

## **Outcome of User Consultation of 'Northern Ireland Transport Statistics' Report**

### **Background**

Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB), a Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) branch within the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), sought the views of users on the continued publication of the 'Northern Ireland Transport Statistics' report. This report is a compendium publication and has been published on an annual basis since the early 1990s. The most recent report consists of nine chapters presenting information on vehicle registrations, driver and vehicle testing, the road network, freight, road safety, public transport, air transport, accessible transport and other transport statistics.

### **Consultation Period**

The [user consultation](#) opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, a period of 8 weeks.

### **Proposal**

The data published in the Northern Ireland Transport Statistics report are supplied from a large number of sources, and the collection, validation and formatting of these data takes several months. By the time the report is released, many of the figures have already been published by the sources on their own websites. It is often the case that more up-to-date have also been published meaning little interest is generated by the release of the Northern Ireland Transport Statistics report.

In a time of constrained resources, the duplication of already published statistics must be avoided and resource should be invested where a need for information exists.

For these reasons, it was proposed that ASRB cease the compilation and publication of the 'Northern Ireland Transport Statistics' report, with the 2016-17 edition being the final report.

### **Responses Received**

Ten responses were received to the consultation; six from individuals and four on behalf of organisations. Only the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) indicated that they wished their organisation's name to be included in the response to the consultation.

## **Summary of Responses**

Of the responses received, the majority were supportive of the proposal to cease publication of the 'Northern Ireland Transport Statistics' report. However, a need for the continued collection, processing and publication of specific chapters was identified, specifically the Road Network (Chapter 3), Public Transport (Chapter 6) and Transport and Disability (Chapter 9).

## **ASRB Response**

The small number of respondents to this consultation, together with the little interest generated by its release each year and a limited amount of customer contact in relation to it, indicates that the report is not widely used.

An ongoing need has been identified for statistics published in Chapters 3, 6 and 9, i.e. the Road Network, Public Transport and Transport and Disability chapters respectively. ASRB recognise that these statistics are not published in this format by the individual sources and recognise the value of this information. Therefore, ASRB will continue to process and publish these chapters to meet user's needs.

The consultation has indicated that there is little use of the remaining chapters in this report, namely Chapter 1 Vehicle Registrations, Chapter 2 Driver and Vehicle Testing, Chapter 4 Freight, Chapter 5 Road Safety, Chapter 7 Air Transport and Chapter 8 General Transport. Given the responses received to the consultation, it is clear that ceasing the compilation and production of these chapters would not have a negative impact on users. By doing so, ASRB will avoid duplication of effort and reduce the burden on data provider organisations. ASRB will also be able to focus on other work areas and support policy development where the need for information is greater or where the development of existing key output is required.

## **Outcome**

Following careful consideration of the feedback received from the user consultation, ASRB has taken the decision to retain the Northern Ireland Transport Statistics annual report but to considerably reduce its content. From 2017-18 onwards, the report will consist of 3 chapters namely; 'Road Network', 'Public Transport' and 'Transport and Disability'. This format is open to further development dependent on future user needs. Chapter 1 Vehicle Registrations, Chapter 2 Driver and Vehicle Testing, Chapter 4 Freight, Chapter 5 Road Safety, Chapter 7 Air Transport and Chapter 8 General Transport will be discontinued.

The final publication in its current format of nine chapters relates to 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 and was published on the 28th September 2017.

The historical back series will continue to be publicly available alongside future editions of the report on the DfI website at [Northern Ireland Transport Statistics](#).

To support users in the change of format, the 2017-18 edition of Northern Ireland Transport Statistics will include links to the most recent data from the discontinued chapters, where that data is published.

## Summary

The table below presents a summary of the outcome of the consultation:

| Chapter | Title                      | Outcome of Consultation   |
|---------|----------------------------|---|
| 1       | Vehicle Registrations      | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued. Note vehicle licensing data is published by DVA on a quarterly basis and is available on the DfI website at <a href="#">Driver &amp; Vehicle Agency statistics</a> .          |
| 2       | Driver and Vehicle Testing | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued. Note driver and vehicle testing data is published by DVA on a quarterly basis and is available on the DfI website at <a href="#">Driver &amp; Vehicle Agency statistics</a> . |
| 3       | Road Network               | The data tables presented in this chapter remain relevant and an ongoing need for them has been identified. Therefore, this chapter will continue to be produced.   |
| 4       | Freight                    | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued. Note <a href="#">road freight</a> data is collected by DfT via the Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport, Northern Ireland (CSRGT NI).                                    |
| 5       | Road Safety                | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued. Note, road safety data is published by PSNI at <a href="#">Road Traffic Collision Statistics</a> .  |
| 6       | Public Transport           | The data tables presented in this chapter remain relevant and an ongoing need for them has been identified. Therefore, this chapter will continue to be produced.   |

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|---|--------------------------|--|
| 7 | Air Transport            | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued. Note <a href="#">UK airport data</a> is published by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).                                 |
| 8 | General Transport        | An ongoing need for these data tables has not been identified, therefore this chapter will be discontinued.  |
| 9 | Transport and Disability | This chapter was added from 2013-14 onwards following engagement with users. The data tables presented in it remain relevant and an ongoing need for them has been identified. Therefore, this chapter will continue to be produced. |

### Future Data Availability

[Annexe A](#) provides a list of the data sources used to inform the Northern Ireland Transport Statistics report and links to relevant supplier websites where some of the data are published.

Where data required are not published, ASRB would be happy to provide contact details for the relevant personnel in the supplier organisation or make direct contact with them on behalf of users.

Where data are held by ASRB, specific data tables can be supplied to customers.

### Contact Details

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## Annexe A: Data Sources

### **Tables 1.1 to 1.14, 1.16, 2.1 to 2.11, 4.1 to 4.2**

DVA – Driver and Vehicle Agency (DfI Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch)

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/driver-vehicle-agency-statistics>

### **Table 1.3b**

DfT - Department for Transport

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01>

### **Table 1.16 (population)**

NISRA – Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

### **GB figures for Tables 1.2, 1.4, 1.15, 1.16, 4.3 to 4.5, 5.4 to 5.6, 8.7 and GB & UK transport statistics publications**

DfT - Department for Transport

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport)

### **Tables 2.4 to 2.8**

DVSA – Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-standards-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-standards-agency)

### **Tables 3.1 to 3.3, 8.8, 9.2**

DfI Roads

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/DfI-Roads-overview-0>

### **Tables 4.6, 7.1 to 7.4, 7.6a, 7.6b, 7.6c**

CAA - Civil Aviation Authority

[www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

### **Tables 5.1 to 5.6**

PSNI - Police Service of Northern Ireland

[www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

**Tables 6.1 to 6.6, 9.1, 9.3, 9.4**

Translink

[www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

**Table 7.5**

Belfast International airport

[www.belfastairport.com/en/](http://www.belfastairport.com/en/)

George Best Belfast City airport

[www.belfastcityairport.com/](http://www.belfastcityairport.com/)

City of Derry airport

[www.cityofderryairport.com/](http://www.cityofderryairport.com/)

**Tables 8.1 to 8.4**

NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research>

**Table 8.5**

NI councils

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/local-councils-in-northern-ireland>

**Table 8.6**

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

**Tables 9.5 to 9.7, Travel Survey for Northern Ireland publications**

DfI - Department for Infrastructure

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/travel-survey-northern-ireland>

**NI road safety statistics publications**

DfI - Department for Infrastructure

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/road-safety-statistics>

**Republic of Ireland statistics**

Central Statistics Office

[www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)