



The Future of the Citizenship Survey

Consultation



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Summary of consultation

Scope of the consultation

Topic of this consultation:	Future of the Citizenship Survey
Scope of this consultation:	Outlines the intention to cancel the future Citizenship Survey and in doing so, seeks to identify the uses of the Survey data, the implications of stopping and options for alternative information sources.
Geographical scope:	England and Wales.
Impact Assessment:	An Impact Assessment is not needed as there are no burdens on the business of civic society as a result of this proposal.

Basic information

To:	Any organisation or individual that uses results from the Citizenship Survey. This includes local and central government, academics, charities and private organisations.
Body/bodies responsible for the consultation:	Head of Profession for Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government.
Duration:	Four weeks from Monday 1 November to 5pm on Tuesday 30 November 2010.
Enquiries:	Philippa Robinson or Suzanne Cooper Communities Analysis Division Department for Communities and Local Government 7/E8, Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU 0303 444 1381 or 0303 4441337 Citizenship.Survey@communities.gsi.gov.uk

How to respond:	Please send responses, preferably via email, to: Citizenship.Survey@communities.gsi.gov.uk c/o Philippa Robinson Communities Analysis Division Department for Communities and Local Government 7/E8, Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU
Additional ways to become involved:	We have established a User Group comprising representatives from the Department, other central government departments and independent bodies with an interest in the Survey.
After the consultation:	The responses will identify the implications of stopping data collection for users and stakeholders and will be used to suggest ways in which effects of cancellation can be mitigated. A summary of the consultation responses will be published on the Department's website.
Compliance with the Code of Practice on Consultation:	As this is a consultation targeted on users and stakeholders of the Citizenship Survey statistics, a 12 week public consultation is not required. Furthermore, should responses yield an overriding need to continue with the Citizenship Survey, a 12 week consultation period would not allow sufficient time to take any action for the start of the financial year.

1. Introduction

Aim

This document invites comments on the Department for Communities and Local Government's proposals for the future of the Citizenship Survey.

The start point for the consultation is that the Citizenship Survey will be cancelled because of the overriding need to find savings as a result of the fiscal deficit. A consultation is required in order to:

- identify how Citizenship Survey data are currently used
- understand the implications of stopping Citizenship Survey data collection
- identify options for alternative information sources, in the absence of the Survey.

Unless there is feedback from users indicating an overriding need to continue with the Citizenship Survey, the Department proposes that the survey will not continue after the 2010–11 Survey.

The consultation will run for four weeks from **Monday 1 November to 5pm on Tuesday 30 November 2010**.

Background to the Citizenship Survey

The Citizenship Survey is a household survey covering a representative core sample of 10,000 adults in England and Wales each year. There is also an ethnic minority boost sample of 5,000 a year and a Muslim boost sample of 1,200 each year (introduced in 2009–10), to ensure that the views of these groups are robustly represented.

The data are collected through face-to-face interviews, carried out via Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). The Survey asks about a range of issues including: views about the local area; community cohesion; racial and religious prejudice and discrimination; identity; values; interaction/mixing; political efficacy; attitudes to violent extremism; civic engagement; volunteering and charitable giving.

Since 2007-08, the survey has moved to a continuous design, allowing the provision of headline findings on a quarterly basis. The Survey was awarded National Statistics status in March 2008.

For more details on the Citizenship Survey please see the Department for Communities and Local Government web-site:

www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/citizenshipsurvey/

Users of the Citizenship Survey

Within central government results from the Survey are used by policy leads and analysts across a range of government departments including Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Cabinet Office, Office for Civil Society, Department for Work and Pensions and Government Equalities Office.

The Survey results are also used by local government, academic researchers, charities and other non-governmental organisations.

2. Plans for future survey

This section outlines plans for the Survey and seeks users' views on these.

Background

The Citizenship Survey is a complex and expensive survey to run. As part of the current drive to deliver cost savings across government and to reduce the fiscal deficit, research budgets are being closely scrutinised to identify where savings can be made. For this reason, and the belief that data can be dropped or collected less frequently, the intention is for future Citizenship Surveys to be cancelled.

Issues for consideration

In order to understand the implications of the option above, we would appreciate responses to the following questions:

Question 1:

What are your current uses of the Citizenship Survey?

How do you use the Citizenship Survey data?

Please provide information on:

- a. the topic areas you find most useful.
- b. the analysis you need to undertake.
- c. the purpose for which you currently use Citizenship Survey data.
- d. the current frequency of the Survey and your need for time series.
- e. what geographic level analysis you require.
- f. which sample boosts you utilise and require (if any).
- g. which outputs you find most useful, and why.
- h. what level of precision you require for these estimates.

Question 2:

What are the implications of stopping the Citizenship Survey?

- a. What would be the impact to you if Citizenship Survey data are no longer available?

Question 3:

What are the alternatives to the Citizenship Survey?

- a. What other sources of data on topics that the Survey covers do you, or could you, use instead?
- b. Would data of a less stringent quality (e.g. collected through quota sampling) be of good enough quality for your purposes?
- c. In the absence of the Citizenship Survey, how could the Department help with access to other sources of similar data?

Question 4:

What are your views on questionnaire content?

- a. Which questions currently included in the 2010-11 Citizenship Survey are essential for your needs? See:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurvey201011questions

Question 5:

Do you have any other comments?

- a. Do you have any further comments on plans for the future of the Citizenship Survey?

3. Next Steps

Unless we receive feedback from users indicating an overriding need to continue with the Citizenship Survey, the Department proposes that the survey will not continue after 2010-11. If this is the case, the Department will consider alternative sources of data on the topics that the survey covers, prioritising areas of highest interest to users.

4. Confidentiality and data protection

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with the access to information requirements (mainly the *Freedom of Information Act 2000*, *Data Protection Act 1998* and the *Environmental Information Regulations 2004*). If you wish the information you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the *Freedom of Information Act*, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with, amongst other things, obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation. However, we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality notice generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

A summary of the responses to this consultation will be published on the Department's website: www.communities.gov.uk .

Any confidential responses will be included in the statistical summary of numbers of comments and views expressed, although the respondent will not be identified.

5. How to respond

This statistical consultation will run for four weeks from **Monday 1 November 2010 to Tuesday 30th November 2010**.

When responding, please state whether you are doing so as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of the members were assembled. Comments are invited from all interested parties who wish to be involved in this consultation process.

We would welcome written comments in response to the consultation questions, focussing on users' views of the survey and outputs, how the data are used and what are the implications for them of the proposed changes.

Please send your consultation response (by email or post) to:

Citizenship.Survey@communities.gsi.gov.uk

c/o Philippa Robinson
Communities Analysis Division
Department for Communities and Local Government
7/E8, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London, SW1E 5DU

6. About this consultation

This consultation document and the consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Code of Practice on Consultation issued by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, which sets out the following seven consultation criteria:

1. Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.
2. Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.
3. Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.
4. Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.
5. Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.
6. Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.
7. Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions, when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the *Freedom of Information Act 2000* (FOIA), the *Data Protection Act 1998* (DPA) and the *Environmental Information Regulations 2004*).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer

generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed these criteria?
If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact:

DCLG Consultation Co-ordinator
Zone 4/J10 Eland House
London SW1E 5 DU

Or by e-mail to: consultationcoordinator@communities.gsi.gov.uk