**SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (SHS) 2017 AND BEYOND CONSULTATION – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

The Scottish Government is grateful to those organisations and individuals that took time to respond to the [consultation](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/scottish-household-survey/consultation-on-2017-survey) on the design of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) for 2017 and beyond. 99 responses from a range of sectors were received before the closing date of 19th April 2016.

Individual responses were published on the [SHS page](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/scottish-household-survey/consultation-on-2017-survey) of the Scottish Government’s consultation portal Citizen Space, on 17th May 2016.

A [Consultation Analysis Report](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/08/6412)  was published on the publication pages of the Scottish Government’s website on 19th August 2016.

The Scottish Government appreciates the extensive use and reliance on the SHS by the range of organisations that responded to this consultation. The SHS is however is a costly survey to maintain at current sample sizes, frequency and topic coverage and is coming under increasing budgetary pressure.

The Scottish Government has decided not to introduce any design changes for the 2017 Scottish Household Survey. This means there will be no reduction in sample sizes at a national or Local Authority level, nor will there be a reduction in the frequency of topics collected in the survey.

No decision has yet been taken on the design of the Scottish Household Survey for 2018 and beyond. A decision on the design of the 2018-21 SHS will be made during 2017. This will be dependent on a range of factors, including available Scottish Government funding for the survey and the outcome of the next survey procurement. There will also be a Strategic Review of the SHS Questionnaire, to ensure new and existing priority topics and questions are included in the survey, and lower priority ones rested or removed. This will be undertaken alongside a review of the [Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ).](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/scottish-survey-core-questions-sscq-scottish-surveys-core-questions-2014)

The responses to this consultation, along with views of the SHS Steering Group will be considered if design changes, leading to future reductions to the scope and sample sizes are required for the 2018-21 SHS surveys.

The Scottish Government is also monitoring new survey developments and ways to reduce survey costs in the future. We are closely following developments by the Office of National Statistics in moving to on-line surveys and the implications this may have for Scottish Surveys.

Key stakeholders and respondents to this consultation will be informed of future decisions on the design of the SHS by the Scottish Government.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

**19 AUGUST 2016**