

## Response ID ANON-TA4G-AVRV-F

Submitted to **ONS approach to measuring and reporting SDGs in the UK**

Submitted on **2017-09-21 06:45:26**

### Section 1: How should the ONS report progress?

**1 Will the proposed reporting mechanisms provide you with enough information about the global indicators to understand the progress the UK is making towards the Sustainable Development Goals?**

Yes

**2 Are there specific ways in which you would like us to report or provide access to data for global indicators? If yes, please state.**

Yes

**specific way to report or access data:**

We would like to have access to both summary reports and data in charts. This is particularly important for measuring SDG 2.1 on Ending Hunger. To assess household food insecurity in the UK, the recommended data measurement tool is the validated schedule of 8 questions from the UN (Food Insecurity Experience Scale - FIES). This is one of the best approaches for measuring household food insecurity, a key indicator for SDG 2.1. We would like to have access to both summary figures for the scale (all 8 questions) as well as the detailed data that underpin the summary figure (per individual question in the scale).

**3 Which approach is most meaningful to you in terms of how the ONS reports on progress?(your response will prompt an additional question)**

Some other way - for example, by geographical region

### Section 1: How should the ONS report progress?

**3c If a different approach is most meaningful to you, please state.**

**Some other way:**

We would like progress to be reported both by topic and goal-by-goal. As food insecurity (and food more generally) cuts across quite a few of the goals, in order to get a good overall food system picture we would support a topic by topic approach. Food and farming could be a topic, with household food insecurity, nutrition, environmental and climate impact of food production, access to land, etc. within that topic. However goal-by-goal reporting is also important for comparability across countries and for ease of access to specific data.

### Section 1: How should the ONS report progress?

**4 While the “Measuring National Well-being” and “Sustainable Development Goals” agendas are motivated by different needs, both are concerned with measuring UK progress to help ensure a sustainable future. With this in mind, which would you prefer to see?**

A separate report focused solely on SDGs

### Section 2: Criteria for data selection

**5 Do you feel there are any other criteria that should be considered?**

Yes

**If yes, please state.:**

For SDG 2.1, a key indicator is the measurement of food insecurity using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The FIES is “an experience-based metric of severity of food insecurity that relies on people’s direct responses” (<http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>). As such, the validity of the data collected is dependent upon it being included in a large-scale population survey. There are two versions of the FIES, one which measures food insecurity at the individual level and one at the household level. In the UK, using the FIES at the household level would mean that it could be incorporated into other national-level household surveys, such as the Living Costs and Food Survey, whereas the individual-level FIES could be added to the Food and You survey.

**6 If you are aware of any existing or planned data or initiatives that would assist us in assessing progress towards the global indicators, please provide details.**

**data initiatives:**

For SDG 2.1, Scotland is currently monitoring household food insecurity in the 2016-17 Scottish Health Survey (using 3 of the 8 FIES questions, increasing to all 8 questions in 2017-18). Northern Ireland is also measuring food insecurity through the Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey by using 3 of 4 questions in the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) – however it would be preferable if all nations used the 8 question FIES measure.

### Section 3: Approach to prioritising data development

## 7 Which goals are you most interested in?

Goal 2 - Zero Hunger

**8 The United Nations recommends that, where relevant in the national context, data for global indicators should be disaggregated by the fields listed. Please rank the following fields in order of interest to you where 1 is of most interest and 8 of least interest:**

**disagg rank - Income:**

1

**disagg rank - Gender:**

2

**disagg rank - Age:**

4

**disagg rank - Race:**

5

**disagg rank - Ethnicity:**

6

**disagg rank - Migratory status:**

7

**disagg rank - Disability:**

8

**disagg rank - Geographic location:**

3

**9 Do you have any specific needs relating to the fields listed in question 8, for example, specific geographies, age groups, or ethnic group breakdowns?**

Yes

**If yes, please state the fields and your specific needs.:**

As many of the SDGs have a focus on children and young people, it would be particularly important to be able to disaggregate the data by family and household type. This would include those categories in the Families and Household Survey, but also specify the age of any dependent children (e.g. young children under 5, etc). Particularly in the UK context, there is a need for much deeper understanding of how household food insecurity (SDG 2.1) is affecting families with children under 2, as well as children and young people in general.

**10 After data availability, we propose the following principles for use in prioritising our approach to developing data to plug gaps. For you, which are the most important principles of those listed? (choose up to 3)**

**principles rank - Feasibility of acquiring or developing data:**

**principles rank - Opportunity to build capability (domestically and internationally), for example, use of satellite data to assist with estimating harvest statistics and agricultural productivity:**

2

**principles rank - Evidence of support from user engagement and information-gathering activities:**

3

**principles rank - Ability to satisfy other UK priority initiatives, for example, providing information to enhance national accounts, race disparity audit:**

1

**principles rank - Data needed to satisfy current UK political priorities:**

**principles rank - Cost of acquiring or developing data:**

**principles rank - Availability of proxy data:**

**11 Are there any other criteria you would like us to consider in prioritising our approach to developing data?**

Not Answered

**If yes, please state.:**

Measurement of food insecurity is a very large data gap in the UK which will limit the ability of the Government to monitor progress on the SDGs. The Scottish Government is only asking the first 3 FIES questions, though this is due to be expanded to 8 questions in 2018, and Northern Ireland is only using 3 of the 4 EU SILC questions. There is currently no measurement of household food insecurity in England and Wales. In practice, this means that assessing the level of household food insecurity in the UK is highly variable and incomplete at best, and non-existent in places. To monitor progress on SDG 2.1, it will be essential for

the full 8 question FIES to be implemented in all UK nations. It is not acceptable to use a sub-set of the FIES questions as a cost-saving mechanism as the FIES is only valid if the 8 questions are used together.

## **Section 4: A bit about you**

### **12 What is your name?**

**Name:**

Courtney Scott

### **13 Do you agree to have your name published alongside your response?**

Yes

### **14 What is your email address?**

**Email:**

courtney.scott@foodfoundation.org.uk

### **15 Are you answering this survey on behalf of an organisation?**

Yes

### **16 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state its name.**

**Organisation:**

On behalf of: The Food Foundation, Sustain, Nourish Scotland, Oxfam GB, The Trussell Trust, and Church Action on Poverty

### **17 Which sector best reflects you or the organisation on whose behalf you are responding?**

Voluntary and charity

**other sector:**

### **18 May we contact you for any further discussion about our work on Sustainable Development Goals?**

Yes

### **19 Which of the following options best reflects your interest in SDGs or those of the organisation on whose behalf you are responding?**

I am interested in specific data that I analyse as an essential part of my job

**None of the above (please state):**

### **20 In which region are you located?**

England

Not Answered

## **What to expect from us**