

## Background Quality Report: Racial Equality Indicator Report

Dimension	Assessment by Author.
Introduction	<p data-bbox="545 499 970 533"><b><i>Context for the quality report.</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="545 533 1356 701">The Executive Office adheres to the UK Statistics Code of Practice for Statistics and the National Statistician’s guidance on quality. This document provides a summary of how the following Racial Equality Indicator publication adheres to the code in terms of quality.</p> <p data-bbox="545 734 1316 801"><a href="https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/racial-equality">https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/racial-equality</a></p> <p data-bbox="545 835 1385 1037">Racial Equality Indicators are needed to measure the progress of the Racial Equality Strategy (RES) (2015 - 2025). The RES establishes a framework for government departments and others to tackle racial inequalities, to eradicate racism and hate crime and along with Together: Building a United Community (T: BUC), to promote good race relations and social cohesion.</p> <p data-bbox="545 1070 1377 1171">First publication was on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. The baseline report covered the period 2014 - 2017. This second publication covers baseline (2014) to 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="545 1205 1380 1406">The Racial Equality Strategy (RES) was developed, and agreed, after consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The racial equality indicators were developed by NISRA statisticians with input from an expert advisory group. Based on the RES vision and seven shared aims, four key strategy outcomes and associated indicators were identified.</p> <p data-bbox="545 1440 1316 1507">The four key strategy outcomes identified to measure RES progress are:</p> <ol data-bbox="595 1541 1236 1675" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equality of service provision</li> <li>2. Combating prejudice, racism, and hate crime</li> <li>3. Participation, representation, and belonging</li> <li>4. Respecting cultural diversity</li> </ol> <p data-bbox="545 1709 1372 1910">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 Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey; the Northern Ireland Census; the Public Appointments Annual Reports; PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics - Racist motivations.</p> <p data-bbox="545 1944 1385 2011">For each annual publication, additional information on data sources, processing, and interpretation are available in both the</p>

	<p>report and its accompanying statistical tables. Hyperlinks are used to provide additional information directly from each data source.</p>
<p><b>Relevance</b></p>	<p><b><i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></b></p> <p>The Northern Ireland Racial Equality Indicators Report provides a comprehensive set of statistics across the 19 Racial Equality Indicators which currently monitor the four key strategic priorities of the Racial Equality Strategy.</p> <p>The RES outcomes and indicators were agreed by an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) which included key stakeholders from departments, District Councils and the community and voluntary sector.</p> <p>Each annual report includes key statistics of racial equality parity relating to service provision, prejudice, racism and hate crime; participation and representation in public life; sense of belonging; and respect for cultural diversity. As new and/or robust data sources become available, new indicators may be developed.</p> <p>Current significant gaps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health indicators such as infant mortality, life expectancy and morbidity rates by ethnicity</li> <li>• Experiences of Minority Ethnic Groups in the workplace, education, public services etc.</li> <li>• Experiences of Minority Ethnic Groups with regard to prejudice, racism and hate crime</li> <li>• Experiences of Minority Ethnic Groups with regard to participation, representation and belonging</li> <li>• Experiences of Minority Ethnic Groups as to whether they feel their cultures are respected</li> </ul> <p>Report publication is depending on the publication of all data sources; this can be around 6 to 9 months following the collection or publication of data across the range of indicators. Publication of this second report was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic; and staff resourcing.</p> <p>The annual update is accompanied by data tables which provide a more detailed analysis of the data by gender, religious background, and where appropriate, by age group and self-declared ethnicity.</p> <p>The target audience of the report includes TEO, other government departments, members of racial equality interest groups, educational professionals, academics, media, and the public.</p> <p>The main users of the report are The Executive Office (TEO) who use the data for policy and decision-making, setting</p>

	<p>objectives and monitoring performance in relation to the RES and the T: BUC strategy.</p> <p>It is recognised that users would welcome additional ethnicity analyses. However, due to small numbers within the general population, and subsequently the small numbers recorded in the surveys and other sources used, and, further breakdowns are not currently possible due to risk of identification.</p>
<b>Accuracy &amp; Reliability</b>	<p><b><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></b></p> <p>As indicated previously, the Racial Equality Indicators are drawn from a range of robust data sources. Most are produced by NISRA statisticians who must adhere to the Code of Practice for Statistics.</p> <p>In addition to meeting professional standards in how work and data are approached, validation checks are carried out on all analyses 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>Where appropriate, NILT and YLT data are tested to see if they are statistically significant at the 5% level. This means that, where appropriate, commentary for these sources is based only on statistically significant differences; in other words, the difference between the two groups is unlikely to have occurred by chance.</p> <p>An assessment of each data source used for the annual report is outlined below. Additional information and hyperlinks are available within the report and statistical tables.</p> <p><u>The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey</u> 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) 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> <p><u>The Young Life and Times (YLT) Survey</u> The survey sample is drawn 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.</p>

### The Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey

The Department of Education collects data annually on the highest qualification and destination of Northern Ireland grammar school and secondary school leavers. This data collection exercise takes place in November/December following the end of the academic year and includes all qualifications obtained by the pupil on leaving the school system along with their main destination. When the data are returned to the Department, statisticians are responsible for processing and validating this information. Coverage of the data is 100%. As the data collected are from an administrative source and are used for schools' management information purposes, there is a basis to assume that it is within the school's benefit that the data supplied is as accurate and reliable as possible. Schools also receive examination results and manually enter the main destination of the school leaver where this information is made available to them. There is a small percentage of leavers of whom the destination information is unavailable. Given that some of these data are input manually, there is a possibility of data entry error. Where possible, validation checks are incorporated in the SIMS module in an attempt to mitigate against common mistakes. Statisticians also carry out a detailed validation process including confirming each individual pupil who presents as leaving with no GCSEs or equivalent qualifications does not have these qualifications.

### Northern Ireland Census

The Northern Ireland Census is undertaken once every ten years. The data available and used in this report was from the Census held on March 27th 2011, the same date as the rest of the United Kingdom. It is an important source of information providing a detailed picture about people and households in the entire population of Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Census is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time, and asked the same core questions everywhere. However, it is acknowledged that a small proportion of the population will not be covered on Census returns. Standard statistical procedures were implemented in order to account for non-response errors, measurement error, coverage error, and processing error.

### Public Appointments Annual Reports

The Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (CPA NI) regulates the public appointment process to ensure that appointments are made on merit and in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Practice. Since 2015/16 the public appointments report has been prepared by staff of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), out-posted to The Executive Office using information supplied by government departments. Departments gather monitoring

	<p>information under the following categories; age, community background, disability, gender, minority ethnic background, political activity, and remuneration. Detailed statistics are provided on the number of applications received, the number of appointments made, and the number of appointments held, by each of the government departments.</p> <p><u>PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics</u> Police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that 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). 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><b>Timeliness &amp; Punctuality</b></p>	<p><b><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></b></p> <p>The reference period for the current Racial Equality Indicators Report is 2014 (baseline) to 2019. With the exception of the Northern Ireland Census (2011) and Public Appointments data, the data for indicators generally become available between March and June. Delays in the publication of Public Appointment data, staff resourcing, and the Covid-19 pandemic have led to corresponding delays in the publication of the second Racial Equality Indicator Report (published 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021).</p> <p>As mentioned previously, the Racial Equality Indicator Report was published for the first time in November 2018, approximately 7 months after provision of the 2017 ARK data. ARK data, the main data sources for current indicators, is published in June; as a funder, TEO has early access to draft data for funded modules (April).</p> <p>This time lag to publication can be attributed to the quality assurance and verification process for the two primary ARK data sources (NILT and YLT) and subsequently the statistical bulletin production process. Collating statistics from across several government departments also adds to the time gap. The aim going forward is to reduce this time lag.</p> <p>Publication dates are available on the GOV.UK website in the upcoming statistical releases section: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics</a></p> <p>In the event of a change to a pre-announced release date, the delay would be announced and explained and the new</p>

	<p>publication date specified. If necessary, updates would be given regularly.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility &amp; Clarity</b></p>	<p><b><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></b></p>
	<p>The Racial Equality indicator Reports are available to download free of charge in PDF format at: <a href="https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/racial-equality">https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/racial-equality</a></p> <p>The statistical tables are also available to download in Microsoft Excel and Open Document Spreadsheet formats, from this webpage. If requested, Statistics and Research Branch (SRB), the NISRA branch authoring the report, can provide hard copies or other suitable media. Metadata and technical notes are published with the statistical tables.</p> <p>The publications are also accessible through the UK Official and National Statistics Publication Hub at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics</a></p> <p>The Racial Equality Indicator Report contains contact details in the event that further information is required. Additional ad-hoc analysis, where appropriate, is provided on request.</p>
<p><b>Coherence &amp; Comparability</b></p>	<p><b><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></b></p>
	<p>The Racial Equality Strategy (RES) indicators are measured using a range of data sources. All current sources were selected to collect robust data across years in accordance with best practice, including with a view to coherence and comparability.</p> <p>However, users should be aware that data are collected at different time-points and for different purposes. To enable reader interpretations, the report and statistical tables include an overview of the data sources used to measure RES indicator progress; also included are hyperlinks for each indicator and source, which can provide more information about the data source.</p> <p>Users are also made aware that ethnicity is collected and measured in slightly different ways across sources. For example, to enable interpretation around minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland, where relevant, users are made aware of whether data sources include Irish Travellers as a minority ethnic group, or within the 'White' category. As work on this harmonised principle continues, it is likely that increased coherence and comparability across sources will be possible. In</p>

	<p>addition to these developments, SRB continues to watch for UK / Four Nations developments via the Cabinet Office’s Race Disparity Unit’s Data and Digital Group and through contacts within the Scottish Government.</p> <p>To improve coherence and comparability, in the second publication of the Racial Equality Indicators, there was a change of approach to the presentation of '(I) don't know', 'other' and 'cannot choose' responses. In the first publication NILT and YLT variables were recoded to exclude the following responses: '(I) don't know'; 'other'; and 'not answered/refused' responses. Subsequently, only 'missing' and 'not answered/refused' responses are excluded. Although this enables alignment with the data presented by NILT, YLT and other SRB publications, due to small numbers it has required additional statistical disclosure control where cell counts are less than 5. For the majority of racial equality indicators this change in approach has not affected overall response profiles. However, there are a few indicators, such as Indicator 3.a where the impact of including 'cannot choose' responses has been considerable. Such impacts did contribute to the decision to change approach.</p> <p>Indicators will continue to be reviewed as data sources change, or new and robust sources are developed. For example, review of Indicator 4.d is likely due to ongoing changes with the Young Life and Times question time series.</p>
<p><b>Trade-offs between Output Quality Components</b></p>	<p><b><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></b></p> <p>It could be considered that there is some trade-off between 'relevance' and 'accuracy and reliability'. The sample size of the NILT and YLT surveys is around 1,200. While this is sufficient to conduct the single year analysis required for reporting purposes, any analysis requested 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><b>Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions</b></p>	<p><b><i>The processes for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></b></p> <p>The development of Racial Equality Indicator Report was in response to the need to monitor population level indicators for the Racial Equality Strategy (2015 - 2025).</p> <p>While users are at the heart of how the publication has developed and evolved, the ethnicity profile within Northern Ireland has limited publishable analysis. Users would also welcome earlier publication.</p> <p>The views and needs of users are sought and valued. Within the report 'Reader Information' feedback is welcomed. Post publication, a short survey is shared with Racial Equality Strategy Subgroup and departmental Racial Equality</p>

	<p>Champions. Trust, Quality and Value are the basic tenets of the survey.</p> <p>In annual NILT pilot exercise discussions additional consideration is given to how to encourage all potential ARK survey participants, including minority ethnic community members, that Government values, and uses, the surveys in their decision-making.</p>
<p><b>Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden</b></p>	<p><b><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></b></p>
	<p>All statistical output data sources publish findings in the public domain. As such, the Racial Equality Indicator Report either collates findings from other sources, or has access to the full data sitting behind published datasets (NILT and YLT). It is for the NILT and YLT datasets that efficiency is least as more processing effort is required to produce the output.</p> <p>To ensure output needs are met, TEO, as a funder of modules in both NILT and YLT, meets with the ARK team each year to determine module content. Key to this is keeping respondent burden (survey control) to a minimum.</p> <p>As with all public sector surveys which meet the criteria for inclusion, a survey control return is completed by SRB for the NILT module(s). The compliance burden is calculated from the median time taken to complete the survey and the number of respondents.</p>
<p><b>Confidentiality, Transparency and Security</b></p>	<p><b><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></b></p>
	<p>All data used in the production of this publication are anonymised.</p> <p>With the exception of NILT and YLT, all outputs have had statistical disclosure control applied as meets producer requirements. For both NILT and YLT, only percentages and unweighted base numbers are provided. However, if a percentage is based on a count of less than 5, as is NISRA branch best practice, statistical disclosure control is applied through aggregation.</p> <p>Both the report and statistical tables include detail on the approach to aggregation.</p> <p>Data security is a foremost consideration for SRB. Both server and folder access are restricted to production staff only.</p> <p>Both the report and statistical tables provide detail to assist user interpretation. If any gaps persist, users are invited to contact SRB directly.</p>