



## Volunteering Participation

Comparative analysis across the UK

Final Report by Volunteer Scotland – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017



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## Executive Summary

Volunteer Scotland produced a draft report in December 2016 outlining its findings on participation rates for formal volunteering across the UK. This was undertaken as a desk exercise and was forwarded to NCVO, WCVA and Volunteer Now for their review and comment. This Final Report reflects the helpful feedback we received and puts forward specific conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the UK Volunteering Forum.

### Overarching observations

The report was welcomed as a helpful contribution to improving our understanding of volunteering participation and its comparability across the four home countries. Feedback included terms such as 'useful', 'timely', 'interesting' and 'robust and accurate'. In particular, the exercise was deemed worthwhile as it has addressed a long overdue issue – why there are such significant variations in volunteering participation rates across the UK.

### Conclusions

1. The key conclusion is that direct comparisons between the participation rate data in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales are not appropriate due to the variations in research methods adopted.
2. Although, in principle, there is a desire to move towards a harmonised and consistent research platform across the four home countries there are significant obstacles to achieving this, including:
  - a. The difficulty of making changes to research questions and research methodology where volunteering is embedded as an integral part of a larger survey overseen by Government. This creates rigidities as Volunteer Scotland, NCVO, WCVA and Volunteer Now are customers rather than authors of this data, as a consequence of which they have to negotiate any changes, the outcome of which is uncertain.
  - b. The dynamic nature of data collection in each of the home countries. The feedback was revealing in that it showed how the 'goalposts are continually moving'. For example:
    - i. The Scottish Household Survey in Scotland has just closed a major consultation exercise on its questions;
    - ii. The Community Life Survey will be going 100% online with no more face-to-face interviews. This will break the time series and will involve a change in how the volunteering participation question is asked;
    - iii. In Wales its main source of national data going forward will be the National Survey. This will include, from 2017 onwards questions on volunteering; and
    - iv. Volunteer Now would like to see a comprehensive longitudinal monitoring of volunteering participation within each of its 11 local authorities that could be aggregated to provide robust Northern Ireland wide statistics.

### Suggestions

1. Instead of trying to move towards a common research platform it is suggested that each country continues to focus on enhancing its own research on volunteering participation to make it as robust and helpful as possible within its own constraints. This would enable longitudinal trends to be monitored within each country.
2. It is also suggested that this volunteering participation data be compiled into an annual report for sharing across the UK, with the scope to include Ireland and possibly other countries.

## 1. Introduction

**Rationale** – Volunteer Scotland is not aware of any recent comparative analysis of volunteering participation rates across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Understanding volunteering participation is one of Volunteer Scotland's core research priorities and we are therefore interested in examining comparative data across the four home countries. Our sponsors in the Scottish Government Third Sector Division are also interested in this subject.

Volunteering is important in Scotland given its contribution to supporting the Government's policy priorities relating to youth engagement, addressing social exclusion, increasing community engagement and achieving a fair and equitable society. Finally, within Scotland there is the potential for 'volunteering' to be included as a 'National Indicator' within the [National Performance Framework](#), and therefore understanding the robustness of volunteering participation rates is important.

A key trigger for this report is therefore to try and understand the nature and extent of any variations between the home countries. For example, we have been aware of the large variation in adult volunteering participation rates between Scotland and England for a number of years. What can account for this variation? Is it really the case that 41% of adults in England volunteer at least once a year, but only 27% in Scotland? Or are there other explanatory factors, such as differences in the research methodologies used to capture participation rates, which need to be taken into account? Volunteer Scotland therefore decided to undertake this desk research exercise and share the findings with our partners in NCVO/IVR, WCVA and Volunteer Now.

**Objectives** – the specific objectives of this report are to:

- Present a comparative analysis of UK volunteering participation rates;
- Understand the methodological parameters underpinning the data used to calculate participation rates;
- Assess whether the research methodologies adopted in the four home countries could be a contributory factor to the variations in volunteering participation; and
- Put forward some suggestions for how the four home countries could work together to improve consistency in data collection and analysis to facilitate future benchmarking.

**Focus** – the comparative analysis is focused on:

- Adults – defined as aged 16 years and over
- Formal volunteering (informal volunteering is not collected in Scotland, and it is not disaggregated from formal volunteering in the Northern Ireland data)
- Volunteer participation rates – based on volunteering at least once in the year
- Time series data – this has only been possible for Scotland and England, which examines volunteering participation from 2007 to 2015<sup>1</sup>. Wales and Northern Ireland don't have consistent data sets for more than two to three years.

### Structure

- Section 2 – Analysis of UK volunteering participation rates
- Section 3 – Review of the research methodologies adopted in the four home countries
- Section 4 – Conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> Time series data can be examined for England back to 2001 and for Scotland back to 1999. However, given the change in research methodology for the Scottish Household Survey in 2006, we only report on data from 2007.

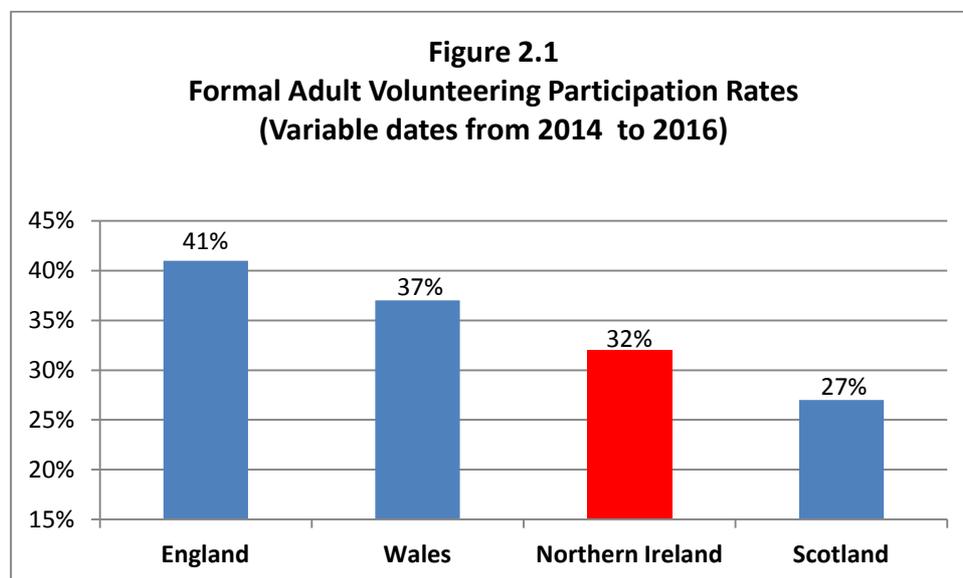
## 2. UK Volunteering Participation

This section presents formal volunteering statistics for adults across the UK who volunteer at least once in a year. The data is sourced from long established national statistical publications in Scotland and England, and from more recent omnibus surveys in Wales and Northern Ireland. Data sources and variations in the research methodologies and data collection protocols are specified in Section 3.

### 2.1 Formal volunteering participation rates

The most recent formal volunteering participation rates for adults who volunteer at least once in a year are illustrated in Figure 2.1 for the four home countries. The key points are:

- The wide spectrum of volunteering participation rates across the UK: from a high of 41% in England to a low of 27% in Scotland.
- Observations on data comparability:
  - There is some variation in the timing of the surveys over the period 2014 - 16, but they all include some data capture from 2015. The time periods are England July 2015 – April 2016; Wales March 2014 and March 2015 combined; Northern Ireland Sept and Oct 2015; and Scotland Jan 2015 to April 2016.
  - Northern Ireland's definition of 'volunteering' includes both formal and informal volunteering. We have not been able to disaggregate the data to focus on formal volunteering data. To this extent, their data is overstated and this must be allowed for in comparing results in Figure 2.1.



**Data sources:** [Community Life Survey 2015-16](#); [Volunteering in Wales 2015](#); [Volunteering in Northern Ireland Research Report 25 Feb 2016](#); [Scottish Household Survey 2015](#)

**Note:** The Northern Ireland participation rate is based on both formal and informal volunteering

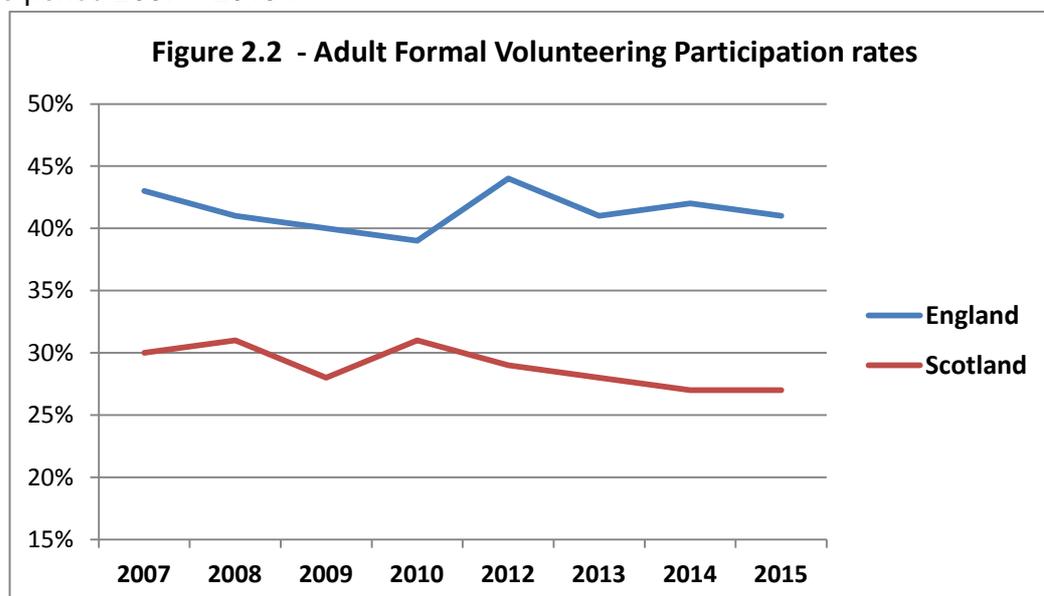
We know from the comparative statistics of formal and informal volunteering in England and Wales, that the inclusion of informal volunteering considerably increases the overall volunteering participation rate: in England from 41% to 70% and in Wales from 37% to 71%: see Table 2.1.

<b>Table 2.1 - Formal vs. informal volunteering rates - 2015</b>		
	<b>England<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Wales<sup>2</sup></b>
Total volunteering participation rate	70%	71%
Informal volunteering rate	60%	64%
Formal volunteering rate	41%	37%
<b>Sources:</b>		
1: England - <a href="#">Community Life Survey 2015-16</a>		
2: Wales - <a href="#">Volunteering in Wales 2015</a>		

- If Northern Ireland has a similar participation profile, then their formal volunteering rate is likely to be much lower than their total volunteering participation rate of 32%<sup>2</sup>.
- Based on that assumption we can deduce that the home countries can be classified into two volunteering participation rate groups:
  - Higher formal participation: England and Wales at around 40%
  - Lower formal participation: Scotland and Northern Ireland at less than 30%

## 2.2 Trend in volunteering participation

Longitudinal data on formal volunteering participation is only available for Scotland and England. Figure 2.2 demonstrates that there is no marked variation in formal volunteering participation rates over the period 2007 – 2015<sup>3</sup>.



**Data sources:** Community Life Survey and Scottish Household Survey – web links in the Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> Feedback to this research from Volunteer Now included reference to a formal volunteering participation rate of 21% in 2007. This provides supporting evidence for our assumption that their 2015 rate is likely to be significantly lower than 32%.

<sup>3</sup> No volunteering research was conducted in England in 2011 and this data is therefore missing from the graph. However, the participation rate in Scotland was 30% in 2011.

A key finding is that despite all the attention focused on volunteering, community engagement, wellbeing, employability, etc., etc., by Government and third sector development bodies, volunteering rates have not increased, with evidence of a marginal decline in Scotland. Intuitively one would have expected there to have been an upward trend over this period.

### 2.3 Implications of participation rate analysis

It is clear that there are wide variations in adult volunteering participation rates between the home countries; specifically between the higher participation rate countries (England and Wales) and the lower participation countries (Scotland and Northern Ireland). There are three possible factors which could contribute to such variations:

- **Statistical variation** – the differential is due to normal statistical variation whereby the margin of error is statistically valid within defined confidence intervals. Given the scale of the difference (41% for England vs. 27% for Scotland), statistical variation could, at best, be only a minor contributory factor;
- **Absolute variation** – whereby the differential is due to the actual variation in volunteering participation rates between the countries. In other words, the adult population in England and Wales do have a higher level of volunteer participation than Scotland and Northern Ireland; and
- **Methodological variation** – whereby there are differences in the research methods adopted between the countries which could explain part or all of the variation. It is this latter point which is now explored in Section 3.

### 3. Research methodologies

This section examines the research methods employed across the four home countries to see if there are any methodological differences which could contribute to the observed variation in volunteering participation rates. The data sources, questionnaires used and key parameters of the research methods adopted are itemised in the Appendix.

#### 3.1 Overview of research methods

Initial examination of the research methods reveals a 'good news' story. In particular, all four home countries collected and analysed annual volunteering participation rates during the period 2014 – 2016. This was the first time this has happened in the recent past. There was also a strong symmetry in the research methods adopted:

- **Interview target** – adults aged 16+ resident in the country
- **Volunteering focus** - for England, Wales and Northern Ireland this includes both formal and informal volunteering. However, in Scotland only formal volunteering data is collected.
- **Data collection method** – all countries adopt face-to-face interviews in private households
- **Sample size** – there is significant variation in sample size – from over 9,000 in Scotland to just over 1,100 for Northern Ireland. However, even the smaller sample of 1,100 should be sufficiently large to generate robust statistical conclusions at the national level.
- **Research contractors** – Scotland, England and Wales all use reputable external contractors to conduct the research (Ipsos-Mori/TNS-BMRB, TNS-BMRB and Beaufort Research respectively); and in Northern Ireland it is the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.
- **Sampling and weighting** – all countries aim to achieve a representative sample and use weighting to ensure this.

This demonstrates that these elements of the research process are consistent across the four home countries. So far so good.

However, as always, the devil is in the detail. What our investigation has shown is that there are variations in the volunteering participation question, the script used and interview protocols between the four home countries. On the basis of a desk-based exercise, it is difficult to determine how significant these variations are and what impact they may have on the data. Feedback from the other home countries has confirmed the existence of these variations, but an assessment of their significance has been more difficult.

The following elements are discussed in turn:

- Definition of volunteering
- Participation question
- Showcard examples

Further information and links to the questionnaires see the Appendix.

### 3.2 Definition of formal volunteering

At the beginning of all the surveys a definition of volunteering is read out to the interviewee, which sets the parameters for the questions on volunteering which follow. Table 3.1 gives the definitions of formal volunteering across the four home countries. The focus of the definition on either 'formal' or 'formal and informal' volunteering is specified in brackets.

<b>Table 3.1 – Definitions of Volunteering</b>	
<p><b>Scotland</b> <b>(formal volunteering)</b></p> <p>The next set of questions are about the kinds of things that some people do to give up their time, without pay, to help people or for the benefit of their neighbourhood or a wider area, and either through organisations <b>or acting as individuals</b>.</p>	<p><b>England</b> <b>(formal volunteering)</b></p> <p>I'd like you to think about any groups, clubs or organisations that you've <b>been involved with</b> during the last 12 months. That's anything <b>you've taken part in</b>, supported, or that you've helped in any way, either on your own or with others.</p> <p>Please exclude giving money and anything that was a requirement of your job.</p>
<p><b>Wales</b> <b>(formal and informal volunteering)</b></p> <p>The next set of questions are about the kinds of things that some people do to give up their time, without pay, to help people or for the benefit of their neighbourhood or a wider area, and either through organisations or acting as individuals.</p>	<p><b>Northern Ireland</b> <b>(formal and informal volunteering)</b></p> <p>The commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice.</p>

For each country the key points are as follows (see bold text in the table):

- Scotland – given that the exclusive focus of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is on formal volunteering it is confusing why the definition includes “..... or acting as individuals.” This has the effect of widening the definition to include informal volunteering. However, as we will see in the next sub-section, the actual volunteering question used in the SHS is 100% focused on formal volunteering. For the purposes of clarity we would recommend that the SHS definition is amended to remove reference to ‘acting as individuals’<sup>4</sup>.
- England – we believe that the Community Life Survey (CLS) definition is much broader than pure volunteering. It asks the respondent to consider whether they have ‘been involved with’ or ‘taken part in’, terms which are not specific to volunteering. It is only the ‘supported’ and ‘helped’ elements of the definition which relates to volunteering. It is also the only definition which does not make reference to the contribution being ‘unpaid’. As we will see below, this definition is adopted in the actual volunteering participation question.
- Wales - it uses the identical definition to that used in Scotland. Given that their survey is focused on both formal and informal volunteering this definition is accurate. However, we believe that the rigour of the research process would be enhanced if a separate formal volunteering definition was used for the formal section of the questionnaire and an informal definition for the informal part of the questionnaire – as applied in the CLS.

<sup>4</sup> Volunteer Scotland has included this recommendation, alongside other recommendations such as the inclusion of an informal volunteering question, in its response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on the Scottish Household Survey (spring 2017).

- Northern Ireland – a slightly different wording, which is more comprehensive than the others. In particular, it is the only one which includes the key parameter “...undertaken freely and by choice.”

In summary, there is no common agreed definition for volunteering across the four home countries. In an ideal world it would be helpful if there was a robust and commonly agreed definition as this forms the foundation for research on volunteering. Furthermore, as discussed above, there is scope to improve both the accuracy and specificity of the definitions currently in use.

### 3.3 Volunteering participation question

Table 3.2 details the formal volunteering questions adopted across the four home countries.

<b>Table 3.2 – Formal volunteering question</b>	
<p><b>Scotland</b></p> <p>Thinking back over the last 12 months, have you given up any time to help any clubs, charities, campaigns or organisations? I mean in an unpaid capacity.</p> <p>For ‘yes’ responses a <b>Showcard</b> is then used to classify types of volunteering/ organisations they are involved with.</p>	<p><b>England</b></p> <p>In a moment I'll give you some <b>cards</b>. Please pick out the ones which best describe any groups, clubs or organisations <b>you've taken part in</b>, supported or helped over the last 12 months. On each card are some examples, although what you do may not be on the cards.</p> <p><b>INTERVIEWER:</b> hand out shuffle cards. Help respondent if necessary. If any activity falls into more than one category, choose the first one that applies on the list. Activities outside the local area should be included but do not include groups, clubs or organisations <b>outside of the UK</b>.</p>
<p><b>Wales</b></p> <p>[Use of <b>Showcard</b> with list of formal volunteering categories]</p> <p>Have you <b>undertaken any work</b> or given unpaid help to any of these types of groups or organisations at any time in the past 12 months? If yes, which ones? <b>PROBE FULLY</b>. Any others?</p>	<p><b>Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>Based on the above definition, interviewees were asked:</p> <p>Have you carried out any voluntary work or activity in the past year?</p> <p><b>[No Showcard used.]</b></p>

For each country the key points are as follows (see bold text in the table):

- Scotland – the question is specifically focused on formal volunteering, and restates the importance of their contribution being unpaid. Only when the respondent has indicated ‘yes’ does the interviewer use the showcard with examples.
- England – volunteering participation is based on the respondent choosing one or more of the groups, clubs or organisations listed. The CLS therefore leads with the list of possible volunteering contributions. However, a key difference in the CLS question is their wider definition, which includes whether the respondent has ‘**taken part in**’ these organisations. This is clearly much wider than ‘supporting’ or ‘helping’ organisations. This will have the tendency to overstate volunteering participation rates. Also, there is no reference to the contribution being ‘unpaid’.

- Wales – like in England, the volunteering participation question is introduced with a showcard listing formal volunteering categories. Also, like England, the definition used is wider than purely volunteering. Within the question it asks whether the respondent has “.....**undertaken any work** or given unpaid help....” Again, this will have the effect of overstating formal volunteering participation rates, as it allows the respondent to include paid as well as unpaid work.
- Northern Ireland – their question refers back directly to the definition and asks the respondent whether they have carried out any voluntary work or activity in the past year. The focus is therefore on both formal and informal volunteering. Hence, no disaggregation of data is possible. We also believe the use of a showcard would help.

The key finding from the analysis of the volunteering participation questions is the potential for both England and Wales to overstate formal volunteering levels compared to Scotland and Ireland. The latter have questions focused exclusively on volunteering, excluding wider participation and/ or paid work which we believe is likely to give more accurate data on volunteering.

Also, as we suggested for the definition, we believe there is merit in sharing good practice on the volunteering participation question. Additional research factors to consider include:

- The universal use of showcards, which we believe is essential to help the respondent identify the types of contribution they make. This would require the introduction of a showcard in Northern Ireland.
- The geography of the volunteer’s contribution. It is interesting that the CLS limits the contribution to the UK and excludes overseas contributions. The other countries make no reference to this.
- The use of a ‘double-checking’ question to ensure that all those who are volunteers identify their contributions as falling under the definition of volunteering. At present this is only done in Scotland and Wales. We think this is appropriate as many people find it difficult to recognise that their contribution fits this definition. A double check with a showcard we believe is good practice.

### 3.4 Showcard volunteering checklist

It is important for there to be consistency in the showcards used in the survey. In this instance Scotland, England and Wales<sup>5</sup> all appear to be working from the same core checklist – see detailed lists in the Appendix. However, we do have a concern with the variation in the definitions for ‘sport/exercise’, particularly the one used in England:

- Scotland: “Sport/exercise (coaching or organising)”
- England: “Sport/exercise (taking part, coaching or going to watch)”
- Wales: “Sport/exercise (coaching, etc.)”

Given the popularity of sport and exercise, if one includes **‘taking part’** and **‘going to watch’** (activities which are unrelated to volunteering), then there is the potential to overstate the volunteering participation data for England.

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<sup>5</sup> Northern Ireland does not use a showcard.

## 4. Conclusions

It is very positive that all four home countries are focused on the collection of robust data on volunteering across the UK. In particular, we were really encouraged to discover that a similar research methodology based on face-to-face interviews in private households has been adopted. This provides a rich source of data to understand volunteering within each country.

However, there is variation in the definitions used for volunteering, in the wording of the key participation question, the differential usage of showcards and whether a double-check question is used. There may also be other methodological factors such as interview length, focus of interview (omnibus vs. dedicated research on volunteering), etc. which could have an impact on respondents' answers.

Given the extent of these methodological variations we believe that the current volunteering participation data should not be used to benchmark performance between the home countries.

Although, in principle, there is a desire to move towards a harmonised and consistent research platform across the four home countries there are significant obstacles to achieving this, including:

- The difficulty of making changes to research questions and research methodology where volunteering is embedded as an integral part of a larger survey overseen by Government. This creates rigidities as Volunteer Scotland, NCVO, WCVA and Volunteer Now are customers rather than authors of this data, as a consequence of which they have to negotiate any changes, the outcome of which is uncertain.
- The dynamic nature of data collection in each of the home countries. The feedback was revealing in that it showed how the 'goalposts are continually moving'. For example:
  - The Scottish Household Survey in Scotland has just closed a major consultation exercise on its questions;
  - The Community Life Survey will be going 100% online with no more face-to-face interviews. This will break the time series and will involve a change in how the volunteering participation question is asked;
  - In Wales its main source of national data going forward will be the National Survey. This will include, from 2017 onwards questions on volunteering; and
  - Volunteer Now would like to see a comprehensive longitudinal monitoring of volunteering participation within each of its 11 local authorities that could be aggregated to provide robust Northern Ireland wide statistics.

## Suggestions

Instead of trying to move towards a common research platform it is suggested that each country continues to focus on enhancing its own research on volunteering participation to make it as robust and helpful as possible within its own policy environment. This would enable longitudinal trends to be monitored within each country.

It is also suggested that this volunteering participation data be compiled into an annual report for sharing across the UK, with the scope to include Ireland and possibly other countries over time.

Volunteer Scotland hopes that through ongoing engagement with our partner bodies in the other home countries we will continue to build on the robust reporting of volunteering participation across the UK.

## Appendix – Data sources and key parameters of the research methods across the four home countries

Methodological elements	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
Survey title	Scottish Household Survey (volunteering part of a larger survey)	Community Life Survey (volunteering part of a larger survey)	Volunteering in Wales 2015 (stand-alone survey)	Volunteering in Northern Ireland Research Report (part of an omnibus survey)
Link to research report	2015 SHS Report <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/7673/13">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/7673/13</a> Previous years <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual</a>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539102/2015_16_community_life_survey_bulletin_final.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539102/2015_16_community_life_survey_bulletin_final.pdf</a>	<a href="http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/3504589/final_volunteering_in_wales_2015_-_english_july_2016.pdf">http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/3504589/final_volunteering_in_wales_2015_-_english_july_2016.pdf</a>	<a href="http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/fs/doc/volunteering-in-northern-ireland-research-report-2016.pdf">http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/fs/doc/volunteering-in-northern-ireland-research-report-2016.pdf</a>
Link to research data	2015 SHS Summary Data <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/7673/downloads">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/7673/downloads</a> SHS Data Archive 2014 & earlier <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/ResultsData">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/ResultsData</a>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447016/Community_Life_Survey_2014-15_Excel_tables.xlsx">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447016/Community_Life_Survey_2014-15_Excel_tables.xlsx</a> (2014/15 data - Cabinet Office link to 2015/16 data did not work)	No link to data found	No link to data found
Link to questionnaire	Go to page 193 <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00496609.pdf">http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00496609.pdf</a>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504431/2015-16_Community_Life_questionnaire_FINAL_1_.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504431/2015-16_Community_Life_questionnaire_FINAL_1_.pdf</a>	Included as appendix to the research report above.	No link to questionnaire found
Date of most recent research	Jan 2015-Apr 2016 (TBC)	July 2015 – April 2016	March 2014 & March 2015	Sept and Oct 2015
Frequency	Annual (for core questions) Biennial for supplementary questions). Data series goes back to 1999.	Annual – data series goes back to 2001, which includes the former Citizenship Survey (biennial) up to	Last two years only. Future commitment unknown	Annual since 2013.
Current research organisation	Joint responsibility between TNS-BMRB and Ipsos-Mori Scotland	TNS-BMRB for the Cabinet Office	Beaufort Research for WCVA	Central Survey Unit of N. Ireland Statistics & Research Agency for Dept for Social Development
Research method	Face-to-face interview in the household	Face-to-face interview in the household	Face-to-face interview in the household	Face-to-face interview in the household
Achieved sample size (for last survey)	9,410	3,027	2,034 (pooled responses from 2014 and 2015)	1,109
Parameters of volunteering researched:				
- Adults (age 16+)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Formal vol. data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes } but combined
- Informal vol. data	No	Yes	Yes	Yes }

Methodological elements	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
Definition of volunteering in questionnaire script	The next set of questions are about the kinds of things that some people do to give up their time, without pay, to help people or for the benefit of their neighbourhood or a wider area, and either through organisations <b>or acting as individuals.</b>	I'd like you to think about any groups, clubs or organisations that you've <b>been involved with</b> during the last 12 months. That's anything <b>you've taken part in</b> , supported, or that you've helped in any way, either on your own or with others. Please exclude giving money and anything that was a requirement of your job.	The next set of questions are about the kinds of things that some people do to give up their time, without pay, to help people or for the benefit of their neighbourhood or a wider area, and either through organisations or acting as individuals.	The commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice.
Initial Question on volunteering participation	Thinking back over the last 12 months, have you given up any time to help any clubs, charities, campaigns or organisations? I mean in an unpaid capacity.  For 'yes' responses a <b>Showcard</b> is then used to classify types of volunteering/ organisations they are involved with.	In a moment I'll give you some <b>cards</b> . Please pick out the ones which best describe any groups, clubs or organisations <b>you've taken part in</b> , supported or helped over the last 12 months. On each card are some examples, although what you do may not be on the cards.  <b>INTERVIEWER:</b> hand out shuffle cards. Help respondent if necessary. If any activity falls into more than one category, choose the first one that applies on the list. Activities outside the local area should be included but do not include groups, clubs or organisations <b>outside of the UK.</b>	[Use of <b>Showcard</b> with list of formal volunteering categories]  Have you <b>undertaken any work</b> or given unpaid help to any of these types of groups or organisations at any time in the past 12 months? If yes, which ones? <b>PROBE FULLY.</b> Any others?	Based on the above definition, interviewees were asked:  Have you carried out any voluntary work or activity in the past year?  [ <b>No Showcard</b> used.]

Methodological elements	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
Double checking question on volunteering participation	<p><b>For 'no' responses:</b> We often find that people forget about some of the things they have done because they only do them occasionally or wouldn't normally think of it as helping people or their community. Have you undertaken <b>any work</b> or given unpaid help to any of these types of groups or organisations at any time in the past 12 months? <b>[Showcard]</b></p>	There is no follow-up check question.	<p><b>For 'no' responses:</b> Showcard repeated. Have you ever <b>undertaken any work</b> or given unpaid help to any of these types of groups or organisations?</p>	There is no follow-up check question.
Showcard checklist of volunteering types /organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School children, for example school trips, sports days, discos, in the classroom</li> <li>• Youth/children's groups (outside school)</li> <li>• Education for adults</li> <li>• Sport/exercise (<b>coaching or organising</b>)</li> <li>• Religious groups</li> <li>• Political groups</li> <li>• The elderly</li> <li>• Health, disability and social welfare</li> <li>• Safety, first aid</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Justice and human rights</li> <li>• Local community or neighbourhood groups</li> <li>• Citizens' groups</li> <li>• Hobbies/recreation/arts/social clubs</li> <li>• Trade union activities</li> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Domestic Animal Welfare</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's education/schools</li> <li>• Youth/children's activities (outside school)</li> <li>• Education for adults</li> <li>• Sport/exercise (<b>taking part coaching or going to watch</b>)</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• The elderly</li> <li>• Health, disability and social welfare</li> <li>• Safety, first aid</li> <li>• The environment, animals</li> <li>• Justice and human rights</li> <li>• Local community or Neighbourhood groups</li> <li>• Citizens' groups</li> <li>• Hobbies, recreation/ arts/social clubs</li> <li>• Trade union activity</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's education/schools</li> <li>• Youth/children's activities (outside school)</li> <li>• Education for adults</li> <li>• Sport/exercise (<b>coaching, etc.</b>)</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• The elderly</li> <li>• Health, disability and social welfare</li> <li>• Safety, first aid</li> <li>• The environment, animals</li> <li>• Justice and human rights</li> <li>• Community or neighbourhood groups</li> <li>• Citizens' groups</li> <li>• Hobbies, recreation/ arts/social clubs</li> <li>• Trade union activity</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	No list of volunteering types /organisations is used

