

# Response summary: Review of the Measures of National Well-being

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## Contact information

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### **Accessibility**

All material relating to this consultation can be provided in braille, large print or audio formats on request. British Sign Language interpreters can also be requested for any supporting events.

### **Quality assurance**

This consultation has been carried out in accordance with [the government's Consultation principles](#).

If you have any complaints about the way this consultation has been conducted, please email: [ons.consultations@ons.gov.uk](mailto:ons.consultations@ons.gov.uk).

## Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) launched the Measuring National Well-being programme in 2010. Part of the programme included a national debate where we asked the public “[What matters to you?](#)”. The 34,000 responses were used to develop the national well-being framework that the ONS has been reporting on since.

For more information on the background to the national well-being framework, see our [Findings from the National Well-being Debate release, published in July 2011](#).

The 10 domains of national well-being are:

- personal well-being
- our relationships
- health
- what we do
- where we live
- personal finance
- economy
- education and skills
- governance
- environment

For more information on the 10 domains, see our [Measuring National Well-being: A discussion paper on domains and measures, published 31 October 2011](#).

The events of recent years, such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, exit from the European Union, heightened public awareness of climate change, and the rising cost of living, highlighted that the areas identified during the national debate in 2010 are still important to our well-being.

However, more than a decade has now passed since we began reporting on national well-being in the UK using the [Measures of National Well-being](#)

[dashboard](#), the [Quality of life in the UK statistical bulletins](#) and the [Measuring national well-being: domains and measures dataset](#). We would like to make sure that what we are capturing within these domains still reflects what is important to the UK today.

As such, on 3 October 2022 we announced we would be reviewing the measures of national well-being and how we disseminate them.

We have committed to publishing a Measures of National Well-being recommendation report in spring 2023. The report will include recommendations informed by the following research:

- analysis of the individual and community well-being questions added to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey which ran between 12 to 23 October 2022 (see our [Individual and community well-being, Great Britain: October 2022 bulletin](#))
- a qualitative research project collecting well-being insights from those at risk of reporting low well-being
- analysis of feedback provided during an online user engagement exercise that ran from 3 October to 9 December 2022, which we are presenting here
- additional stakeholder feedback

The user engagement exercise was designed to make sure that the current measures of national well-being still reflect what the UK public feels is important to their well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation, and to collect feedback on the methods and tools we use to communicate these statistics.

This document summarises the responses received by the ONS for the [Review of the Measures of National Well-being](#) engagement exercise and sets out what actions we plan to take as a result.

The engagement exercise ran for 10 weeks, from 3 October to 9 December 2022 (extended from 25 November). It was designed to provide us with a better understanding of how well our measures reflect what members of the

UK public consider important to national well-being, and to collect feedback on the methods and tools we use to communicate these statistics.

The engagement exercise was conducted in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

We thank everybody who shared their views by responding to the engagement exercise. This feedback will help us develop recommendations for developments to the Measures of National Well-being framework, which will be published in spring 2023.

## Summary of responses

Our engagement exercise ran for 10 weeks, from 3 October to 9 December 2022 (extended from 25 November). The engagement exercise was promoted on social media, at events with selected stakeholders and potential users, and through emails and e-bulletins. A total of 118 responses were submitted online and an additional two were sent to us by email.

We also received direct responses from organisations and government departments in a letter form (not the questionnaire format). These included more general feedback on the Measures of National Well-being framework and indicators that the senders would like to add or change. The shared feedback covered similar topics to the online responses for qualitative questions. More detail on these responses can be found in the Responses received by letter section on page 36.

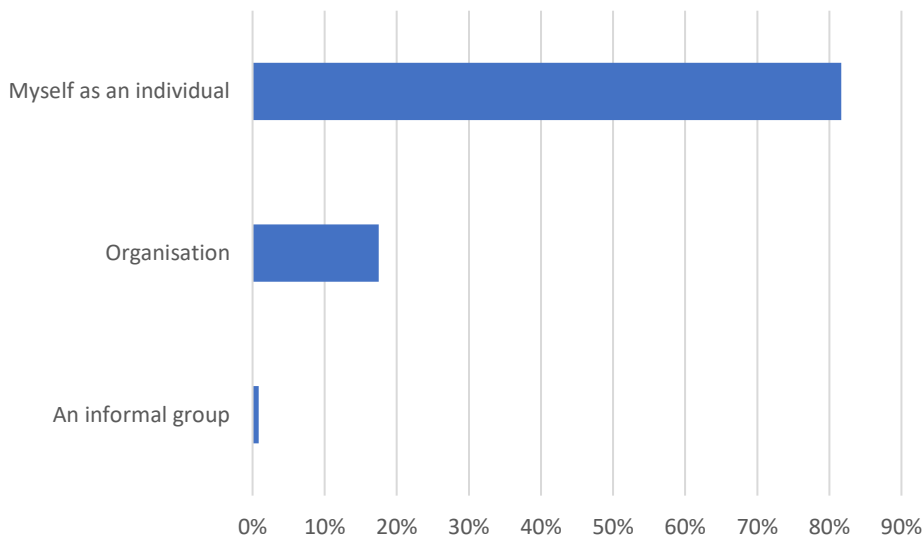
Note: in the analysis percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding. Percentage totals are based on the number of respondents who answered the question and exclude those who did not. Questions where the respondents could choose multiple answer options and the percentage sums exceed 100% are indicated in the analysis.

# Detailed responses

## About your response

### 1. Are you responding to this survey on behalf of an organisation or a group?

Figure 1: Whether respondents were answering on behalf of themselves as an individual, on behalf of an organisation, or on behalf of an informal group



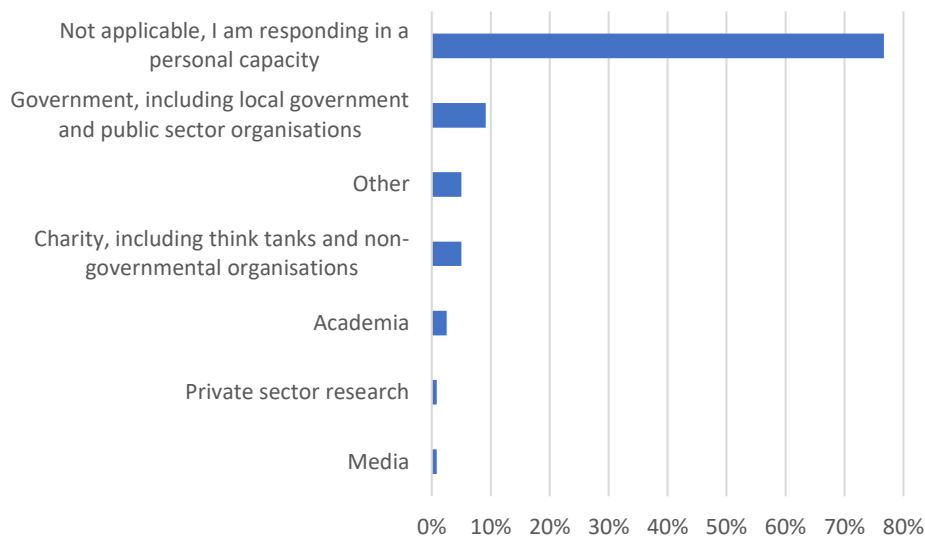
Count: 120

We received 120 responses to this question. Most respondents (82%) said that they were answering on behalf of themselves as an individual, 18% were responding on behalf of an organisation, and 1% were responding on behalf of an informal group (for example, a community or an interest group).

### 2. If responding on behalf of an organisation or a group, what sector do you represent?

Figure 2: Respondent's sector





Count: 120

We received 120 responses to this question. Of those, 9% represented government, 5% represented charities, 3% represented academia, 1% represented private sector research, 1% represented media and 5% represented “other” sectors.

Although 82% of respondents said they answered on behalf of themselves in the first question, only 77% said they did so in a personal capacity. This may mean some individuals answered in their professional capacity but not representing their organisation.

## What matters to national well-being

In this section we asked what members of the UK public consider important to their well-being.

### 3. In your opinion, what is most important for national well-being?

We received 115 comments about what is most important to national well-being. The responses were analysed qualitatively using thematic

analysis by two independent researchers and summarised into the following 20 main themes (not listed in priority order):

- subjective and emotional well-being – includes mentions of subjective well-being, contentment, happiness, life satisfaction, living a meaningful life, and feeling valued
- good mental health and availability of mental health support – includes mentions of good mental health, low anxiety, low stress levels, low depression rates, and availability of mental health support
- good physical health – includes mentions of good physical health and living a long life
- social networks and meaningful relationships – includes mentions of good relationships, spending time with others, and not feeling lonely or isolated
- community connections, cohesion and belonging – includes mentions of feeling part of a community, social networks (social capital), social cohesion, and community connections
- culture of care and support for each other – includes mentions of caring for and supporting others, cooperation, kindness, and the sense of duty to each other
- reduction of inequalities and discrimination – includes mentions of reduction of inequalities, greater equity and equality (for example, in health, education, wealth, income, opportunity), social justice, lack of discrimination, and narrowing the gaps between those best off and worst off
- financial security, having money and being able to live comfortably – includes mentions of not being in financial hardship, having a stable financial situation, being able to afford basic needs (for example, housing, food, bills), a minimum standard of living, having disposable income, and childcare being affordable
- availability of social security and welfare support – includes mentions of social support systems (for example, social housing, care, benefits), availability and generosity of welfare support, proactive care for vulnerable groups and those at risk, and elimination of poverty and homelessness

- quality and accessibility of public services – includes mentions of quality and accessibility of public services (for example, health care, social care, education and training, police, public transport, housing), equality in public service provision, and adequate funding of local and national services
- housing that is affordable, secure and of good quality – includes mentions of availability, accessibility, affordability, quality and security of housing
- good working lives, satisfaction with jobs and work-life balance – includes mentions of availability, security and quality of jobs, good working environment, adequate and sustainable wages, flexible work culture (for example, four-day working week), and work-life balance
- personal development opportunities – includes mentions of career development, realising ambitions, and fulfilling personal capabilities
- pursuing hobbies, interest, and free-time activities – includes mentions of hobbies and interests, having time to engage in leisure, involvement in physical activity, and participation in arts and culture
- physical safety and security of individuals and spaces – includes mentions of safety and security of individuals, neighbourhoods and local spaces
- access to green spaces – includes mentions of proximity and accessibility of high-quality green spaces
- stable economy – includes mentions of stable, strong and sustainable national economy
- trust that government is capable and represents the people – includes mentions of policymaking driven by principles of welfare, equity and democracy, people feeling listened to and represented, and the government being capable, accountable and trustworthy
- democratic values and civic participation – includes mentions of democracy, independent justice system, independent media, personal freedom (including freedom of speech), civic participation, and activism
- protection of the natural environment – includes mentions of protection of the environment, addressing climate change,

prioritisation of environmental sustainability, and good quality of water, food and air

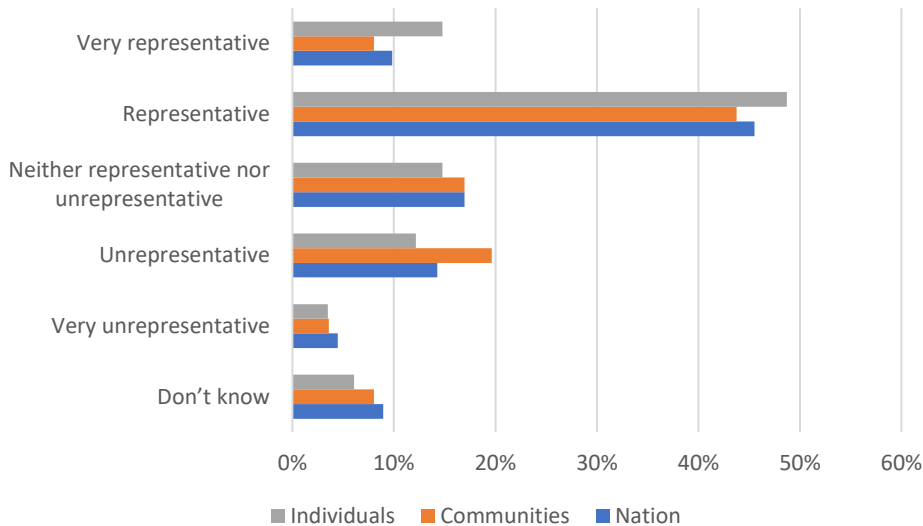
Respondents also listed other specific factors, however these were mentioned too infrequently to be grouped into themes.

## Your feedback on the measures of national well-being

In this section we asked for feedback on the current measures of national well-being and how well they represent what matters for our well-being.

### 4. In your opinion, how representative are the current measures of national well-being of our well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation?

Figure 3: Representativeness of measures of national well-being



Count: 112-115

### Representativeness for individual well-being

We received 115 responses to this question. Around 15% of respondents reported that the current measures of national well-being are very representative of our well-being as individuals. Half (49%) reported them as representative and 15% as neither representative nor

unrepresentative. One in 8 (12%) reported them as unrepresentative, 3% as very unrepresentative, and 6% did not know.

### **Representativeness for community well-being**

We received 112 responses to this question. Around 8% of respondents reported that the current measures of national well-being are very representative of our well-being as communities. Less than half (44%) reported them as representative and 17% as neither representative nor unrepresentative. A fifth (20%) reported them as unrepresentative, 4% as very unrepresentative, and 8% did not know.

### **Representativeness for national well-being**

We received 112 responses to this question. 1 in 10 (10%) respondents reported that the current measures of national well-being are very representative of our well-being as a nation. Nearly half (46%) reported them as representative and 17% as neither representative nor unrepresentative. One in seven (14%) reported them as unrepresentative, 4% as very unrepresentative, and 9% did not know.

- 5. The Measures of National Well-being framework captures well-being across 10 domains: personal well-being, our relationships, health, what we do, where we live, personal finance, economy, education and skills, governance, and environment. Please, share your feedback on how we measure well-being within these domains. Are there any indicators which you would like to add or change?**

### **Personal well-being**

The existing measures of 'Personal well-being' attracted numerous approving and positive comments. However, the distinction between the 'Personal well-being' and 'Health' domains was unclear to users in relation to where measures of mental wellness appeared. Feedback suggests that this is due to measures of anxiety being in both domains.

Where direct feedback was left for the existing indicators, it highlighted that well-being levels could vary by different aspects of our lives (for example, work and personal life) and these differences should be accounted for. Respondents also suggested that generalised happiness and anxiety should be measured over a longer period and not at a point in time.

A few respondents asked for changes in the reporting scales so that low well-being scores and well-being inequalities are highlighted. Suggestions included reporting the percentage of those with low rather than high well-being, or average well-being levels being reported alongside measures of dispersion.

Two respondents suggested a personal well-being index based on the current “ONS4 well-being questions” (life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety) may be useful.

Most feedback on ‘Personal well-being’ focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Our relationships**

Where direct feedback was provided for the existing indicators in the ‘Our relationships’ domain, it asked for clarification on how the specific indicators are conceptualised and the types of relationships they refer to.

A few respondents suggested recalibrating the measures into positive phrasing and scales where they are currently reported negatively. One respondent pointed out that this domain currently does not include an objective measure of social relationships in the UK.

Clarification was sought on whether indicators of community relations should be included in the ‘Our relationships’ or the ‘Where we live’ domain. Similarly, the indicator of generalised trust in the ‘Our

relationships' domain prompted suggestions for other trust indicators (for example, trust in politicians, public services, or the media), which belong to the 'Governance' domain.

Still, most feedback on 'Our relationships' focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Health**

Comments on this domain, similarly to comments on 'Personal well-being', suggested that presentation of two measures of anxiety can be confusing. Generally, it appeared unclear to the users whether mental health is considered an aspect of personal well-being or health in the Measures of National Well-being framework.

The indicator of disability attracted several comments from users who highlighted it implies that those with a disability have poor health and well-being which is stigmatising to those who are disabled.

Respondents questioned the intention behind including rates of disability as a measure of national well-being. They found what would constitute an improvement or deterioration of this measure unclear. A few users favoured including additional breakdowns by disability status in the reports instead of a single disability indicator.

Most feedback on 'Health' focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. Several respondents expressed the need for additional indicators that would measure health inequalities, access to healthcare and objective health of people in the UK. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **What we do**

For the existing indicators in the 'What we do' domain, some shortcomings were pointed out. Many respondents found current measures related to work and employment insufficient and reported that they would like to see additional indicators, such as job quality, security and work-life balance.

Several people thought that the focus on volunteering, arts and sport as important for well-being is too narrow. They thought it assumes universal interest in these activities to the exclusion of other pursuits that may boost welfare.

One respondent pointed out that Northern Ireland is only included in three out of seven existing measures, a limitation in the indicators' usefulness for this region and the UK as a whole.

Most feedback on 'What we do' focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Where we live**

Most feedback on the 'Where we live' domain focused on proposing additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. Further measures to do with housing, and its quality, affordability, availability, and security, were often suggested. Many respondents would also like to see new indicators on the quality of local areas and local services, including an improved measure of the quality of public transport networks. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Personal finance**

Several respondents suggested that the existing measures of 'Personal finance' should be adjusted for inflation and account for housing costs wherever appropriate to better represent actual financial circumstances



people live in. A few people also expressed their preference for the personal finance indicators to focus on inequalities within the society rather than average levels of income and wealth.

One respondent specifically praised inclusion of the subjective indicators of personal financial welfare (“Satisfaction with household income” and “Difficulty managing financially”).

Most of the feedback relating to ‘Personal finance’ focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. Given that several indicators related to employment were proposed, it appears to be unclear to the users whether employment is considered part of the ‘What we do’ or the ‘Personal finance’ domain. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Economy**

Generally, comments on the domain of ‘Economy’ suggested that the difference between indicators relevant to personal finance and those relevant to economy can be unclear for some users.

One person explicitly endorsed including measures of the health of national economy in the Measures of National Well-being framework, recognising the effect of state’s economic performance on the well-being of individuals.

Several respondents expressed the need for greater consideration of regional and demographic inequalities in economic welfare as part of the Measures of National Well-being framework.

Most of the feedback relating to ‘Economy’ focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. In particular, inclusion of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was mentioned in several comments. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Education and skills**

The existing indicators in the 'Education and skills' domain received generally positive comments. However, a few respondents thought the existing measures focused too strongly on cognitive achievement, and therefore was lacking in terms of relevance for well-being of individuals.

The "Human capital" (total net present value of working age people's projected lifetime earnings) indicator has attracted most direct feedback, including comments questioning the conceptual approach and method used to calculate human capital.

One respondent expressed dissatisfaction with the "No qualifications" (people aged 16 to 64 years with no qualifications) indicator for reinforcing negatively loaded assumptions.

Most feedback relating to 'Education and skills' focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

## **Governance**

The existing indicators in the ‘Governance’ domain received limited feedback, with most respondents suggesting that the current measures be made more inclusive. There was a noticeable preference for voter turnout in local elections and levels of trust in other public institutions to be included in the framework.

Most feedback relating to ‘Governance’ focused on suggesting additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

A few respondents suggested changing the name of this domain to “Political engagement” (or similar) for it being more representative of the participatory nature of the current indicators.

## **Environment**

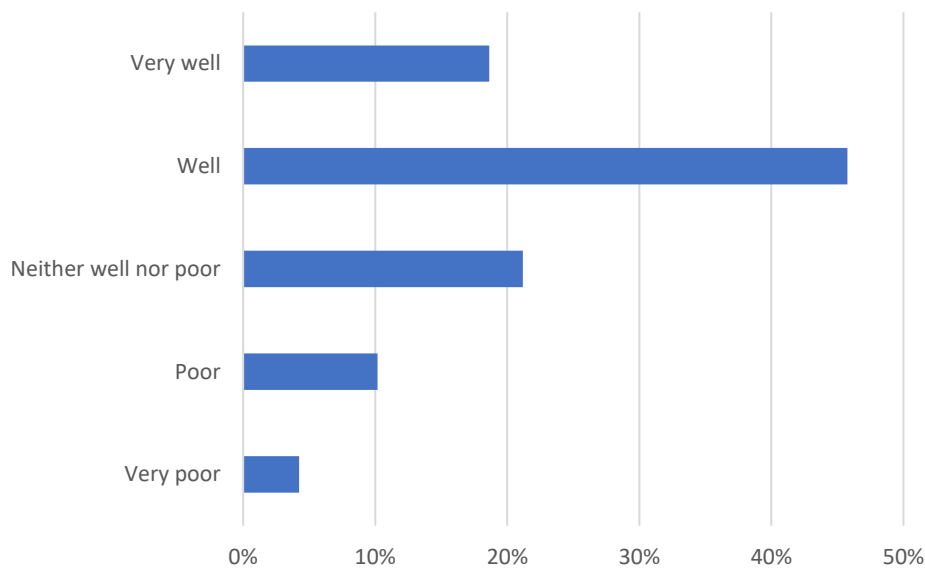
Many of the respondents commenting on the ‘Environment’ domain shared the view that the comprehensiveness of the existing indicators could be improved.

One respondent thought the domain of ‘Environment’ should not be part of the Measures of National Well-being framework.

Most feedback focused on proposing additional indicators for inclusion in the framework. The suggestions centered around measures of quality of the environment, sustainability, and people’s environmental attitudes and behaviours. We will use these suggestions to inform our recommendations for changes to the Measures of National Well-being framework, due to be published in spring 2023.

**6. In your opinion, to what extent does the title “Measures of National Well-being” explain what this framework and indicators relate to?**

Figure 4: Title representativeness



Count: 118

We received 118 responses to this question. One in five respondents (19%) reported that the title “Measures of National Well-being” explains what the framework and indicators relate to very well. Around half (46%) said it explained it well, and 21% said it explained it neither well nor poorly. 1 in 10 (10%) said it explained it poorly, and 4% of respondents chose “very poorly”.

**7. Do you have any suggestions for an alternative title? (If selected answer other than “Very well” in the previous question)**

We received 14 responses to this question. Some respondents used this question to feedback on why the current title is not representative. These comments focused on the fact that the current title does not represent the subjective nature of well-being and the broad scope of what the measures of national well-being cover.

The alternative title suggestions which we received remained close to the current title and included:

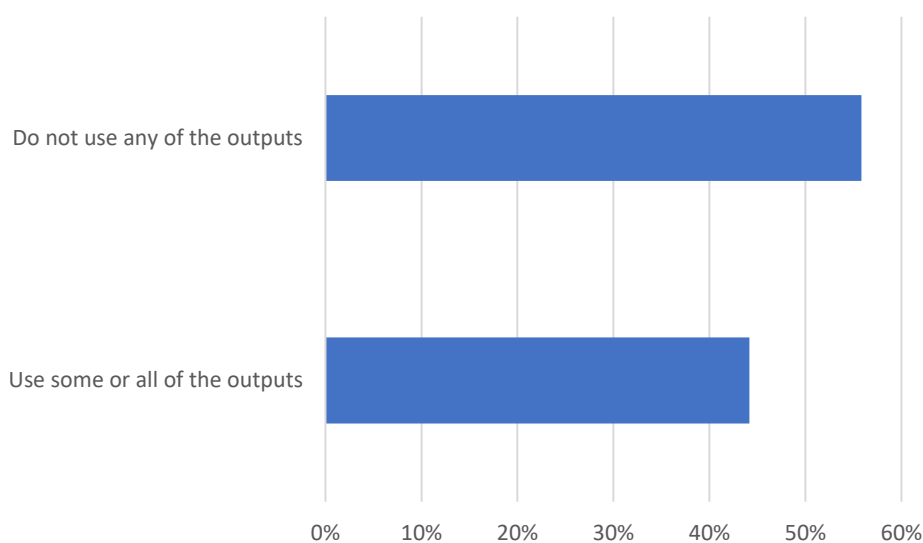
- “Quality of life satisfaction”
- “How well are we doing?”
- “Measures of Well-being”
- “Well-being in the UK”
- “Living: Health, Well-being and belonging”
- “Mapping out the UKs Quality of Life and well- being”
- “Factors that influence national wellbeing”
- “National wellbeing: what matters most to the UK public”
- “Wellbeing – what matters most to the UK public”

## Your use of the measures of national well-being outputs

In this section we asked how the respondents use our measures of national well-being outputs.

### 8. Do you use any of the measures of national well-being outputs (for example, our [bulletin](#), [dashboard](#) or [dataset](#))?

Figure 5: Whether respondents use the measures of national well-being



Count: 120

We received 120 responses to this question. Most respondents (56%) declared that they do not use any of the measures of national well-being outputs, while 44% use some or all of the outputs.

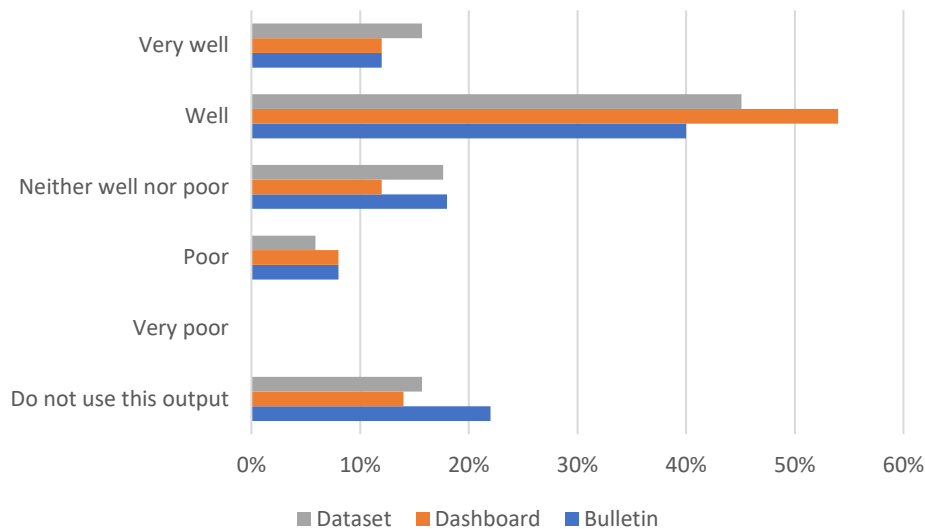
**9. If you do not use our outputs (the bulletin, the dashboard or the dataset), could you provide some reasons why? (If selected “No, I do not use any of the outputs”, or selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” but only use some of the outputs)**

We received 67 comments about why respondents do not use some or all of the outputs. The feedback could be summarised in the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- respondents were not aware of the outputs or outputs are not well-publicised
- outputs are not relevant to the respondent, or they have no use for the outputs (either personally or professionally)
- outputs lack relevance and actionability in the real world
- concerns over quality of the data and indicators (includes mentions of not enough granularity and sub-population breakdowns not being consistently included)
- concerns over presentation of the information (includes mentions of difficulty in accessing and understanding outputs, preferring certain formats of outputs, and that the data do not present a clear story)
- respondents read the outputs for personal interest and have no practical use for the outputs
- positive comments or declarations of intention to use the outputs in the future
- respondents engage only with those outputs that meet their specific needs

**10. To what extent do our current measures of national well-being outputs meet your needs? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” in Question 8)**

Figure 6: How well the current measures of national well-being outputs meet users' needs



Count: 50-51

### Bulletin

We received 50 responses to this question. One in eight respondents (12%) reported that the current bulletin meets their needs very well. Two in five (40%) reported that it meets their needs well, and one-fifth (18%) said it meets their needs neither well nor poorly. One in twelve (8%) said it meets their needs poorly, no one said very poorly, and 22% reported that they do not use the bulletin.

### Dashboard

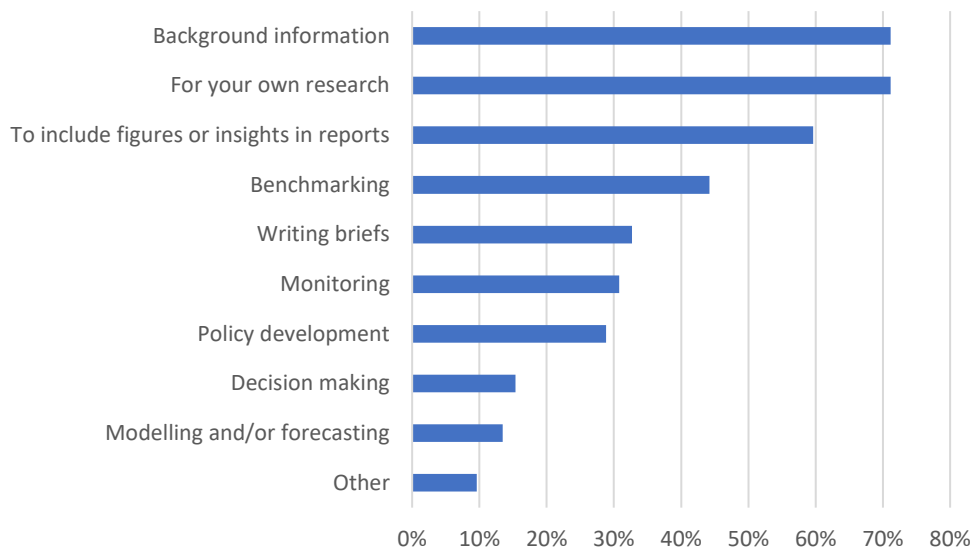
We received 50 responses to this question. One in eight respondents (12%) reported that the current dashboard meets their needs very well. Over half (54%) reported that it meets their needs well, and 12% said it meets their needs neither well nor poorly. 1 in 12 (8%) said it meets their needs poorly, no one said very poorly, and 14% reported that they do not use the dashboard.

## Dataset

We received 51 responses to this question. One in six respondents (16%) reported that the current dataset meets their needs very well. Just under half (45%) reported that it meets their needs well, and 18% said it meets their needs neither well nor poorly. 6% said it meets their needs poorly, no one said very poorly, and 16% reported that they do not use the dataset.

### 11. What do you use the measures of national well-being outputs for? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” in Question 8)

Figure 7: Uses of measures of national well-being



Count: 52

Note: Respondents could report more than one use, so percentages will sum to more than 100%.

We received 52 responses to this question. Most respondents use the measures of national well-being outputs for background information (71%), their own research (71%), or to include figures or insights in reports (60%). Other uses for the outputs include:



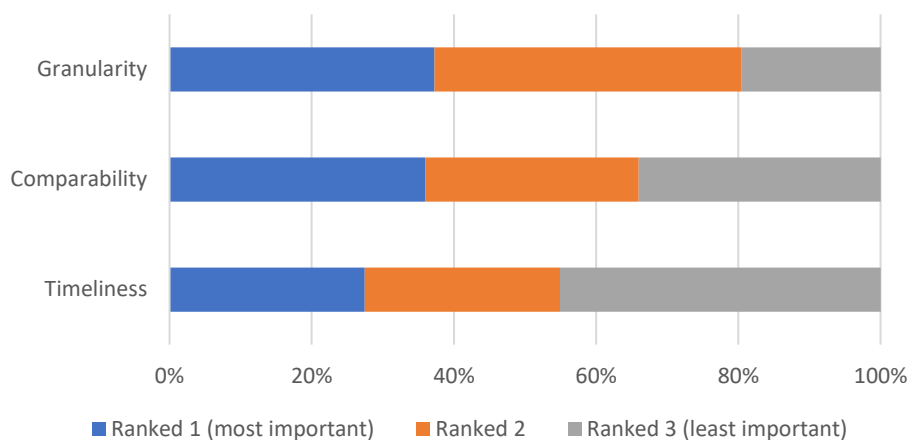
- benchmarking (44%)
- writing briefs (33%)
- monitoring (31%)
- policy development (29%)
- decision making (15%)
- modelling and/or forecasting (13%)
- “other” (10%)

We asked respondents who selected “other” to specify how they use the measures of national well-being and received 11 responses. The “other” reported uses included:

- professional information needed for work
- synthesis publications
- informing local area research and analysis
- learning about good practice
- policymaking
- preparing evaluation frameworks for organisations
- personal interest

**12. Please rank in order of their priority to you (where 1 means most important and 3 means least important) the ways in which we could improve our statistics to make the measures of national well-being outputs more useful. (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” in Question 8)**

Figure 8: Ranked priorities of granularity, comparability and timeliness



Count: 50-51

We received 51 responses about granularity and timeliness, and 50 about comparability. Over a third of respondents ranked granularity (37%) or comparability (36%) as their preferred option, and 27% selected timeliness.

**13. Do you have any other feedback on how we could make our outputs more useful to you? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” in Question 8)**

We received 21 comments of additional feedback on how we could make our outputs more useful. The responses could be summarised in the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- consistently provide additional demographic breakdowns (for example, by age, gender, ethnicity, race, disability, LGBTQ+, area, and for those living in non-private addresses)
- consider children and children's well-being as part of the framework
- improve coherence and comparability across UK nations
- improve availability of regional data (for example, by adding regional filters and breakdowns for smaller geographies)
- improve timeliness and consistency of the indicator updates
- include additional indicators thought to be important to well-being as recommended in this engagement exercise

- improve data presentation and discussion (for example, by including more charts, tables and summaries, and allowing users to filter the data)
- improve publicity or positioning on the ONS website
- improve signposting and access to the unprocessed data

**14. The Measures of National Well-being framework draws on data supplied by multiple sources and organisations. When using the measures of national well-being outputs, do you refer to the original sources of the data? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” in Question 8)**

We received 51 responses to this question. Most respondents (69%) reported that they do refer to the original sources of the data when using the Measures of National Well-being outputs, while 31% reported that they do not.

**15. For what reasons do you refer to the original data sources for the measures of national well-being? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”, and “Yes” in the previous question)**

We received 32 responses to this question. Respondents could report more than one reason, so percentages will sum to more than 100%. Most respondents reported that they refer to the original data sources for technical details (for example, methodology or sample information, 59%) or for additional sub-population breakdowns (56%). Almost half (47%) do so to access raw data for their own analysis, 41% use the ONS outputs for signposting to the original data sources and 13% for additional estimates.

## Your feedback on accessibility of the measures of national well-being outputs

In this section we asked for feedback on how we present the national well-being outputs and communicate insights.

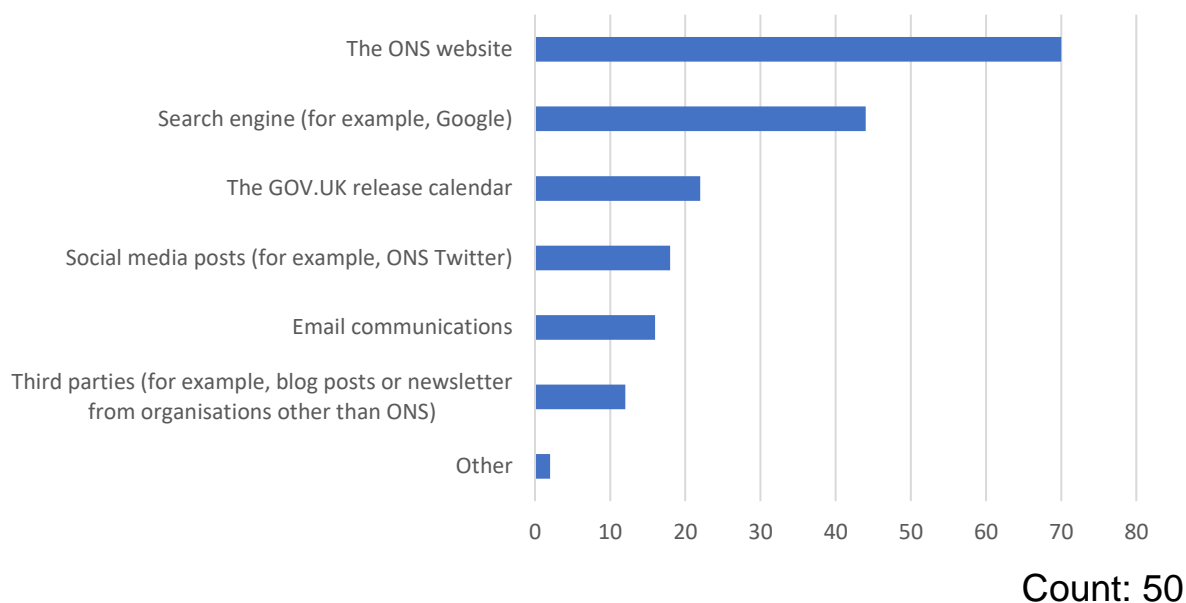
### 16. How do you typically access our outputs? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)

We received 51 responses to this question. Most respondents (86%) typically access our outputs on a desktop computer, laptop or similar; 1 in 10 (10%) do so on a mobile phone or smartphone, 2% do so on a tablet and 2% use “other” devices.

The one person who declared using “other” devices provided additional comment clarifying that they use a mix of devices to access our outputs.

### 17. How do you typically find the measures of national well-being outputs? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)

Figure 9: How respondents find the outputs



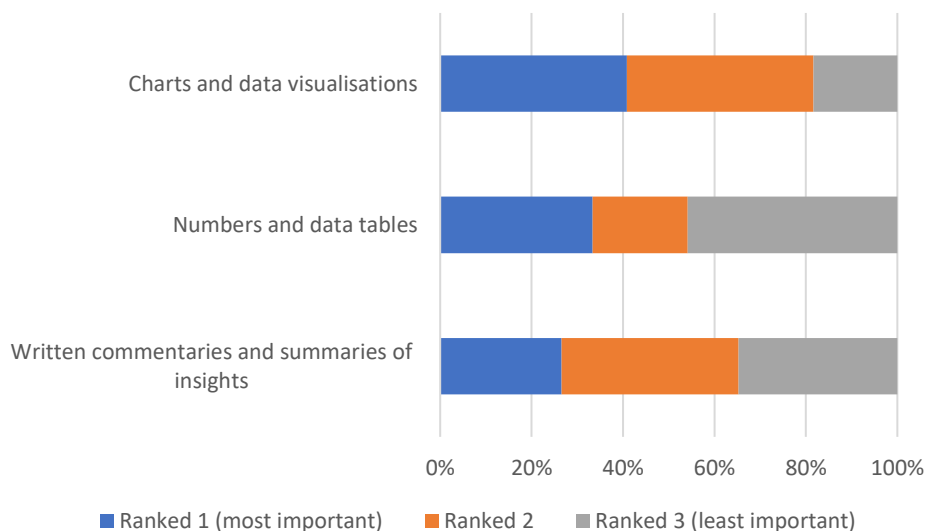
Note: Respondents could report more than one way, so percentages sum to more than 100%.

We received 50 responses to this question. Most respondents (70%) typically find the measures of national well-being outputs through the ONS website. Under half (44%) do so through a search engine, 22% through the GOV.UK release calendar, 18% through social media, 16% through email communications, 12% through third parties and 2% in “other” ways.

We received two comments from those who responded “other”. These appeared to be focused on general feedback on accessibility of the releases and mentioned linking to underlying data and a desire for reminders of new releases.

**18. Please rank in order of importance to you (where 1 means most important and 3 means least important) the different ways of presenting insights. (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)**

Figure 10: Ranked priorities of presenting insights

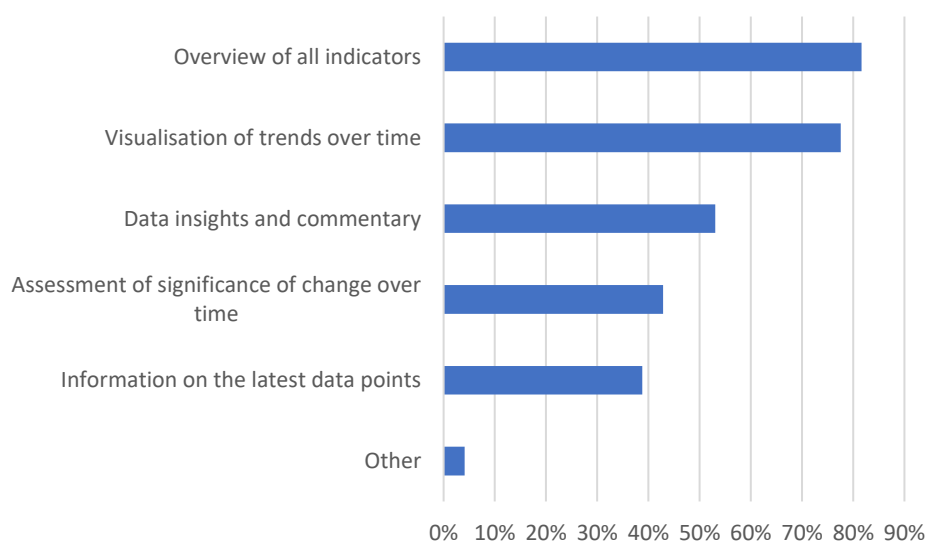


Count: 48-49

We received 49 responses about charts and data visualisations, and written commentaries and summaries of insights, and 48 about numbers and data tables. Two in five respondents (41%) ranked charts and data visualisations as their preferred option of communicating insights, 33% selected numbers and data tables, and 27% selected written commentaries and summaries of insights.

**19. Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard, what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)**

Figure 11: Types of information respondents would like the dashboard to provide



Count: 49

Note: Respondents could report more than one way, so percentage sums will exceed 100%.

We received 49 responses to this question. Each respondent ranked their top three information categories from the options provided. Most respondents (82%) selected overview of all indicators, 78% selected visualisation of trends over time, 53% selected data insights and

commentary, 43% selected assessment of significance of change over time, 39% selected information on the latest data points, and 4% selected “other”.

We received three comments about “other” types of information that respondents would like the dashboard to provide. These asked for information on how the measures interlink and can be aggregated, and demographic and regional comparisons and breakdowns.

**20. Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information listed below. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”):**

**The latest estimate for each indicator**

We received 43 responses to this question. One in eight respondents (12%) reported that the latest estimate for each indicator is currently very easy to find in the dashboard. Half (49%) said it is easy to find, and 16% said it is neither easy nor difficult. One in seven (14%) said it is difficult to find, 2% said it is very difficult, and 7% did not know.

**Data commentary**

We received 45 responses to this question. Some 7% of respondents reported that data commentary is currently very easy to find in the dashboard. Almost half (47%) said it is easy to find, and 24% said it is neither easy nor difficult. Around 1 in 10 (11%) said it is difficult to find, 4% said it is very difficult and 7% did not know.

**Assessment of change over time**

We received 45 responses to this question. Some 13% of respondents reported that assessment of change over time is currently very easy to find in the dashboard. Around two in five (38%) said it is easy to find, and 29% said it is neither easy nor difficult. Around 1 in 10 (11%) said it is difficult to find, 2% said it is very difficult, and 7% did not know.

## **Links to the original data sources**

We received 44 responses to this question. 1 in 20 respondents (5%) reported that links to the original data sources are currently very easy to find in the dashboard. A third (36%) said they are easy to find, and 27% said they are neither easy nor difficult. Around one in six (16%) said they are difficult to find, 2% said they are very difficult, and 14% did not know.

## **Links to the Measures of national well-being bulletin and dataset**

We received 44 responses to this question. Around 1 in 10 respondents (9%) reported that links to the Measures of National Well-being bulletin and dataset are currently very easy to find in the dashboard. Two in five (41%) said they are easy to find, and 25% said they are neither easy nor difficult. One in seven (14%) said they are difficult to find, 2% said they are very difficult, and 9% did not know.

## **21. The Measures of National Well-being dashboard is our primary tool for dissemination of the national well-being statistics. Do you have any further feedback on how it could be improved? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)**

We received 19 comments about how we could improve the dashboard. The responses could be categorised in the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- improve data discussion and commentary
- introduce an overall assessment of change
- improve integration with other ONS’ work and relate indicators to each other more
- enable filtering and downloading of the data
- improve data presentation (for example, by changing scales on graphs to be clearer)



- provide management information on data and indicators (for example, present survey questions, where the data is from, and where to find data sources)
- improve data quality and inclusivity
- improve, change or add indicators in line with feedback provided in this engagement exercise
- improve publicity or make dashboard a centrepiece output
- improve access to raw data or original sources

**22. Our Measures of National Well-being dataset includes the estimates, quality information and selected breakdowns for each measure. Are you able to find the information you need in the data tables? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)**

We received 49 responses to this question. Most respondents (76%) are able to find the information they need in the data tables, while a quarter (24%) are not.

**23. You said that you are not able to find the information you need in the data tables, could you provide suggestions for improvement? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs” and “No” in the previous question)**

We received five comments about suggestions for improvements to help users find the information that they need. The responses included the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- provide further sub-population breakdowns
- improve signposting to the tables
- improve granularity to uncover areas of inequality, inequity and disparities hidden behind different demographics
- mark up reference years for assessment of change more clearly
- note the size of change, not only the direction

**24. How frequently would you like us to update the measures of national well-being outputs (for the indicators where new data becomes available)? (If selected “Yes, I use some or all of the outputs”)**

**Data update (dataset and dashboard)**

We received 53 responses to this question. Most respondents (64%) reported they would like the data to be updated quarterly, while 19% said twice a year, and 17% said annually.

**Commentary update (bulletin)**

We received 53 responses to this question. Half of respondents (53%) reported they would like the commentary to be updated quarterly, while 23% said twice a year, and 25% said annually.

**25. Would you like to share with us any research that is relevant to the review of the indicators included in the Measures of National Well-being framework and the insight communication tools we use?**

We received 33 comments with research recommendations and general advice. These included 25 specific authors and research papers that the respondents recommended we consult.

Most of the general advice submitted for this question related to improving inclusivity of measures by covering additional demographics and geographies, and improving international outlook and comparability of the measures.

A few comments related to how we present the data, asking for additional clarity on frequency of publications, use of simpler language in our reports, and for an easy-read version of the publication. A few respondents used this question to submit additional suggestions for new indicators to be added to the framework.

**26. Are there any specific developments that you would like to see in the future in the Measures of National Well-being framework?**

We received 45 comments about specific developments respondents would like to see in the future in the Measures of National Well-being framework included. The responses could be categorised in the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- inclusion of children and children's well-being in the framework
- consideration of inequalities as an aspect of the framework and in data analysis (for example, by adding inequality measures, more cross-sectional analysis related to inequality, and considering factors relevant to different populations)
- improved geographical coverage and breakdowns of UK's regions and nations
- addition of further sub-population breakdowns and breakdowns showing interactions between characteristics
- improved comparability of measures with other nations
- changes to the domains and framework structure
- inclusion of additional indicators in line with feedback provided in this engagement exercise
- methodological changes to how national well-being is measured (for example, by including both quantitative and qualitative measures, or changing how change over time is assessed)
- further theoretical development of the Measures of National Well-being by drawing on new knowledge from different academic disciplines
- tracking of national well-being against UK's economic performance
- development of a guidance document for Measures of National Well-being which explains how domains and indicators were identified
- improved storytelling and presentation of the data
- improved relevance and utility of Measures of National Well-being for policymaking
- increasing public awareness of the framework

**27. Do you have any final comments on our current national well-being measures or outputs?**

We received 33 final comments on our current national well-being measures or outputs. The responses could be categorised in the following main messages (not listed in priority order):

- suggestions of overall improvements in the Measures of National Well-being framework
- suggestions of indicators, characteristics and contexts that should be considered in the framework
- suggestions that Measuring National Well-being outputs should be used to guide, influence, and evaluate policymaking
- recommendations that public and professional recognition of the Measures of National Well-being should be improved
- suggestions for improvements in data presentation and discussion
- recommendations for further engagement with experts
- positive comments about the framework and the review

## Responses received by letter

Responses we received by letter covered similar topics and suggestions, including:

- putting greater emphasis on presenting inequalities
- developing more measures that cover the whole of the UK
- engaging more with devolved administrators (while also being able to filter indicators by region)
- developing a single summary measure of well-being, which can be tracked over time
- increasing communications and engagement between the ONS and users

Respondents also thought that inequalities are not adequately captured in the framework, as measures are generally based on private households so exclude those in non-private households. It was also pointed out that children and young people are not captured in current measures.

With regards to future reviews of the indicators, respondents suggested that indicators should change over time to ensure relevance and quality, but that this should be balanced with the need for comparability over time.

In terms of additional indicators, the responses submitted in letter form focused on access to natural environment, democratic well-being, and changes to the current measures of income.

Suggestions about natural environment included additional indicators, such as:

- quality of natural environment (reflecting biodiversity and healthy functioning ecosystems)
- the percentage of people living within 15 minutes from green and natural spaces
- connection with nature (quality of people's engagement with natural environment)
- environmental anxiety (about the climate crisis)
- environmental optimism (hope for environmental change)

For democratic well-being, the suggestions included indicators of public participation and citizen engagement. With regards to changing the current measures of income, respondents mentioned using a specific data source for income measures and presenting the data in a more transparent way.

## Our actions

The purpose of this engagement exercise was to understand what users felt was most important to national well-being and collect their feedback on our current measures and dissemination tools.

We will be using these findings, alongside additional research undertaken to review the measures of national well-being, to inform a recommendations report that will be published in spring 2023. We will consider all feedback submitted as part of the engagement exercise, but it may not be feasible to adopt all the suggestions in our recommendations.

The recommendations report will include an associated implementation workplan.

## Getting in touch

We welcome any feedback on the results of this engagement exercise or the Measures of National Well-being. You can email at [qualityoflife@ons.gov.uk](mailto:qualityoflife@ons.gov.uk)

For further information on ONS consultations, please see our [Consultations and survey page](#).

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