

User Consultation of Statistical Publications – School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs

Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) aims to keep its statistics relevant and useful. In autumn 2010 the DfE sought feedback from users of the ‘School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs’ statistical bulletin to get their views on the publication. This feedback was published in August 2011 and a full summary can be found at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/ols-dbcf.pdf>

This initial consultation concluded that the low response rate (*30 respondents, only 4 completed the whole survey*) was an indication that the publication is of interest to a niche audience and that meeting this requirement may not be the most effective use of our resources. With this in mind the recommended course of action was to consult with users to assess the impact of dropping the publication from the schedule on a permanent basis.

In order to assess the **impact** of ending the publication, the following steps were taken:

- i) We published an overview and links to both the bulletin and the previous consultation on the **R & S Gateway** and included reference on the **front page** asking for user’s views on withdrawing the publication (see Annex A).
- ii) We included an article in the **ICES bulletin** (issue 51) with a link to the publication and invited views (see Annex A).
- iii) We sent **personal emails to each of the 32 London LAs** to specifically ask them their views on withdrawing the publication and what the likely impact would be (and whether for example, a few tables may suffice rather than the detailed bulletin).

We asked London LAs to respond to the following questions by the end of September 2011:

- Q1 Do you use the School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs Statistical Bulletin?
- Q2 What would the impact to you/your organisation of withdrawing the bulletin?
- Q3 If we were to withdraw the publication but publish a selection of tables which tables would you find most useful?
- Q4 For what purpose would these tables and the information in them be used?

Just **five** LAs responded to the consultation.¹

¹ One response was on behalf of 2 LAs

Recommendations

Confirming the findings from the initial consultation, we are confident that the low response rate is an indication that the publication is of interest to a niche audience and that meeting this requirement may not be the most effective use of our resources. Withdrawing the publication is likely to have minimal impact even on those organisations who currently use it. With this in mind the recommended course of action is to drop the publication from the schedule on a permanent basis.

Summary of key points

1. All five LAs responding stated they used the bulletin but assessment of the responses suggest its withdrawal would cause minimal impact to their organisation.
2. More than one response suggests that this information could be reproduced within LAs or through some voluntary agreement but may be resource intensive to obtain.
3. London Boroughs can see how many non-residents are at maintained schools in their district through the cross border movement matrices in the 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics' Statistical First Release. The latest information was published by the Department on 22nd June 2011. More than one LA referred to this as an alternative source for much of the information:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/sfr12-2011xbmt.xls>.
4. Tables 1, 2 and 2a showing destinations and cross border movement of secondary school pupils were stated as the most useful. No cases were presented for retaining tables by school or pupil characteristics.
5. The data is used primarily for school place planning and is deemed 'very useful' but not essential by 3 of the 4 respondents.

Background

The Department has published this Statistical Bulletin on an annual basis since 2005. Its main purpose is to bring together and make available to a wider audience, including London Local Authorities, a single comprehensive picture of the secondary school destinations of pupils across London using data collected in the School Census. It contains information about the pupils living and / or attending maintained secondary schools (including middle deemed), City Technology Colleges and Academies in London.

The scope and content of the bulletin has changed over time to reflect developments in the scope of the DfE data collection programme and user interests. Notable examples include;

2006 - The publication of a cross-border matrix showing movement within and across local authorities (Tables 2 and 2a in the latest bulletin).

2008 - The publication of information about

- i. pupil inflows and outflows by school characteristics (Tables 3 and 4 in the latest bulletin).
- ii. pupil movement at the transition between year 6 and year 7 (Table 6 in the latest bulletin),

iii. distance travelled and mode of travel (Tables 7, 7a and 9 and 9a in the latest bulletin), and

2010 – The publication of Information about cross border movement, distance travelled and mode of travel by pupil and school characteristics (Tables 10 – 18 in the latest bulletin).

The most recent bulletin published in August 2010 is available at:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000951/index.shtml>

Detailed Results of the user questionnaire

Q1 Do you use the School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs Statistical Bulletin?

| Response | Frequency |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Yes | 5 |
| No | 0 |

Q2 What would the impact to you/your organisation of withdrawing the bulletin?

- i) Minimal as cross border movement tables meet most of our demands
- ii) Small, cross border movement tables useful.
- iii) In terms of school place planning it would be a major loss and it would be very difficult to ensure an ongoing supply of good quality data at a sub-regional level through voluntary agreements
- iv) Additional resource required within LA to obtain data

Q3 If we were to withdraw the publication but publish a selection of tables which tables would you find most useful?

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Table 1 ¹ | London Local Authority Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London | 2 |
| Table 2 ¹ | Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London | 2 |
| Table 2a ¹ | Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils attending school in London | 2 |
| Table 3 | Pupil Imports by Secondary School Characteristics | 1 |
| Table 4 | Pupil Exports by Secondary School Characteristics | |
| Table 5 | Number of Secondary Schools and Pupils by School Characteristics | |
| Table 6 | Pupil Retention in the Transition Between Year 6 and Year 7 | |
| Table 7 | Distance Travelled to School by Secondary School Pupils Attending School in London | 1 |
| Table 7a | Distance Travelled to School by Secondary School Pupils Resident in London | 1 |
| Table 8 | Number and percentage of resident secondary pupils by IDACI decile | |
| Table 9 | Mode of Travel to School of Secondary School Pupils Attending School in London | X ² |
| Table 9a | Mode of Travel to School of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London | |
| Table 10 | Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by Pupil Characteristics | |
| Table 11 | Distance Travelled to School by Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by Pupil Characteristics | |
| Table 12 | Mode of Travel to School of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by Pupil Characteristics | X ² |
| Table 13 | Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by School Characteristics | |
| Table 14 | School Characteristics by Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London | |
| Table 15 | Distance Travelled to School by Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by School Characteristics | |
| Table 16 | School Characteristics by Distance Travelled to School by Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London | |
| Table 17 | Mode of Travel to School of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London by School Characteristics | X ² |
| Table 18 | School Characteristics by Mode of Travel to School of Secondary School Pupils Residing or Attending School in London | X ² |
| Table 19 | Cross Border Movement of Secondary School Pupils in London (Time Series) | |
| Key bullets | Local authority Summary | 1 |

¹ Information in these tables can be obtained from the cross border movement matrices in the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics Statistical First Release.

² Mode of travel has been dropped from the school census and will not be collected after Spring 2011.

Q4 For what purpose would these tables and the information in them be used be used?

- i) To keep an eye on migration patterns locally and in relation to the rest of London. This provides context to the local mobility report. LA teams could recreate the inward and outward migration maps if the tables continue.
- ii) We did use this information to add to the back of our mobility report on cross-border transfers. We have mapped the information.
- iii) In making decisions about future demand for school places.
- iv) To look at patterns (i.e. going to faith schools, selectives etc).
- v) In terms of school place planning, the data is very useful. It would be a major loss if we were not able to access it, and it would be very difficult to ensure an ongoing supply of good quality data at a sub-regional level through voluntary agreements.
- vi) Valuable resource that gets fed in to our places planning annual reports and also to community groups that request this type of information frequently

Annex A: What has been sent out as part of second consultation

1. ICES (Information about Children, Education and Schools) bulletin, Issue 51

The aim of this bulletin is to keep local authorities (LAs) and their schools, academies and other partners updated on school and LA children's services data collections, and to update schools, LA contacts and other partners on key data-related developments and events. It supports the Department for Education's aim to ensure the availability and effective use of good quality data in the schools and children's sectors while reducing related burdens on schools and LAs.

The bulletin is edited and produced by Data and Statistics Division. It is e-mailed to contacts within LAs, academies, and suppliers of school and LA MIS and software.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schooladmin/ims/a0063993/information-about-children-education-and-schools-ices-bulletin-formerly-the-dsp-bulletin>

2. R & S Gateway

[DfE: The School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs Statistical Bulletin: Discontinuation of the Statistical Bulletin on School Destinations](#)

The Department has published this Statistical Bulletin on an annual basis since 2005. Its main purpose is to bring together and make available to a wider audience, including London Local Authorities, a single comprehensive picture of secondary school destinations across London using data collected in the School Census. It contains information about the pupils living and / or attending maintained secondary schools (including middle deemed), City Technology Colleges and Academies in London.

The scope and content of the bulletin has changed over time to reflect developments in the scope of the DfE data collection programme and user interests.

The most recent bulletin published in August 2010 is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000951/index.shtml>

During autumn 2010 we conducted a consultation seeking views on the Bulletin in order to obtain feedback on the publication. In total there were 30 respondents to the survey, of which 4 completed the whole survey. A summary of the responses to the consultation can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/onlinesurveys.shtml>

We are concerned that the low response rate is an indication that the publication is of interest to a niche audience and that meeting this requirement may not be the most effective use of our resources. With this in mind the recommended course of action is to consult with users to assess the impact of dropping the publication from the schedule on a permanent basis.

Therefore we would be grateful if you could let us know your views....in particular your responses to the following questions will inform the decision on whether to continue with this publication.

Do you use the School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs Statistical Bulletin?

What would the impact to you/your organisation of withdrawing the bulletin?

If we were to withdraw the publication but publish a selection of tables which tables

would you find most useful?

For what purpose would these tables and the information in them be used be used?

You are invited to let Jill Bodey know your views by 30 September 2011

Jill's contact details are as follows:

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