Developing our framework
Background to the Measures of National Well-being

2010 – the then National Statistician, Dame Jil Matheson, launched the ONS National Well-being Programme.

“We must measure what matters - the key elements of national well-being. We want to develop measures based on what people tell us matters most.”
Quotes from the National Debate

“Simple and efficient access to appropriate health care is my highest priority”

“The middle earners may not consider wealth to be significant in terms of happiness but it is difficult to be happy when you have nothing!!!”

“I feel that this is a huge waste of time and money for the government…Happiness is not a thing to be quantified and can change rapidly according to a ridiculous amount of factors”

“Job satisfaction and economic security matter enormously, having lost house, income, savings in early 90's negative equity crisis when house prices fell off a cliff and interest rates soared…”

“Does having good connections with friends and relatives convey the importance of having a partner and sex”

Dimensions and indicators of well-being and data sources
10 domains and 60 measures

- Personal Well-being
- Our Relationships
- Health
- What we do
- Where we live
- Personal Finance
- Education and Skills
- Economy
- Governance
- Environment
Data sources

- Government Surveys
- Government Publications
- Academic Surveys
- National Accounts
- Environmental Counts
- Electoral data
Review
Review of the UK Measures of National Well-being

- Report: Review of the UK Measures of National Well-being (5 July 2023)
- Online consultation (Oct to Dec 2022)
- New research on ‘What matters most?’ using the Opinions and Lifestyles survey (Oct 2022)
- Review of literature and well-being frameworks
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Qualitative Research (Jan 2023)
- Technical Advisory Group
What people told us

Inequality

Additional measures

Timeliness

Coherence and coverage

Change

Visual dissemination
UK Measures of National Well-being Dashboard

A visual overview of how people in the UK are doing across 10 domains of national well-being.

5 July 2023

This dashboard brings together the latest data on how people in the UK are doing as individuals, communities, and a nation. It also considers how sustainable our well-being is for the future.

These measures come from data sources with different geographical coverage and data collection periods. Please use caution when making comparisons between measures and over time. Please also consider the potential impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on data collection and scores.

For more detail on the methods, sources and assessment of change methodology, please read our UK Measures of National Well-being user guide.
Engagement

To hear more about our well-being statistics as they are released please:

1. Sign up to our mailing list on GovDelivery
2. Follow @ONS on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram
Thank you

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