

Recommendation to include a sexual orientation/identity question in the harmonised question core.

1. The Equality Review in 2007 highlighted the severe lack of data available on sexual orientation, one of the 6 recognised equality strands. There is legislation in place to prevent discrimination in the provision of services on the grounds of someone's sexual orientation. In April 2009 the UK Government introduced the Single Equalities Bill. This Bill will impose a public duty (by 2011) on all public bodies to report on all 6 of the equality strands not just race, disability and gender. All equality work and Equality Impact Assessments require consideration to be given to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual issues.
2. It is important that a sexual orientation question is added to the socio-economic core as this is the only equality strand that is not present in the core set and with the requirement for information building people will be looking for a question to add to surveys. ONS have done a piece of work to design an appropriate sexual identity question. We intend to use this piece of work as a basis to agree a Scottish question for sexual identity. Details of this work can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/measuring-equality/sexual-identity-project/index.html>
3. We recommend the inclusion of a sexual orientation/identity question in the socio-economic core as a mandatory question.

**Equality Statistics**  
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