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**SCHOOL SPORT SURVEY
STAKEHOLDER
CONSULTATION 2020
OUTCOMES**

MARCH 2021



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INTRODUCTION

SPORT WALES HAVE FOUND THE SCHOOL SPORT SURVEY CONSULTATION PROCESS HUGELY BENEFICIAL. THE FEEDBACK, CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS, AND SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY PARTNERS THROUGH BOTH THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ROUNDTABLES ARE APPRECIATED AND WILL GO A LONG WAY IN INFORMING AND IMPROVING THE NEXT ITERATION OF THE SURVEY.

Taken together, the feedback was extensive, and although often clear improvements are easy to identify and implement, there was also conflicting viewpoints. In order to address those conflicts, we as a team have held to the following overarching principles which serve to provide clarity to certain matters arising, but more importantly have been informed by the wealth of feedback provided both formally and informally over the previous two years. The overarching principles are as follows:

1. A shorter, simpler, and easier to complete survey, focusing on questions which are of most use and relevance to Sport Wales and its partners.
2. Minimum disruption to wording of questions and response options wherever possible, maintaining the integrity of trend data.
3. Reports, outputs, and additional resources produced and disseminated as quickly as possible, allowing for the insight's use in a timely manner.
4. Changes to be implemented must comply with official statistics guidance¹² from the Office of National Statistics and Welsh Government.

Put in very simple terms, this means that most of our commitments address one of the following three points:

1. Accessibility (appropriate timing, length and language – so that it is easy for all to complete)
2. Validity (survey methodology/results that partners trust in)
3. Buy-in from schools (so that schools value the survey and use their data/ insights for meaningful change)

WHAT WE DID

Between August and October 2020, a consultation was held with partners regarding the next round of the School Sport Survey. The consultation comprised of:

- **An online survey** seeking feedback on specific changes that were being proposed for the future. The survey was live from 3 August until 14 September and 26 responses were received from a range of partners including national governing bodies (NGBs), local authorities (LAs), national organisations and Welsh Government.
- Three **'Online Roundtable Discussions'** to obtain wider feedback and suggestions in relation to the survey. In total these three sessions were attended by over fifty partners.
- Additional feedback was also collected **via email**.

The consultation covered four key aspects of the survey, which will be covered in this document:

#1 FIELDWORK

Over the period of 15 weeks, the survey is open and data is collected from over 1,000 schools across Wales.

#2 PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The survey filled out by students which captures which sports they have participated in and how often.

#3 PROVISION QUESTIONNAIRE

We ask one teacher in each school to complete a second survey to capture what sports and facilities are available in schools, how many minutes of sport a child receives access to in a week, and to gain a range of opinions about P.E. and sport provision at the school.

#4 OUTPUTS AND REPORTING

Once the survey is completed, the data is weighted and extrapolated into useful datasets and communication tools to help schools plan and develop their sports offering.



FIELDWORK

CUSTOMER SERVICE



In most cases partners were very positive about the support offered by Sport Wales (and survey contractors) during the fieldwork stage of the survey. The telephone helpline, weekly updates and live monitoring system were praised, and partners requested more of this in future.

A few areas were highlighted for consideration:

- While the Live Monitoring System was very helpful, one partner requested additional logins (one for each school) to enable schools to check their own progress without needing to rely on the LA lead.
- One LA partner explained that they received the survey links too late (a couple of weeks after the schools had received them). This meant they were unable to plan ahead and ensure that the provision questionnaire went to the most appropriate person. It also meant they were unable to help schools who had lost their link (or not received it).
- Similarly, one LA partner told us that they wanted to hit the ground running and that meant familiarising themselves with the survey in advance and ensuring necessary IT requirements are in place.
- ✓ An LA partner expressed that they felt put under pressure by Sport Wales to hit targets.

Based on this feedback Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Provide a telephone helpline and a live monitoring system again for the next round of the survey.
- ✓ Explore whether additional concurrent logins to the live monitoring system are technically feasible and look to further develop this so that it also includes how many more responses the school/LA requires to qualify for a report (not just number of responses).
- ✓ Provide LAs with survey links in advance of the survey going live/being sent to schools.
- ✓ Clearly communicate details of the survey (including when the live links will be available) with Local Authorities and schools well in advance of the survey going live. This will enable schools and LAs to plan ahead as necessary.
- ✓ Provide dummy links two weeks in advance of the survey going live. This will enable those schools (and support staff) that wish to familiarise themselves with the survey the opportunity to do so.
- ✓ Ensure our approach with partners (via relationship managers) is consistent and supportive, providing communication throughout the process. This may include sharing examples of good practice and explaining the benefits/ importance of the survey (for learning, investment model etc.).

TIMING



A number of partners highlighted the potential challenges of administering the School Sport Survey in 2021 due to COVID-19 and the difficulties that this pandemic presents. These included:

- Many of the existing questions couldn't be answered/wouldn't be relevant at this time.
- Sports Development Officers may not be able to get into schools and additional support would be required to administer it at this time.
- Sports will look very different in 2021 due to COVID-19 regulations (this may pose challenges for the investment model).

Regardless of COVID-19 however, some partners expressed difficulty in getting secondary-aged pupils to complete the survey during the summer term as exam pressures make this the busiest time of the year for these pupils. January or September were put forward as times that would be more convenient from a school perspective. In addition, one local authority expressed difficulty in getting teachers to complete the provision survey and suggested that this questionnaire should be open before the participation survey goes live.

From a national governing body perspective, one partner expressed that three years (the current survey cycle) was a long time to wait in order to find out whether demand for their sport had dropped. It was also noted that running the survey in the summer may have a seasonal effect which could potentially skew the data in favour of summer sports.



Based on this feedback Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Postpone the 2021 School Sport Survey, and review in line with the ongoing situation.
- ✓ Look to extend the fieldwork period by opening the survey 2-3 weeks earlier if possible, allowing more time for both secondary school pupils and teachers to complete the survey.
Note: Moving the fieldwork to January or September would mean that survey data is no longer comparable with previous years. The questions would also need to be changed as they currently ask pupils to report on the entire academic year. Furthermore, PLASC data is released in August which means any output data requiring weighting (e.g. LA, National) would still not be available until after this time.
We are conscious of not wanting to further complicate the survey process (increasing the number of stages and correspondence with schools) and therefore feel that opening the provision survey before the participation survey is not advisable. Separating these questionnaires further may cause confusion. For example, some schools may feel they have already completed the School Sport Survey when they still have another questionnaire to complete.)
- ✓ Explore the possibility of administering a shorter barometer survey every 6 or 12 months. This would involve a smaller sample of schools/pupils and would only ask core-questions (participation and demand). A survey of this nature would probably have to employ a different sampling method (e.g. potentially using random sampling based on Unique Pupil Numbers (UPN)).



LACK OF BUY-IN FROM SCHOOLS



A number of local authority partners told us that schools do not see the value of the survey and that completion of the survey is heavily dependent on the work of LA Sports Development Teams. Feedback from partners highlighted a number of ways that we could increase buy-in from schools.

Based upon this feedback Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Seek further endorsement from education (including Director of Education & Estyn – who should be looking at how schools have used their data, not just whether or not they have a report).
- ✓ Align the survey with new curriculum where feasible.
- ✓ Provide school data/reports when the fieldwork ends to enable sufficient planning time for the next school year.
- ✓ Provide the 'Action Plan Template' at the start of the fieldwork process and alongside the results to help with putting results into practice.
- ✓ Simplify the survey and offer an 'Easy Read' version.
- ✓ Encourage local authorities to provide incentives for schools such as 'Athletics masterclass sessions' 'Play Maker Award'. Sport Wales will share examples of good practice in this respect.
- ✓ Explore how the survey can be administered through quicker, more online means utilising Hwb/Teams etc.
- ✓ Review our communications with schools/head teachers, ensuring we emphasise the importance of the survey and where possible utilise head teacher forums / groups for dissemination of information that is relevant to schools.
- ✓ Review our national survey communications and ensure that value and importance of the survey is conveyed. This will be done directly through Sport Wales channels but also potentially through third-party communications such as Welsh Government, NEU etc.
- ✓ Encourage LAs to work with and involve their education teams in promoting the survey to schools.
- ✓ Follow up with schools that didn't complete the survey to understand why.

MULTIPLE DIFFERENT SURVEYS COMPETING FOR SCHOOL TIME



A number of partners told us that there are other similar surveys being promoted to schools and that schools don't know which to complete given their limited time and resources. The Schools Health Research Network (SHRN) survey was referenced a number of times, particularly given this surveys alignment with well-being.

Based on this feedback Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Ensure that the School Sport Survey is clearly differentiated from other surveys, and that this differentiation is clearly communicated. i.e. what is unique about the School Sport Survey, compared to SHRN etc.
- ✓ Seek to map the school survey landscape in Wales (what is being asked by whom, when and how)
- ✓ Co-ordinate survey inputs and outputs where possible.

SURVEY LINKS



Some partners expressed that the survey link is too long and can be difficult to input correctly. Sport Wales will therefore:

- ✓ Explore whether the links can be shortened and whether it is possible to provide a QR code for the survey as an alternative means which is less prone to human input error.

SOME SCHOOLS WERE NOT AWARE OF THE SURVEY



- ✓ Sport Wales invites all schools in Wales to take part in the survey using the contact details provided by local authorities. It is therefore very important that this information is accurate and up to date. Sport Wales will factor in additional time for the next round of the survey to ensure that we have an accurate database of schools which includes the email addresses of appropriate contacts (we will not be able to guarantee survey links for any schools that are brought to our attention once the survey is live). As in the previous round of the survey, Sport Wales will offer LAs the option of following up via telephone with all schools that haven't started mid-way through the fieldwork.
- ✓ Sport Wales will explore the use of Head teacher forums/group for disseminating information.



PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE



VALIDITY



Partners expressed a number of concerns relating to the validity of the School Sport Survey data. These are outlined below:

- A. Partners involved in the consultation told us that many children didn't fully apply themselves, don't take the survey seriously or got impatient when completing it. A number of partners told us this was because they find the survey too long, repetitive, confusing or frustrating. As a result, some children end up clicking just to get through the survey.**

Based on this feedback Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Aim to simplify the participation question so that pupils only need to tick the sports that they have done (not 'yes/no' for every sport). We will also look to improve the format of the question so that it is not presented as a long list of sports (for example, by grouping sports by type on separate pages or presenting them in a grid). The use of design/imagery will also be explored.
- ✓ Develop communications that teachers can share with pupils explaining why the survey is important (for example, a video introducing the survey from an athlete, or a guidance document for teachers).

- B. Partners told us that there is a lack of consistency in how teachers were interpreting questions and that some rush pupils through the survey just to say that they have done it.**

To help ensure consistency in future Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Provide guidance for teachers that explains each question and why we ask it. It will also explain why the survey is important and provide advice on best practice for completion.

- C. Partners reported that some schools who are wanting to 'top the tables' have been selecting their 'sporty pupils' to complete the survey. Sport Wales already has some measures in place to reduce the likelihood of a biased sample including minimum sample requirements for each school.**

Sport Wales will explore further measures to reduce the likelihood of bias including:

- ✓ Validation work which may involve following up with random selection of schools to trial a new random sampling method which utilises UPNs (Unique Pupil Numbers).

- D. Partners told us that some children select sports that they might only have done only once in the previous year (e.g. doing surfing on holiday).**

In response to this, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Reintroduce the 'frequency of sport' question which will help to confirm whether this sport has been done within the past academic year and if so how frequently it was done.

ACCESSIBILITY



Partners highlighted a number of concerns around the accessibility of the survey with terminology proving difficult for some pupils (e.g. 'confident', 'comfortable', 'parkour'). This was particularly the case for those in lower Key Stage 2, those with complex learning needs, those with a lower reading age or those completing Welsh versions of the questionnaire. In addition, some questions proved challenging. For example, ethnicity identification and the settings questions (where some pupils got confused between 'after school clubs' and 'community clubs'). These challenges were not helped by the fact that all age groups were presented the same questions in 2018, with no Easy Read (or primary specific) version of the questionnaire being offered.

To address these concerns Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Develop an Easy Read survey (statistically comparable if possible).
- ✓ Review the ethnicity question and bring it to the front of questionnaire so that classes are able to tackle this question at the same time.
- ✓ Provide additional guidance for teachers and pupils (for example, a guidance document for teachers and/or audio prompts for questions).
- ✓ Review and simplify the question relating to participation settings; including exploring whether it is feasible to group questions into extracurricular and community sections without lengthening the survey, reducing the accuracy of the responses, or adversely influencing trend data. Differentiating settings using design/visual prompts will also be explored as a means of making this question clearer.
- ✓ Test the questionnaire/s with pupils to check their understanding and allow sufficient time for making necessary revisions.
- ✓ Provide guidance to schools/LAs on ways that they can assist pupils in completing the survey, including good practice examples. For example, utilising Young Ambassadors, DWSDO network, HE institutes.
- ✓ Explore if there any other ways of simplifying the survey.

CONTENT



Partners identified a number of topics that were not in the last round of the survey, which they felt would be useful for future inclusion. The need to keep the survey to a reasonable length was however, acknowledged in most cases.

A. Motivations for Participating

Currently the survey asks pupils what sports they would like to do more of and what would encourage them to do more. While we recognise the value of exploring motivations further, there isn't scope within the current survey to explore this in more depth.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✗ We would encourage those interested in delving deeper to conduct their own research which Sport Wales may be able to advise upon. Sport Wales will also be looking to conduct some qualitative research with schools/pupils in the foreseeable future and we may be able to include this topic as part of this.

B. The Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 is likely to have impacted on participation in many ways for example, concerns over safety, facility closures, social distancing etc. Many of these factors are likely to be detected in existing questions around confidence, provision, enjoyment etc.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ assess if there are any gaps in existing questions and potentially include additional options in the 'I would do more sport if...' question.
- ✓ explore the possibility of including a separate COVID-19 related question for secondary aged pupils.

C. Participating 'Somewhere Else'

Some partners felt that the 'somewhere else' option does not provide enough granularity. For example, it doesn't distinguish between cycling to school, or cycling with a friend for fun.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ review the settings questions to ensure that distinction between different settings is clear.



D. 'Latent Demand' Detail

One NGB partner felt that more granularity on latent demand would be useful e.g. what version of the sport did young people want to do. While Sport Wales recognises the value in having further insight here, to do so through the School Sport Survey would mean asking further questions for every sport for which the respondent identifies a demand for. This would significantly increase the length of the survey.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✘ We would encourage partners to conduct their own research in this respect and Sport Wales may be able to advise on this.
- ✓ We will explore the possibility of including this topic within qualitative research/further research with schools.

E. Routes into Participation

One NGB partner highlighted that an understanding of different routes into the sport and which were most/least likely to lead to long-term participation, would be valuable.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✘ While we recognise the value of exploring participation routes further, there isn't scope within the current survey to explore this in more depth.
- ⇔ We would encourage those interested in delving deeper to conduct their own research which Sport Wales may be able to assist with.
- ✓ Sport Wales will also be looking to conduct some qualitative research with schools in the foreseeable future and we may be able to include this topic as part of this.

F. Wider Social Outcomes

One partner highlighted there are currently no questions on wider social outcomes (for example, health and wellbeing questions such as those included in Sport England's survey).

Sport Wales' view:

- ✘ Given the importance of keeping the questionnaire as short as possible we don't currently consider these questions to be a priority. Questions regarding health/wellbeing were previously asked in 2015 so we have data for this, as well as wider evidence on the links between physical activity and health from



other sources.

G. 'The Nine Conditions' / 'Awareness'

One local authority partner highlighted that not all of the 'Nine Conditions' are covered within the survey and that this data would prove useful for them. They also mentioned that organising the survey and/or the outputs around these could be helpful. The questionnaire from 2018 covers most of the nine-conditions (for example confidence, the experience, motivation etc. at the 'all sport' level) however we recognise that there is currently no question around 'awareness of opportunities'.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✘ While we have explored the possibility of developing a sport specific awareness question, this is likely to add considerable length to the survey and we are not able to commit to introducing this in the next iteration of the survey.
- ✓ We will, however, ensure that the 'I would do more sport if...' question covers all of the nine conditions.
- ✓ We will also explore the most user-friendly way of ordering both the survey and the outputs.

H. Retention/Drop-out

One NGB expressed that having a greater understanding of drop-out from year to year would be useful.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✓ The current survey questioning allows us to explore rates of participation across school years/age groups, identifying any key drop off points.
- ✘ To introduce a question which asks pupils to recall what sports they did in the previous academic year but no longer do would be prove difficult because it would a) Have to rely on accurate recall from pupils over a longer time-frame b) Potentially require the use of prompts which would add considerable length to the survey.
- ⇔ We would encourage partners to conduct their own research in this respect and Sport Wales may be able to advise on this.
- ✓ We will explore the possibility of including this topic within qualitative research/further research with schools.



I. Active Travel

This was removed from the 2018 survey, however one LA partner expressed that they would like to see this included again due to the increase in walking & cycling, and flexible working patterns due to COVID-19.

Sport Wales' view:

- × Feedback from partners has emphasised the importance of keeping the School Sport Survey as short as possible. Since active transport is not within Sport Wales remit it will therefore not be included within the next round of this survey.

Several other topics relating to the content of the survey were raised throughout the consultation process:

J. Enjoyment

Sport Wales were exploring the possibility of a follow-up enjoyment question to understand why pupils said that they did not enjoy extracurricular sport.

Sport Wales' view:

- × Given that this question is likely to add considerable length to the survey and would not be appropriate for younger pupils, Sport Wales will not include this within the next round of the survey.
- ✓ Sport Wales will instead explore the possibility of including this question within any qualitative research that is undertaken with schools (for example, Voxpopme).

K. Para Sport

Feedback from partners suggest that many pupils had difficulty answering the para sport section of the questionnaire and that this added significant time on to the time it took to complete the survey. A number of impossible options were also identified, for example 'doing horse-riding standing up'.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✓ The para questions will be reviewed in collaboration with Disability Sport Wales. Any questions which generate data that is either not accurate or not being used will be removed.



L. Ethnicity question

Partners raised a number of points regarding the ethnicity question:

- Pupils, particularly at primary stage, are unaware of ethnicity and therefore do not understand this question.
- Some pupils feel the need to give joke answers.
- Some younger pupils are afraid to tick 'prefer not to say'.
- Is this question necessary?

This question is important since it is one of the few (if only) sources of quantitative data that we have on participation of different ethnicities at this level in Wales. It also forms part of Sport Wales investment model.

In light of the above Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Move the question to the beginning of questionnaire so that it can be answered together as a class.
- ✓ Simplify the question by removing the 'nationality' component.
- ✓ Develop communications that teachers can share with pupils explaining why survey is important (for example, a video introducing the survey from an athlete, or a guidance document for teachers).
- ✓ Include a 'Prefer Not to Say' option and a 'Don't know' option.
- ✓ Develop an 'Easy Read' version of the survey.
- ✓ Further review the question in light of any recommendations from the 'Race and Sport' work which is currently being undertaken.

M. Video Questioning

Sport Wales were exploring the possibility of introducing a video question (i.e. a question where pupils could answer by recording a short video).

Sport Wales' view:

- × Having explored this, it will not currently be feasible to include a video question within a survey of this scale. Sport Wales will explore whether a



video question can be asked separately with a sub-sample of schools.

N. List of sports

Partners told us that sub-disciplines of sports are not captured; that some activities which have become popular are not listed (e.g paddleboarding, online version of sports); and that other sports, particularly smaller ones (e.g. target shooting) were omitted.

Sport Wales' view:

- ⇔ Given the importance of keeping the survey as short as possible we will not be able to provide sub-disciplines for sports. To do so would significantly increase the length of the questionnaire. Furthermore, the sample size for many of these sub-disciplines would likely be too small to report and in many cases, children may not know which version of the sport they did.
- ✓ Sport Wales will review the list of sports. As an example, given that pupils are unlikely to tick canoeing or kayaking if they have done 'paddleboarding', this may warrant being included either separately or alongside 'canoeing and kayaking'.
- ✓ Sport Wales to develop a clear protocol for the introduction of new sports.
- ✓ Sport Wales will explore a way of capturing 'online versions' of sports in the next round of the survey.
- ✓ Sport Wales will provide an open text box for 'other' sports so that we have further detail on this category. We are unlikely to ask follow-up questions (e.g. frequency, setting) for the 'other' category.

O. Volunteering

Sport Wales was proposing the removal of the volunteering question which was introduced in 2018 since we had no evidence that this data was being utilised. Several partners have however voiced how important this question is given that it captures wider involvement in sport and provides good information.

Sport Wales' view:

- ✓ Based on this feedback and given that this question does not take long for pupils to answer Sport Wales will keep the question within the survey.



P. Frequency of Sport

This question was removed from the 2018 survey however feedback suggests this data was being used by NGB partners. It will also be required for Sport Wales investment model.

Sport Wales will therefore:

- ✓ Reintroduce the frequency of sport question.
- ✓ Undertake further work to ensure the wording of this question generates as accurate responses as possible. [revert to something more akin to the 2015 version 'about how often have you 'done'.... Since you have been in year x']
- ✓ Review whether frequency of sport data is required for other settings (not just community clubs).

Q. Welsh speaking opportunities

The consultation identified a need to understand whether respondents can access coaching/ training in Welsh outside of the school environment.

Sport Wales will therefore:

- ✓ Ask only to Welsh speakers: 'Are you receiving coaching/training in Welsh outside of school in a club?'



PROVISION QUESTIONNAIRE



The provision questionnaire is the element of the School Sport Survey which we ask teachers to complete, to understand what sports and facilities are available in schools, how many minutes of sport a child receives access to in a week, and to gain a range of opinions about P.E. and sport provision at the school.

The themes arising from the survey consultation on the School Sport Provision Questionnaire were:

- survey content;
- the sample used in order to obtain the national results; and
- the validity of the survey output for certain questions

PROVISION QUESTIONNAIRE

CONTENT



The feedback about the provision questionnaire content can be grouped into several subtopics and these are discussed below:

A. Support for teachers

Partners fed back that the survey questions needed to explore in detail the support that schools and teachers require to deliver sport and physical activity.

The 2018 questionnaire already contains a section which asks about the support required in the "Your opinions of P.E. and sports provision" section of the survey, here questions are asked about training, resources, equipment, and facilities at that school. It could be the case that not enough has been done to promote the results of this question in the past.

Sport Wales' view:

- ⇨ A change to the questionnaire that would help address any issues not covered by the current survey content is to include an open-ended question that specifically asks this exact question.
- ✓ Adding questions to the survey would increase the amount of time taken to complete the survey. Although the length of the provision survey was not highlighted as being problematic any time taken from a teacher's day is important and must be considered. Adding new content would also increase the time needed to process the information and, if significant, may delay the release of national official statistics. There may also be technical limitations to the number of characters that could be used within open-ended questions. Nevertheless, the increased time spent on this question may help to uncover themes that may not yet have been explored.

The final recommendation was to design a new open-ended survey question.

Sport Wales will therefore:

- ✓ Develop a new question based on the following:
"Please explain any additional support the school may need to improve the sporting experiences of pupils".
(This will be an open-ended question and will likely need an instruction to note that responses are limited to 10,000 characters and a character countdown shown. Teacher will be advised to seek the views of others from within that school before answering the question).



B. Inclusivity in provision

Additional feedback on the content of the survey proposed including additional questions to help understand the extent to which school sport delivery is inclusive. The question 'Are pupils with disabilities included in P.E. lessons?' is already asked within the provision survey, however we recognise that more could be done to ensure we uncover the extent to which school sport is inclusive.

Sport Wales will therefore:

- ✓ Expand on this question with a follow up question, such as 'Is any alternative provision provided for pupils as with disabilities?'. Then use additional prompts to highlight if this involved specific staff, facilities, equipment etc. which will be asked to those who do not include pupils with disabilities in P.E. lessons
- ⇨ Given that the current questions only focus on disability we suggest that this existing question is revised and expanded, starting with a much broader question and this is done using the guidance and expertise of Disability Sport Wales.

C. Time allocated to P.E. lessons

Another suggestion was made to probe further about the number of P.E. lessons cancelled and the proportion of time taken from the existing time available for the delivery of these lessons.

There are two options available. The first option is to ask specifically, how often P.E. lessons are cancelled with fixed responses on a scale of frequency. There could also be an accompanying question to ask, how often time within P.E. lessons is used for purposes other than the delivery of P.E., again using the same fixed responses.

The second option is to be more precise and ask for the specific percentages or numbers of lessons cancelled, or numbers of hours used for other purposes.

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Add two new questions to the provision survey about how often P.E. is cancelled and how often it is used for purposes other than P.E.
- ✓ Given the potential difficulties in gathering exact figures it was decided that equally useful information could be achieved using the broader questions noted above, with the fixed responses 'Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never' and an option for 'Don't Know'. Despite being less precise we could argue the results would be more accurate.



D. Facilities

Consultation respondents asked about the possibility of including a question that explored access to facilities and equipment by school year. The request is related to an existing question in the 2018 survey which asks for opinions on the following statement, "The school has access to sufficient facilities to provide sport".

The teacher is asked to mark on a scale how much they agree with the statement. This question is asked at a school-level and is not broken down by year group. This is because a school might share facilities and equipment and the validity and interpretation of the data by year group may be problematic if probed in more detail.

Sport Wales view:

- × A similar question to this general question could be asked for each year group at the school, however, given that the survey is increasing in length to respond to other suggestions and that this may offer little new information beyond the existing question, the decision was made to keep the question as it was asked in 2018. This might be a topic that could be pursued as part of a future project that would incorporate qualitative techniques.

School facilities came up again as part of our online survey that formed part of the consultation. We proposed revising the question asked about public use of facilities at that school. Feedback was generally positive on the proposed change, for example, "This question would be useful particularly from an NGB perspective we are not always aware of what facilities each school has or how where we can sign post clubs to run modified activity".

One respondent questioned if the teacher responding would know this type of information. Any lack of knowledge would be overcome by encouraging teachers to discuss the responses with others at the school (including the head teacher) who would have access to this information. Several respondents suggested having the questionnaire probe further on the topics of availability for bookings, detailed timetables, the condition of facilities, and if the costs were prohibitive.



Sport Wales' view:

- × Given that this question is already lengthy and multifaceted, exploring the range of available facilities, availability to the public, typical availability through the week, and access agreements, we believe that no further supplementary questions are needed as part of the provision survey but could instead be followed up with qualitative research after the new questions have been explored.

Many new suggestions involved topics that change too rapidly to provide detail in a timely manner as part of this survey and some of the topics are subjective (e.g. opinion on sport facility quality) so would be better explored using an alternative methodology. In addition, more generic questions about availability and quality are also already asked (For example, the level of agreement on the following statement "The schools' sports facilities are of high-quality").

As the consultation took place during a global pandemic and social distancing had become the norm, it was perhaps unsurprising that there was a suggestion to include questions about the online delivery of sport at school. This type of question seems as if it would be a useful addition to the survey given the increased need to search for alternative delivery methods to adhere to local and national guidance or restrictions recently.

As there is an element of uncertainty around what the restrictions will be during the academic year 2021-22, and what mechanisms may have proved useful during 2020-21, a decision was made to design a new question that explored this alternate mode of delivery. The question can easily be removed if no longer deemed necessary closer to the launch of the survey.

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Develop a new question based on the following draft, "How often does your school provide sport delivery remotely / virtually using online methods? Response options, 'Often / Sometimes / Rarely / Never'".



E. Provision Teacher Sample

The sample unit for the provision survey is the school. One teacher from each school completes the provision questionnaire on behalf of that school. Several strands of feedback concerned whether the survey should be completed by more than one teacher within each school.

Technically this is possible but there are several factors that suggest that this is not necessarily the best approach. First the existing questionnaire contains a lot of questions that are factual statements about the school.

Asking these questions of multiple people would duplicate effort and add little to the findings. In any case the final results would still need to be summarised for each school as the school is the target unit within the sampling frame and any change would require an overhaul of the entire survey methodology.

Secondly, it demands additional administrative time from teachers at the school and could overburden schools with a small number of teachers compared to those resourced with many.

Instead, we believe it is better to make it clear in the guidance that accompanies the provision questionnaire (and potentially within the questionnaire itself) that opinions should be sought from staff across that school (including the headteacher) when responding to questions about the opinions and attitudes to sport at that school.

Having a discussion would be much quicker than each teacher completing the survey in isolation. This collaborative approach may help to instigate further discussion about sport within the school, which is seen as a positive, helps to avoid duplicating effort, and reduces the staff resource needed to complete the questionnaire.

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- × Not take any action to change the target units (i.e. schools) used within the sampling frame and will instead improve the guidance that accompanies the survey, making this suggestion, of a collaborative approach, more explicit.
- ⇔ We will also explore how our communication strategy could be improved e.g. Teachers Hwb could offer a mechanism to share improved guidance to encourage collective responses from staff across all key stages and roles at each school. By sharing best practice, we would hope to create good practice across all schools when answering the provision survey.



An interlinked observation was that the views of senior leadership at schools may be currently being missed by using the existing sampling strategy.

This is something that will be addressed by making it clear that collective school responses are required as discussed earlier in this section. However, another option is to ask an explicit question about this. This way whomever is completing the questionnaire will likely need to speak to a member of the senior leadership team at that school in order to provide a response (unless of course it is the head that completes it in the first instance).

A potential consequence of engaging more closely with members of the senior leadership team at the school is that the same level of openness may not be provided by others at the school for sensitive resource/performance related questions within the provision survey (e.g. adequacy of training, facilities etc.). We would hope that this would not be the case but worth noting the 'observer effect' on other questions.

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Design a new question to be included as part of the section "Your opinions of P.E. and sports provision during 2021-22". This could be formed of a statement asking about the degree to which the participant agrees that the headteacher recognises the importance of physical literacy and/or the delivery of sport.





F. Validity of questions

The only challenges to the validity were related to the question about time allocated to P.E. at each school. The existing question asks teachers how much curricular time per week is allocated for teaching P.E. in the current academic year.

The accuracy of responses to this question has already been improved by offering clear instruction to the user that the answer needed to be in minutes. There were also automated follow up checks that validated that the response was in minutes and that unrealistic responses needed to be verified (i.e. when <10 mins or >200 mins).

Additional changes that could be made to improve the question include the use of further follow up questions looking into if any of the curricular time per week allocated for teaching P.E. is instead used for other purposes (such as enabling pupils to get changed or to set up the session: not specifically for the delivery of teaching), and then a further follow up question, looking at approximately how much curricular time allocated for teaching P.E per week spent is on these activities, asking for an estimation in percentages.

Alternatively, an option could be to ask a question that states the recommended guidance (120 mins a week) and then ask how often the school adheres to this guidance, with the results split by year group. Removing the existing question may have unforeseen consequences if used in reporting mechanisms elsewhere¹².

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Given the importance of this question in ongoing debates efforts will be made to further improve the question by asking supplementary questions and by seeing if any of the existing follow up checks can be improved further. In addition, the guidance for teachers will be improved to ensure teachers are clear how they should answer this question.

A final suggestion was to see what the head of school's perception of participation would be for the school and then perform an analysis to compare how reality and these views aligned.

This was discussed and although it might suggest a disconnect between leadership perceptions and the reality at that school (awareness), we thought it might be a bit unfair to put a teacher on the spot and to expect an accurate response. We questioned what value this would bring to making a positive change given that existing questions already offer insight on related topics.

Therefore, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ not include this as part of the provision survey but to instead offer it as a topic for future qualitative research.

¹<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld12369/cr-ld12369-e.pdf>

²<https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/?lang=en>

REPORTING AND OUTPUTS

REPORTING AND OUTPUTS



Given the scale of the School Sport Survey and the depth of its results, the dissemination of reports and outputs is diverse and complex. In consulting with partners and stakeholders through roundtables, several themes concerning the improving of the reporting element of the School Sport Survey emerged. These themes include:

- ✓ the potential impact of the results
- ✓ the awareness and timing of the publication of results
- ✓ the type and style of insight and reports produced, and
- ✓ additional resources and support required.

The following report outlines the feedback received under each of those themes, any associated issues, possible solutions, and commitments to our approach moving forward.



POTENTIAL IMPACT OF [SURVEY] RESULTS



Within the consultation exercise, some stakeholders explained how they believed the survey results and reports lacked comprehensiveness, and how more is required for partners – national governing bodies in particular – in order to plan and action appropriately. In 2018, Sport Wales produced a range of resources housing the insight gained from the School Sport Survey including extensive data tables at a national and local authority level, a state of the nation report, school specific reports, and numerous infographics.

Additionally, local authority and sport specific presentations were prepared detailing relevant insight for particular local authorities and national governing bodies and were discussed in person on request. In all instances, we aimed to deliver as much insight as possible as far as the sample number allowed.

Although we plan to re-produce local authority and sport specific presentation and re-engage with national governing bodies to help interpret the results, we realise we can do more.

Therefore, based on the above feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ work closely with national governing bodies and local authorities preceding the release of the presentations to understand the content of most use.
- ✓ produce regional entity specific presentations in the same vein as the aforementioned national governing body and local authority presentations.
- ✓ better communicate the availability of that resource to all, and work where needed to help national governing bodies, local authorities, and regional entities to understand what the insight means for them.
- ⇔ consider the possibility of delivering training sessions and resources in how best to make use of the available data, and how to interpret and use this insight to plan effectively.



Questions were also posed within the consultation as to how much weight is attributed to the School Sport Survey results, and how they are used to support funding decisions. Sport Wales have sought to use and incorporate the insight gained from our surveys wherever possible, however, considering Sport Wales' new investment model, that is truer than ever.

School Sport Survey data, and in particular the frequency of participation and latent demand data by sport and across protected characteristics, will be a major component of the new model. Therefore, the insight gathered is extremely important to us as an organisation and influences the decisions we make and the conversations that we have.

Therefore, based on the above feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ publish, alongside the current planned resources, data tables exclusively presenting insight related to and used within the new Sport Wales investment model.



AWARENESS AND TIMING OF THE PUBLICATION OF RESULTS



Throughout the consultation process, feedback has been clear in that a delay in schools' receipt of results and reports is of great concern. Specifically, we have heard from those we have spoken to that a delay in receiving school specific reports results in missed opportunities, particularly in being able to plan for the forthcoming academic year.

In response to this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Make further progress in planning and implementing procedures to deliver instant reporting to schools completing the School Sport Survey. The intention is for these reports to be produced and disseminated to qualifying schools immediately after the closure of the survey. Although it is unclear if national results will be made available in the instant reports – due to complications in weighting the data to be nationally representative – school level insight will be available to allow schools to plan at the earliest opportune time.
- ✓ Explore the best medium to display these results, including the possible use of an easy to navigate online dashboard. All instant reports will be sure to include clear caveats as to how best to interpret the data.
- ✓ Produce and disseminate action plan templates at the opening of the next iteration of the School Sport Survey, assisting schools in their preparation and planning.

Stakeholders also expressed concerns as to their awareness and timing of the publication of results. Furthermore, consultees articulated how releasing results simultaneously across national governing bodies, local authorities, schools, and the public allowed little opportunity for interpretation and planning at a higher level before having to field queries about the data.



Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Better inform partners moving forwards as to the specific publication dates and times.
- ✓ Officially countdown to the publication of results through various avenues. As part of this exercise, we will be looking to engage with the national governing bodies communications forum to maximise awareness of the various publication processes.
- ✓ Undertake an extensive exercise to review partner contact details, ensuring that we are communicating the planned release of results to the optimal individual(s) within relevant organisations.

Although we recognise the benefits of partners having first sight of the insight, as mentioned above, there has been an overwhelming call through the online questionnaire, the roundtable consultations, and in previously received feedback for schools to receive 'instant' reporting to aid their planning. That being said, we are hopeful that the above strategies to increase partner awareness of the release of data will help somewhat in their own preparations.

Feedback from the consultation also included comment of an apparent lack of community club awareness with regards to the School Sport Survey results and the various resources and tools available. Although there are a number of resources intended for specific audiences – for example school reports and sport specific presentations – data tables, infographics, and the state of the nation report are intended to be of use to all.

However, in response, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Commit to scrutinising our social media and coverage through various avenues such as club solutions and funding streams to increase exposure of the results.
- ✓ Examine how best to package and present the survey results for community clubs.
- ✓ Present insight at a local sport level as and when is possible, dependant on survey participation numbers.

Through better publicity and engagement of the School Sport Survey through these avenues, we hope to create an increased awareness and practical use of the results at a community club level. The above strategies will also be applied to engaging with local businesses, a point which was also raised as part of the consultation.



Although the planned steps above will go some way to mitigating partners concerns, we also recognise the role partners themselves – national governing bodies and local authorities in particular – play in increasing awareness amongst community clubs. By engaging partners through the accountability framework, we will be looking to understand the work national governing bodies and local authorities have done to increase the use of the school sport survey results at a local level.

In light of this, Sport Wales are:

- ✓ Keen to ensure we prolong the conversation, through our relationship managers, to understand if and how community clubs have used the School Sport Survey results, and what impact it has had on the sporting offer.



TYPE AND STYLE OF INSIGHT AND REPORTS



The consultation raised a number of feedback points with regards to how insight is displayed, including comments on the data tables provided. We heard in the first instance of how the ability to drill down to explore data at a more nuanced level would be an asset, especially in regard to the new Sport Wales investment model. Furthermore, we heard how in particular, being able to explore ethnicity by sport would be of great value.

Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ⇔ Exploring the feasibility of displaying results via an accessible and easy to navigate dashboard on the Sport Wales website. Although the ambition is to provide a dashboard as the solution in allowing users to drill down to explore insight of interest, including for the new Sport Wales investment model, we are currently working to understand if the dashboard function on the Sport Wales website will allow the exploration of the data which is required.
- ✓ Provide as detailed a breakdown as is possible – via whatever medium – including the ability to examine ethnicity by sport. We will endeavour to provide and display this information as and when is possible, dependant on survey participation numbers, particularly as it relates to the new Sport Wales investment model.

Many comments were also made, especially through the online questionnaire, with regards to the availability and locating of necessary data. This was especially true in the case of insight that wasn't widely communicated.

Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Revisit and improve the School Sport Survey data tables by including easy to use links within the contents page to direct users to the required insight, review and remove any 'unnecessary' pages within the data tables, and finally, include on demand training sessions and tutorials in how to use and navigate the tables.



All of these planned strategies received overwhelming support through the consultation questionnaire.

We also received various points of feedback concerning the school reports, including the criticism that the 2018 school reports only comment on the 'three or more times a week' figure and not the range of frequencies of participation, possibly masking the true sporting landscape of the school.

Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Report the range of frequencies of participation in school reports, as well as the 'three or more times a week figure'. However, including this breakdown for each and every area of interest throughout the report will significantly expand its length, therefore, we only plan to include the range of frequencies of participation breakdown at an overall level only.
- ⇔ Exploring the possibility of displaying school results via an online dashboard – as well as a full school report – which would allow schools at their discretion to explore frequency of participation by additional areas of interest.

Comments were also made with regards to the style of the school reports produced in 2018. Specifically, we were challenged to consider that though school reports may read appropriately and be inviting for pupils and parents alike, the current format is at risk of alienating teachers who may not take the reports seriously as a result.

In light of this feedback, Sport Wales:

- ✗ Understand this concern, and although would ideally produce multiple forms of report to meet each and every specific group, we believe that ensuring a report which is accessible and understandable to pupils should be the priority. Furthermore, we believe that ensuring the report is appropriate for pupils will emphasise the need for teachers, local authorities, and national governing bodies to engage with pupils in their use of results.
- ✓ Will ensure more detailed and sophisticated forms of displaying the data are available from other sources such as data tables and the planned addition of an online dashboard.

Another challenge to have emerged is schools use the School Sport Survey results and whether it sufficiently informs planning. Feedback provided



suggested that the SHRN report provides greater information and subsequently is used more often in school's development plans.

Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Revisit and examine the structure of the school reports provided, looking at how they can better be aligned to the Donaldson Curriculum and the new educational structures.
- ⇒ Align results to these structures if and when is appropriate and be careful not to force results into artificial boxes. However, we are assessing the feasibility to including a 'curriculum' page within the report to display results particularly pertinent to educational planning.
- ✓ Commit to realign the language used in the reports to mirror that used in education and by schools, ensuring we have appropriate terminology.

Lastly, we listened to feedback concerned with the production of the infographics and were encouraged to learn of their usefulness and appeal to a wide range of audiences.

Based on the positive feedback suggesting their use in presenting to councillors, senior managers, and various councils, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Commit to increasing their production, including the possibility of constituency level infographics.

Although positive feedback was received regarding the infographics, concerns were raised over the '% of pupils that felt their voice was listened to' figure, suggesting that it should reflect both those who said 'always' and 'sometimes'. Although the logic in including those who said 'sometimes' in the figure is understood, we believe that it's inclusion could also lead to a misleading statistic and would cause issue in being able to track results across survey years.

As a result, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Include figures on 'always', 'sometimes', and 'never' within the infographic, allowing its reader to use any single or combination of figures as they deem fit.
- ✓ Take a similar approach with regards to the 'I feel my ideas about sport and PE are listened too' figure, in line with feedback received via the consultation questionnaire.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT REQUIRED



In detailing additional support required with regards to outputs, those we consulted with expressed a desire for additional support be available for teachers, especially for those within schools with a high latent demand for particular sports.

Based on this feedback, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Develop resources which links schools with local clubs, national governing bodies, and local authorities where appropriate.
- ✓ Recognise the integral role that national governing bodies and local authorities play, and as such, we are committing to engage those partners in the months preceding the launch of the survey to develop the necessary resource.
- ✓ Work with partners, who play a key role in identifying latent demand hot spots, and can signpost relevant parties to local provision to meet that demand.
- ✓ Include recommendations and appropriate signposting within full schools reports after the close of the survey.

Partners also expressed a need for further support from the insight team at Sport Wales in interpreting the School Sport Survey Data. In 2018, support was provided in the form of sport specific presentation deliveries by members of the Sport Wales insight team upon request, as well as an audio version of the presentation containing the overall results, by way of additional support.

However, we recognise that we can do more, and as a result, Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Undertake an exercise to ensure we are in communication with the optimum individual(s) at various organisations, ensuring there is an awareness of the resources available and creating a support line as and when is required.
- ✓ Engage national governing bodies in discussion when designing and producing sport specific presentations to ensure the optimal content is available and provided.

DATA TABLES



School Sport Survey results are considered as official statistics and are published as data tables on the Sport Wales website with an accompanying descriptive report. This section discusses the specific feedback received about the national data tables.

A lot of complimentary feedback was received about the data tables. For example, that data tables provided were clear, comprehensive, offered a brilliant level of data, were easy to understand, and were being used to produce reports for staff and senior managers. To improve the data tables there were two main suggestions: first to include more detail i.e. even more disaggregation of the data; secondly to produce specific grouping categories using the existing data. Despite the seemingly contradictory nature of these statements both can add value. Each aspect is addressed below.

A. More detailed results

The suggestion to produce even greater levels of detail with the data tables was considered. Given the contradictory feedback that suggested they were already comprehensive and offered 'brilliant' level of detail, adding any further detail may risk the tables becoming less clear and easy to understand. In addition, the tables have already been designed to cover most participation questions and possible geo-demographic classifications.

Data Tables used to present Official Statistics need only present the key headline statistics and arguably they already go way beyond this expectation. Nevertheless, if anything, we believe more could be done to unpack the School Sport Provision Survey. An alternative to expanding on the content of the data tables would be to produce an accompanying interactive dashboard presented either on the Sport Wales website or using existing software such as Microsoft PowerBi.

As a result of this feedback, Sport Wales will commit to:

- ✓ Reviewing the content of the data tables to ensure any new questions are captured and included where appropriate.
- ✓ We will also look to see if efficiencies can be made, so as to create space for the inclusion of any further breakdowns of the data, where sample size permits.
- ✓ We will also explore options for presenting the information within a dashboard to enable users to query the dataset themselves without having to explore the data tables to find the published data. Ideally, we will aim to



establish a work-flow from the raw weighted dataset but will need to ensure no individuals can be identified as a result of this process. As such, this latter aspect will be more of an ongoing exploration exercise rather something that is immediately available for the initial School Sport Survey release in 2022.

B. More grouping of the data

The second request was to add an additional aggregated ethnicity category to capture Black and Minority Ethnicities (BME) as a reporting mechanism.

Arguably it is more important to look at the detail offered within each ethnic category, nevertheless, data is often presented in this way. This BME category could be added to the existing ethnicity categories and where possible (based on sample size), used to unpack the data within the existing tables.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Commit to exploring to see if there are any other data categories that could be combined e.g. geography.

The 'Tackling Racism and Racial Inequality in Sport' project is likely to present several recommendations to the UK Sports Councils in early 2021.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Use these findings to help guide how we present information about ethnicity with our data tables. Regardless, as a preliminary exercise we will look across the data tables and see where we can add this information given there are normally lower number of respondents within each ethnicity category.

Further feedback relating to the publication of data tables involved having a clearly presented contents page that links directly to each table. Ideally each table could be accessed directly via an URL. The existing tables do not include and linkage and this makes the 46 sub tables more difficult to navigate than necessary.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Aim for these improvements to be made within in the next set of tables. In addition, we will commit to review existing content and publish new questions and more information from the Provision Survey.



A balance however needs to be struck as 56% of respondents thought there should be fewer tables produced. Results from our online consultation also indicated that data tables formed only part of a suite of tools that would be needed to represent the survey results. Better use needed to be made of interactive infographic styled tables and data dashboards. It was also suggested that training may be needed to use the tables and alternative displays of data.

Sport Wales will:

- ✓ Review whether the Sport Wales CLIP programme could specifically address this as part of the ongoing sector training programme.



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