

From: Roger.Halliday@gov.scot
Subject: RE: FAO All members of the Sex and Gender in data
Working Group
Date: 7 Feb 2020 at 14:56:35
To: scottishwomensgirls@gmail.com
Cc: Poppy.Wilson@gov.scot

Dear Susan,

Thanks for your email and contribution. Given your concerns are linked to the work of National Records of Scotland, I think it's important to make clear that the working group's remit does not overlap with ongoing work around the 2021 Census question development, and this reflects the view that the Census is a distinct data collection, whereas the guidance that the working group is putting together aims to be relevant to the collection, disaggregation and reporting of a wide range of administrative and survey data.

I was aware of the UN Gender Statistics Manual, and agree with you that definitions used are important; the guidance I am putting together plans to cover that. I also agree that the starting point for any data collection needs to be a consideration of why we're collecting data in the first place, and this will very much be the basis of the guidance I'm putting together. My conversation with many people about this have given a wide range of purposes for collecting data about sex, gender and trans status.

Underlying this work is a set of statistical principles, which were agreed at the first meeting of the Working Group, and these are taken from the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice and the UN Principles for Official Statistics. I will use these principles, and potentially a wider set of other principles, to help us consider what the guidance should be.

I have been blogging updates on the work we're doing, and you can read more about this [here](#). I would encourage you to register for and share your views at one of the engagement events we are holding this month, details can be found in my latest blog post.

Best wishes,

Roger

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