

## 06/09: Scottish Population Surveys Coordinating Committee

### **Core Socio-economic questions to be included in large scale surveys – SHS draft findings**

1. At the last SPSCC there was agreement that the concept of a harmonised socio-economic core should be pursued and that OCS should consider the process for agreeing the content.
2. Over the last few months OCS and the Scottish Household Survey team have been working together to develop the socio-economic core for the SHS. It is envisaged that this core will provide a good starting point for other surveys to consider in arriving at the harmonised core.
3. In developing the core a number of aspects have been taken in to account:
  - Clear policy demand for a high level of precision:
    - questions to provide estimates in their own right
    - questions to allow analysis about sub-groups of the population
  - Additivity - potential to merge data from the SHS with other surveys to:
    - provide more reliable estimates for existing geographies
    - for smaller geographic areas for which information on aspects of socio-economic change is not available between census
  - Information that can be collected face-to-face interview
  - Proxy responses acceptable
  - Topics which would not adversely affect response to the interview as a whole
4. Consideration has also been given to the responses to the ONS IHS consultation on Continuous Population Survey on demand for socio-economic questions.
5. The next step is to finalise the content of the socio-economic core questions to be included in the SHS, taking account of the ONS harmonised questions, before agreeing the exact wording and format of the questions. This information will be made readily available. OCS will meet with other large scale surveys to arrive at a definitive core.
6. **Members are asked to note progress and comment on the draft set of SHS socio-economic core questions below to be included in the SHS, and the questions still under consideration for inclusion (see Annex A).**

## Annex A: SHS Draft Socio-economic core

Questions to be included in socio-economic core

Question	Status	Location & to be asked of	Comments
Gender	Current	HIH (Highest income householder) All respondents	
Age	Current	HIH All respondents	
Date of Birth	Current	HIH All respondents	Reduce to only ask of key ages
Marital Status	Current	HIH HIH only	Adapt to include civil partnerships
Household Relationships	Current	HIH All respondents	Reduce to only ask about relationship with HIH
Cultural/Ethnic Group	Current	HIH All respondents	
Religion	Current	HIH All respondents	
Limiting long term illness	Current	HIH All respondents RA	
Self perception of general health	Current	RA (Random adult)	
Provision of unpaid care	Current	HIH All respondents RA	Identified as low priority for user support in IHS (Integrated Household Survey).
Prevalence of smoking	Current	RA	
Tenure	Current	HIH	
Accommodation type	Current	HIH	
Accommodation size (no of bedrooms, overcrowding)	Current	HIH	
Employment status	Current	HIH All respondents RA	
Full/part time	Current	RA	
Industry of employment	Current	RA	
Occupational group	Current	RA	
Attendance on government training scheme	Current	RA	
Place of work	Current	RA	
Whether supervisor	Current	RA	
Number of employees	Current	RA	
Education status	Current	RA	
Highest qualification held	Current	RA	
Access to transport	Current	RA	

Questions still under consideration

Question	Status	Location	Comments
Residence one year ago	New	HIH	Used by GROS to assess estimates of migration. Currently in LFS.

			Identified as high user support in IHS.
Living arrangements	New	HIH	Identified as high user support in IHS.
National Identity	New	HIH	Identified as medium user support in IHS.
Country of birth	New	HIH	Used by GROS to assess estimates of migration. Currently in LFS. Identified as medium user support in IHS.
Sexual Orientation	New	HIH	
Length of time since did paid work	New	HIH/RA	Identified as medium user support in IHS.
Length of time with current employer	New	HIH/RA	Identified as medium user support in IHS.
Whether looking for paid work	New	HIH/RA	Identified as high user support in IHS.
Banded Household Income	New	HIH	Currently income details are taken from the HIH and the RA – there is no banded household income covering entire household