

**Background Quality Report** for the series of publications on engagement in culture, arts and sport. These publications have been assessed as below in line with the six quality dimensions of the European Statistical System.

Dimension	Assessment by the author
Introduction	<p><b><i>Context for the quality report.</i></b></p> <p>Five Official Statistics bulletins are published annually presenting findings for the preceding financial year. Three are annual bulletins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Experience of culture and arts by adults in Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Experience of sport by adults in Northern Ireland</li> </ul> <p>The remaining two bulletins are produced biennially in alternate years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and use of Irish by adults in Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by adults in Northern Ireland</li> </ul> <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of Irish culture and heritage by adults in Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage by adults in Northern Ireland</li> </ul> <p>Occasionally ad-hoc publications will be produced, for example Wellbeing and engagement in culture, arts, sport and heritage. Such publications will also be covered by this Quality Report.</p> <p>The data in these bulletins are derived from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). The CHS is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of which adults, aged 16 and over, living in private households in Northern Ireland. The survey is administered by Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Respondents to the CHS are asked about a variety of subjects including their engagement in the previous 12 months with culture, arts and leisure activities.</p> <p>The CHS has been running continuously since 1983. Questions on culture, arts and leisure were included for the first time in 2003/04. Since then, the module of questions has been developed and is now a key source of information for the Department for Communities.</p>

	<p>The survey is based on a random sample of 9,000 domestic addresses drawn from a list of private addresses managed by Land and Property Services of the Department of Finance. This list of addresses is used for most of the main government surveys conducted in Northern Ireland. Interviews are sought with all adults aged 16 and over in these households.</p> <p>The CHS is a face-to-face interview survey carried out using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on tablets. CAPI allows plausibility and consistency checks to be incorporated to improve data quality.</p> <p>The target response rate for the CHS is 65%, approximately 5,000 participating households. In 2017/18, 4,362 households participated in the survey and 5,677 individuals aged 16 and over completed an individual interview, the overall response rate was 56%.</p>
<p><b>Relevance</b></p>	<p><b><i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></b></p> <p>The bulletins provides data for Northern Ireland for engagement in culture, arts and sports. For each of these indicators, the bulletins include a population level analysis and also a breakdown by various sections of society, including Section 75 categories, where possible.</p> <p>In addition, engagement in culture and arts has been included as an indicator in the draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland. The bulletins provide estimates for this indicator and also disaggregates by various sections of society.</p> <p>The bulletins include infographics, charts and associated commentary to communicate the findings to the end user. In addition, all data is provided in both Excel and OpenDocument spreadsheets. Explanatory notes within the tables and a technical annex have been included to provide the end user with additional information on the methodology and definitions used in the presentation of statistics.</p> <p>Consultation is carried out annually with a key user group to agree the questions to be included in the CHS to ensure they continue to cover the key requirements for users.</p>
<p><b>Accuracy and reliability</b></p>	<p><b><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></b></p>

The target response rate for the CHS is 65%, approximately 5,000 participating households. In 2017/18, 4,362 households participated in the survey and 5,677 individuals aged 16 and over completed an individual interview, the overall response rate was 56%.

A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland. Young males were particularly under-represented. As a result, analysis of the CHS has been weighted for non-response with three separate weights produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors and sometimes decreases them, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the analysis for these publications, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

The 95% confidence intervals for each estimate have been included in the additional data tables which accompany the bulletins (in Excel and Open Document formats). These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the CHS proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

For example, we estimate that 87% of the population of Northern Ireland has engaged in culture and arts in 2017/18, we can be 95% certain that the true proportion falls between 85.7% and 87.5%.

	<p>Any statements in the reports regarding differences between groups such as males and females, different age groups, religion, etc., are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.</p>
<p><b>Timeliness and punctuality</b></p>	<p><b><i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></b></p>
	<p>Analytical Services Unit of the Department for Communities, who produce these bulletins, usually receive a provisional CHS dataset by mid-May of each year with the final validated CHS dataset received by the end of June.</p> <p>The first bulletin, <i>Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland</i>, is released with provisional headline data by the end of May each year. This allows this provisional data to be available for the Department's Annual Reporting cycle. The final version of this bulletin, using the final validated data, is published in mid-July.</p> <p>The remaining bulletins require more detailed analysis by the various demographic groups, as well as by area, and these are produced to the following timetable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September: <i>Experience of culture and arts by adults in Northern Ireland</i></li> <li>• October: <i>Experience of sport by adults in Northern Ireland</i></li> <li>• November: EITHER <i>Knowledge and use of Irish by adults in Northern Ireland</i> and <i>Knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by adults in Northern Ireland</i> OR <i>Experience of Irish culture and heritage by adults in Northern Ireland</i> and</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage by adults in Northern Ireland</i></p> <p>The bulletins are all published on their planned dates, as pre announced on the Department for Communities website and GOV.UK.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility and Clarity</b></p>	<p><b><i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></b></p>
	<p>All bulletins are published in PDF format, on the Department for Communities website on the pre-announced publication date. The bulletins are also available in alternative formats on request. Within the bulletins, a number of charts have been provided with titles, axis names and footnotes added to help clarify certain information where applicable. Additionally, the bulletins include an annex which provides summary background information, definitions and methodological explanations. Accompanying data tables, in Microsoft Excel and Open Document format, are also available on the Department for Communities’ website.</p> <p>The key findings from the bulletins are summarised by infographics that have been included within the bulletins.</p> <p>The contact details of the responsible statisticians have also been included in each of the bulletins and in the Excel and Open Document spreadsheets.</p> <p>In addition, the data from the CHS is available on the UK Data Service (<a href="https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/">https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/</a>).</p>
<p><b>Coherence and Comparability</b></p>	<p><b><i>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></b></p>
	<p>The statistics contained within the bulletins are derived solely from the CHS. Questions on engagement in culture, arts and sport have been included since 2003/04. The current range of questions has been included on a consistent basis since 2007/08 allowing for comparability over time.</p> <p>Data for engagement in culture, arts and sport are available from a range of sources for the United Kingdom, such as Taking</p>

	Part for England, the Scottish Household Survey and the Active Adults Survey in Wales. However, due to differences in the definitions and survey methodologies used many of these are not directly comparable with the estimates in these bulletins for Northern Ireland.
<b>Trade-offs between output quality components</b>	<b><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></b>
	In some cases, sub-population analysis was not possible due to small sample sizes. For these groups, e.g. some marital status groups, estimates were produced by combining groups, e.g. divorced or separated or widowed.
<b>Assessment of user needs and perceptions</b>	<b><i>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></b>
	Contact details for the responsible statisticians have been provided in each of the bulletins and in the Excel and Open Document spreadsheets.  Consultation is carried out annually with a key user group to agree the questions to be included in the CHS to ensure they continue to cover the key requirements for users.
<b>Performance, cost and respondent burden</b>	<b><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></b>
	The overall cost of running the CHS cannot be provided as this is commercial-in-confidence.  The production of the bulletins is carried out by an Assistant Statistician (0.5 FTE) and managed by a Deputy Principal Statistician (0.3 FTE).  It is estimated that the responses to the Department for Communities questions on which the bulletins are based take on average 11.5 minutes for a respondent to complete.
<b>Confidentiality, transparency and security</b>	<b><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></b>
	Analytical Services Unit of the Department for Communities follows the 'National Statistician's Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics' in the collection and dissemination of these statistics. This can be found at: <a href="http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-">http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-</a>

[reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-guidance/index.html](https://www.statistics.gov.uk/reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-guidance/index.html).

Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to the data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual is not identifiable in any published outputs and that the outputs are only seen by authorised staff prior to their publication.