

## Response ID ANON-UN19-9GHQ-6

Submitted to **Consultation on Changes to ONS Products 2015**

Submitted on **2016-02-02 16:53:08**

### Changes to our publications

#### 1 Would a change in operating model as described above meet your requirements or make things more difficult?

**Please provide further details.:**

ASH uses ONS statistical data to monitor trends in smoking and to support implementation of the Government's tobacco control strategy. Whilst the narrative in the bulletins is helpful, a greater priority is to have the data published in a timely, regular manner. Therefore we would be willing to forego some of the analysis if this resulted in the data being published more quickly.

#### 2 Do you use any of the ONS primary, single source, releases listed below (which may be subject to this change in model)?

**Please describe the impact that changing these products would have on you or your organisation.:**

We use the Family Spending, Integrated Household Survey and Opinions & Lifestyle Survey (for adult smoking data)

#### 3 What would the impact be if we were to publish source data, metadata and headlines for these outputs rather than a formal statistical bulletin as in the current model?

High

**Please provide further details.:**

For ASH the impact would be high and positive if the data were published more quickly. We rely on the smoking prevalence data to update our fact sheets and other materials which, in turn, are used widely by health professionals and other colleagues working in tobacco control. It is unacceptable that in 2016 we are still waiting for the 2014 OPN data to be released

#### 4 Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?

**Please respond in the box below.:**

Our main concern, as noted above, is the timely release of the data. We would also like to see a continuation of the Opinions & Lifestyle survey in its current format.

### Changes to social surveys

#### 5 Wealth and Assets: the Wealth and Assets Survey is funded by various government departments and collects data on household and individual wealth for a number of policy needs. We may be able to reduce the costs of this survey, with agreement from contributors.

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

This is not a survey that we use routinely.

#### 6 International Passenger Survey: the International Passenger Survey (IPS) collects data on Travellers, Tourists and Migrants at most UK airports, seaports and the channel tunnel. We are considering how we can reduce the cost of this survey with minimal impact on the important statistics based on this data.

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

We do not use this survey.

#### 7 Opinions and Lifestyle Survey: the Opinions Survey is an omnibus survey which collects data from adults on a variety of subjects. Our proposal would be to stop this face to face survey until the provision of an on-line alternative.

High

**Please provide further details.:**

As noted above ASH has relied on the Opinions & Lifestyle Survey, and its predecessors, the General Lifestyle Survey/Household Surveys to monitor and record adult smoking prevalence since the GHS survey began including smoking prevalence questions in 1972. Collectively these surveys are vitally important because they have provided a continuous series of data over the past 40+ years. It would be extremely regrettable if the Opinions & Lifestyle survey were to be discontinued. The Integrated Household survey, although comprising a larger sample size, is not as detailed as the Opinions & Lifestyle survey and would not be a suitable alternative unless it contained all the questions currently included in the latter.

#### 8 Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?

**Please respond in the box below.:**

As smoking remains the principal cause of preventable premature death in the UK it is vitally important that data on smoking continues to be collected to measure the impact of tobacco control policy.

## **Changes to business surveys**

**9 What would the impact be if we stopped running the following surveys?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

We do not use this survey.

**10 We are aiming to use administrative data sources to reduce the level of survey data collection. What would the impact be if we reduced the sample sizes and response targets for the following surveys?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

We do not use these surveys.

**11 What would the impact be if we reduced the sample sizes and response rates for all or some of the following surveys?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

We do not use these surveys.

**12 What would the impact be if we reduced validation rules and selective editing thresholds for the following surveys?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

**13 What would the impact be if we review and rebalance the number of short and long questionnaires for the Annual Business Survey (ABS)?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

**14 What would the impact be if we reduce the amount of data collected at the 8-digit product level and move towards the 6-digit level (which meets European requirements) for the Products of the European COMMunity (PRODCOM) survey?**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

**15 Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

## **Producing statistics less frequently**

**16 One proposal we have identified is to conduct the national and sub-national Population Projections once every three years, rather than once every two years as currently. It should be noted that Population Statistics is a devolved issue and ONS carries out the National Population Projections on behalf of the Devolved Administrations. However, this is an ONS proposal rather than one from the Devolved Administrations.**

Low

**Please provide further details.:**

**17 Based on your understanding of the ONS statistics that you use, what would the impact be if we published some of our statistics less frequently?**

High

**Please explain the reasons for your answer.:**

It is very important that smoking statistics are produced regularly and in a timely manner in order to inform and measure the impact of tobacco control policy.

**18 Do you have any suggestions for products that we could publish less frequently without any significant impact on users?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

No

**19 Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

No

## **Stopping products and services**

**20 Which of the statistics listed are essential to your work or the work of your organisation?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

The Integrated Household Survey is essential as this provides regional as well as national data. Its importance will be further increased if the Opinions & Lifestyle survey is discontinued.

**21 What would the impact be if we stopped producing the statistics you use?**

High

**Please provide further details.:**

Without the IHS it would be very difficult to make comparisons in smoking prevalence between different regions of the country, or between the countries of the UK. This survey also provides other vital data such as perceptions of health by smoking prevalence - a valuable tool in measuring the impact of smoking on health.

**22 Are there any other sources of funding that could be used for any of these statistics?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

ASH has proposed a levy on the tobacco industry to pay for tobacco control activities which could include a budget for data collection. However, to date, the Government has not responded positively to this recommendation.

**23 Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

Whilst we understand the need for efficiency savings, ONS data is vitally important to support public health campaigns such as tobacco control. Crucially, if there are to be changes it is important that there is continuity in the data. Therefore we would urge ONS not to drop key surveys such as the Opinions & Lifestyle Survey. If the current face to face format has to be changed, the survey should at least continue until a suitable online alternative has been tested so that there are no gaps in the collection of data.

## **About you**

**24 Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?**

Organisation

**25 What is your name?**

**Name:**

Amanda Sandford

**26 What is your organisation?**

**Organisation (if applicable):**

Action on Smoking and Health

**27 What is your email address?**

**Email:**

amanda.sandford@ash.org.uk

**28 What is your telephone number?**

**Please respond in the box below.:**

02074040242

**29 What sector do you work in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached.**

Voluntary and charity

Please respond in the box below.:

## Your response

**30 May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up any specific points that we need to clarify.**

Yes

**31 Are you happy for us to contact you about future ONS consultations and surveys?**

Yes

**32 To support transparency in our decision making, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include the name of your organisation, and with your permission, also your name. Please indicate if you are content for your name to be published. We will not publish personal contact details. Any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if required under a Freedom of Information request. The information you send us may be passed to other parts of Government.**

Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response

**33 Overall, how satisfied were you with our online consultation service today?**

Satisfied

**Please tell us if there are any specific areas for improvement, or if you have any other comments.:**

It would be helpful to be able to create a pdf of the completed response before submitting it online, to make it a bit easier to double check responses.