Standardised Industrial Classification system.
- Other issues on content raised by individual respondents included insufficient data on non-national museums; greater granularity for film/screen sector; and more focus on issues around wellbeing.

- Most respondents found infographics and spreadsheets/tables as being the most useful elements of publications. Taking Part Online Tools were also highlighted as being beneficial.
- Most respondents heard about DCMS statistics through twitter, gov.uk and our newsletter.

Our response

- DCMS will continue to publish all releases and ad hocs on gov.uk and will inform users of new releases through twitter and DCMS newsletters.
- Where appropriate, DCMS will look to use infographics to supplement the main statistical reports.
- DCMS will continue to define its sectors using Standard Industrial Classification codes. It is recognised that these have limitations which we have highlighted in our DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates reports. We will however make this clearer that using one SIC code to represent the Heritage sector may be an underestimate for the sector.

Annex A – User engagement

User consultation responses received

DCMS received 16 user responses to the consultation that ran between 10th July and 7th August 2017. These are listed below, and include: umbrella organisations that represent and/or support large numbers of groups in the sectors for which DCMS has responsibility, Arm's length bodies and internal DCMS teams.

Industry body (representative of sector)

1. Art Fund
2. British Film Institute
3. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists & Council for British Archaeology
4. Emergency Planning College
5. Heritage Alliance
6. Historic England
7. Museums Association
8. National Archives
9. National Trust
10. National Museum Directors Council
11. Sport England
12. Visit England

Government

13. DCMS Heritage and Tourism
14. DCMS Libraries Taskforce
15. DCMS School Games Policy
16. DCMS Tourism Policy

Annex B - Background Information

The responsible statistician for this release is Penny Allen. For enquiries on this release please contact Penny on 020 7211 2380 or evidence@culture.gov.uk.

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