

Background Quality Report: Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators Annual Update

Dimension	Assessment by Author
Introduction	<i>Context for the quality report.</i>
	<p>Good Relations Indicators are needed to measure the progress of the ‘Together: Building a United Community’ (T:BUC) Strategy. The T:BUC Strategy was published by the Northern Ireland Executive in May 2013. The strategy reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.</p> <p>The strategy sets out a range of actions and commitments for government departments, communities and individuals who work together to build a united community and achieve change against four key strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Children and Young People - Our Shared Community - Our Safe Community - Our Cultural Expression <p>The good relations indicators were developed by NISRA statisticians with input from an expert advisory group to monitor progress towards the T:BUC vision and four key strategic priorities.</p> <p>The indicators are monitored on an annual basis using a range of robust data sources: the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey; the Young Life and Times (YLT) survey; the School Omnibus Survey; the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey; the School Census; PSNI Hate Crime Statistics; and, Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homeless Presentation statistics.</p>
Relevance	<i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i>
	<p>The Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators Annual Update provides a comprehensive set of statistics across the 23 Good Relations Indicators covering the four key strategic priorities of the T:BUC strategy.</p> <p>The annual update covers key statistics on good relations between people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds; the use of shared spaces; the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation; perceptions of safety in shared spaces; community belonging; and cultural diversity. The annual update is published in October/ November each year around 6 to 9</p>

	<p>months following the, collection or publication of data across the range of indicators.</p> <p>The annual update is accompanied by data tables which provide a more detailed analysis of the data by gender and religious background.</p> <p>The main users of the annual update are TEO who use the data for policy and decision-making, setting objectives and monitoring performance in relation to the T:BUC strategy. The annual update is also used by other government departments, district councils, and the community and voluntary sector to inform their work in good relations between people of different religious and/ or ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Key stakeholders across NI government departments, district councils, and the community and voluntary sector were involved in the development and selection of the Good Relations Indicators. SRB continues to engage with stakeholders in a variety of ways to ensure the annual update remains relevant and meets their needs.</p>
<p>Accuracy & Reliability</p>	<p><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p> <p>As indicated previously, the Good Relations Indicators are drawn from a range of data sources. Validation checks are carried out on every piece of analysis to ensure they are in line with other results from the same data source and with previous trends (e.g. any large increases or decreases are investigated).</p> <p>When reporting differences in the annual update, the data are tested to see if they are statistically significant at the 5% level. A reported increase or decrease means there is at least a 95% probability that there is a genuine difference between results and the difference is not simply explained by random chance or sample error.</p> <p>An assessment of each data source used for the annual update is outlined below in this section:</p> <p><u>The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey</u></p> <p>The survey is asked to a representative sample of the Northern Ireland population aged 18+. The sample consists of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF) database of addresses. Private business addresses are removed from the database prior to sample selection. To achieve a sample of approximately 1,200, a total of 2,250 addresses are selected for interview with the option to randomly select up to a further 1000 addresses if required. This approach to sampling ensures there is a robust representative sample obtained each year which covers all of Northern Ireland.</p>

The Young Life and Times (YLT) survey

The survey sample is taken from the Child Benefit Register. Since 2004, a statutory instrument and explanatory memorandum (Tax Credits (Provision of Information) (Evaluation and Statistical Studies) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004) has been in place which allows ARK to access the Child Benefit Register for the YLT survey. The sample included all 16-year olds with January, February and March birthdays.

The School Omnibus Survey

The 2018 School Omnibus Survey was issued to all grant aided schools in Northern Ireland. As the schools responding to the survey are not selected by statistical methods there is no guarantee that the profile of these schools is representative of all grant aided schools in NI. However as the actual number of schools that respond to the survey is relatively large it is likely to be representative of all schools.

The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey

The NIHCS is a survey based on a stratified random disproportionate sample of 3,000 dwellings. A sample size of 3,000 allows robust analysis not only at Northern Ireland level, but also by important subgroups such as tenure, age of dwelling, type of dwelling, rural/urban. The sample for the NIHCS is drawn from a subset of the Pointer database, which is the address database for Northern Ireland, and contains the common standard address for every property in Northern Ireland. Pointer is used as the sampling frame for the selection of addresses on Government social surveys in Northern Ireland.

The School Census

Data are collected annually through the School census exercise. This takes place in early October when each school is required to submit a return detailing information about the numbers of pupils on their register.

Among the information collected are details on: year group, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, Special Educational Needs and on newcomer pupils. Statistics produced from the school census exercise qualify as National Statistics.

PSNI Hate Crime Statistics

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded incidents and crimes with a hate motivation. Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that

	<p>the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes ‘against the state’ i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs). Police recorded crime data is a victim oriented approach to crime recording. A crime will be recorded as having a hate motivation where a criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents.</p> <p>Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homeless Bulletin</u></p> <p>Reports on the status of homelessness presentations are extracted from the Housing Management System for specified date parameters through the Housing Executive’s data analytics.</p> <p>The collection purpose of this data is to allow the Housing Executive to meet its statutory duties in relation to homelessness. This requires data to be thorough and robust enough for operational use. A range of internal checks and audits are in place within Local Offices to ensure quality data, including the use of dashboards and a homelessness suite of exception reports which are designed to pick up anomalies in data input.</p>
<p>Timeliness & Punctuality</p>	<p><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></p> <p>The reference period for the Good Relation Indicators Annual update is 2018. The data for indicators start to become available in December 2018 (i.e. Northern Ireland Crime Survey), while for other indicators the data does not become available until April 2019 (i.e. NILT, YLT, School Census). Data from other sources becomes available between December and April each year.</p> <p>The Good Relation Indicators Annual Update is published in October/ November each year. As a result, the time gap between the reference period and publication is 7/8 months. This time gap can be attributed to the quality assurance and verification process for the two primary data sources which contribute to the publication (NILT and YLT) with data</p>

	<p>availability in April each year. In addition, collating statistics from across several government departments and other public bodies (e.g. Northern Ireland Housing Executive) also adds to the time gap.</p> <p>Publication dates are available on the GOV.UK website in the upcoming statistical releases section: https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics</p> <p>In the event of a change to a pre-announced release date, the delay would be announced and explained and the new publication date specified. If necessary, updates would be given regularly.</p>
<p>Accessibility & Clarity</p>	<p><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></p> <p>The Good Relations Indicators Annual Update reports are available to download free of charge in PDF format at: https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/good-relations</p> <p>The statistical tables are also available to download in CSV format, from this webpage. If requested, SRB provide hard copies or other suitable media. The metadata is published alongside the statistical tables.</p> <p>The publications are also accessible through the UK Official and National Statistics Publication Hub at: https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics</p> <p>The Good Relations Indicators Annual Update contains contact details of the responsible statistician in case further information is required. Additional ad-hoc analysis, where appropriate, is provided on request.</p>
<p>Coherence & Comparability</p>	<p><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></p> <p><u>The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey</u></p> <p>The NILT survey is the only source of publicly available data on adults aged 18+ in the Northern Ireland population for the questions required to produce many of the Good Relations Indicators. As such, there are no direct comparisons with other data sources.</p> <p>However, comparisons can be made over time and data is available back to the 2013 NILT survey when the questions were asked for the first time. The latest data are always</p>

compared with previous years' data, where appropriate, and any significant changes are thoroughly checked and validated.

The Young Life and Times (YLT) survey

Similarly, the YLT survey is the only source of publicly available data on young people aged 16 in the Northern Ireland population for the questions required to produce many of the Good Relations Indicators. As such, there are no direct comparisons with other data sources.

However, comparisons can be made over time and data is available back to the 2013 NILT survey when the questions were asked for the first time. The latest data are always compared with previous years' data, where appropriate, and any significant changes are thoroughly checked and validated.

The School Omnibus Survey

The School Omnibus Survey is issued to all grant aided schools in Northern Ireland. As the schools responding to the survey are not selected by statistical methods there is no guarantee that the profile of these schools is representative of all grant aided schools in NI. However as the actual number of schools that respond to the survey is relatively large it is likely to be representative of all schools.

The questions in the School Omnibus Survey which are used in the Good Relations Indicator Annual update are not asked in other jurisdictions in the UK. Therefore comparisons are not possible on that basis. However, comparisons can be made over time and the latest data are always compared with previous years' data, where appropriate, and any significant changes are thoroughly checked and validated.

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The School Census

	<p>Data are collected annually through the School census exercise. This takes place in early October when each school is required to submit a return detailing information about the numbers of pupils on their register.</p> <p>The information taken from the School Census relates to applications and enrolments in Integrated Education Schools. These are unique to Northern Ireland. Therefore, comparisons to other jurisdictions are not possible. However, comparisons can be made over time and the latest data are always compared with previous years' data, where appropriate, and any significant changes are thoroughly checked and validated.</p> <p><u>The Northern Ireland Crime Survey</u></p> <p>While the statistics contained within the 'Perceptions of Crime' bulletin are derived solely from the NICS, the 'Experience of Crime' bulletin attempts to draw comparisons, where possible, between NICS prevalence (victimisation) rates and recorded crime figures published by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).</p> <p>Trend data for NICS is available across a range of indicators, including socio-demographic analyses, for both victimisation and perceptions of crime data. Equivalent surveys are also carried out in other UK jurisdictions; the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). Comparative CSEW figures for the respective year are presented in both NICS reports for a range of crime victimisation and perceptions of crime measures. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) also follows a similar format to CSEW. While differences in offence classifications and legislative systems mean it is not possible to make detailed comparisons between the two jurisdictions, headline results are broadly comparable, where available.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homeless Bulletin</u></p> <p>Homelessness definitions and measurements differ across the UK. Users should be aware that statistics from the above publication are not directly comparable with UK Homelessness Statistics.</p> <p>The GSS Harmonisation Team have worked closely with government departments, the devolved administrations, academics and third sector organisations to explore the feasibility of harmonising definitions of homelessness for UK official statistics: https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/GSS-homelessness-report-1.pdf</p>
	<p><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></p>

<p>Trade-offs between Output Quality Components</p>	<p>It could be considered that there are some trade-offs between ‘relevance’ and ‘accuracy and reliability’. The sample size of some of the surveys contributing to the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update is relatively small (e.g. the NILT and YLT sample size is around 1,200). While this is sufficient to conduct the single year analysis required for reporting purposes, any analysis requested by Local Government Districts or other sub-population breakdowns may not be possible due to sample size. Data are only analysed if the sample size is large enough for robust analysis.</p>
<p>Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions</p>	<p><i>The processes for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p> <p>The development of the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update was in response to need to monitor population level indicators across the key aims and objectives of the T:BUC strategy. Alongside the monitoring at a population level of progress against the key aims and objectives of the strategy, the annual update informs TEO good relations policy and decision-making on an annual basis.</p> <p>The main customer group for Good Relations Indicators Annual Update are TEO colleagues responsible for policy development, deployment and delivery. SRB statisticians working on the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update meet regularly with our TEO colleagues to ensure the report continues to meet their needs and is presented in a way which is accessible and easy to understand.</p>
<p>Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden</p>	<p><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p> <p>The primary surveys on which the production of the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update relies is the Northern Ireland Life & Times (NILT) and Young Life & Times (YLT) Surveys. These surveys were launched by Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU) in the autumn of 1998 and are overseen by Access Research Knowledge (ARK) on behalf of the two universities.</p> <p>The surveys are run on a modular format and while modules such as political attitudes, good relations and ethnic monitoring are repeated every year, the rest of the survey varies annually, with all the modules designed to be repeated in years to come. SRB procures at least one module each year on both surveys in order to produce the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update. Costs are shared across all those purchasing modules of questions in the survey.</p> <p>Like costs, respondent burden is shared across all public sector organisations purchasing modules within the survey. The total time for these modules is subsequently apportioned across all public sector organisations required to report respondent burden. As with all public sector surveys which meet the criteria for inclusion, a survey control return is completed by SRB for the NILT and YLT modules. The compliance burden is</p>

	<p>calculated from the median time taken to complete the survey and the number of respondents.</p> <p>The remaining data sources on which the Good Relations Indicators Annual Update is based are produced by other Government Departments or public bodies. Therefore there is no additional burden placed on respondents by including these statistics in the annual update.</p>
<p>Confidentiality, Transparency and Security</p>	<p><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p>
	<p>All Good Relations Indicators data received by SRB are anonymised. For indicators based on survey samples this has meant that name/address information is not contained in the database. For those indicators based on administrative data, data is provided to SRB in tabular form from government departments responsible for the administrative data, as such no identifying information is provided to SRB.</p> <p>The survey and administrative data supplied to SRB are held on a network that is only accessible to SRB statisticians and restricted to those statisticians working on the Good Relations Indicator reports.</p> <p>Analysis is only carried out if the sample size is large enough and the data are presented as averages or percentages. There are therefore no small cells which need to have disclosure control methods applied.</p>