

*Submitted by email*

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3 August, 2017

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Joint CIfA and CBA response to proposed changes to DCMS Statistical Publications**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft guidance. Please find our answers to the consultation questions below.

**About our organisations:**

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. It promotes high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society.

CIfA has over 3,300 members and 80 registered practices across the United Kingdom and internationally. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is an educational charity and national amenity society with a leading role in championing the public interest in archaeology. CBA works throughout the UK to involve people in archaeology and to promote the appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations. CBA has a membership of 500 heritage organisations who, together with our thousands of individual members, represent national and local bodies encompassing state, local government, professional, academic, museum and voluntary sectors.

**Detailed answers:**

**13. The latest Taking Part Quarter 2 release was published on 31st January 2017. Were you aware that this had been published?**

Yes.

**14. Have you used this publication at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or interest areas.**

No. Both of our organisations periodically review the data which we use to support our work and define our strategy, and this has not been undertaken since the Q2 release in January. We also rely on annual analysis undertaken by Historic England which draws on the Q2 Taking Part data.

**17. If the Taking Part Quarter 2 release was no longer published, what impact would this have on you as an individual and/or on your organisation (if applicable)?**

We believe that, given the long term longitudinal data which Taking Part has collected on a number of the core issues recorded in the survey, the lack of a 6-monthly progress report would not significantly impact our organisations.

Our organisations do feel, however, that an annual data set is important, and that any move to make questions relating to culture and heritage biennial would have a negative impact on our ability to illustrate the importance of heritage to society and be responsive to current issues affecting people and the economy.

**18. Are there any data items or information within the existing publication which would be essential for you to continue to have access to in a quarter 2 publication?**

No.

**25. Which of these other DCMS statistical releases have you used?**

DSMC Statistical Handbook, Taking Part survey releases.

However, it should be noted that we regularly use analyses produced by Historic England and other bodies which draw on a wider range of DCMS statistics.

**26. Do you have any comments on the content of any of our releases? For example, do they provide a sufficient level of detail to meet your needs?**

*Taking Part:*

Our organisations greatly value the data collected by the Taking Part surveys. However, we feel that focussing on the development of the survey to improve its relevance to current issues would be a better use of resources. That being said, we would welcome the opportunity to advise DCMS on where we feel that this development would be most beneficial. It would, for example, be of great interest to develop a greater focus on aspects of enjoyment, health and wellbeing, lifestyle and behaviour change, and access, in addition to questions on visitation, cost, etc. An example of this is DEFRA's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey, which includes a much greater range of information of these issues.

The MENE survey uses more complex methodologies for understanding issues like enjoyment. Additionally, questions in the Taking Part survey that relate to place do not develop a particularly nuanced data which reflects modern understandings of sense of place or landscape, which are critical to our understanding of the public benefit of heritage.

*DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates:*

As archaeologists, we are concerned that the DCMS is using a narrow definition of what constitutes the heritage sector, which, for instance, does not include data on archaeologists in its sectors Economic Estimates.

As with the Taking Part survey, we feel that this narrow understanding of heritage is frequently damaging to our ability to effectively use that data to prove the level of social, cultural, and economic benefit that the heritage sector is capable of delivering.

**28. Which elements of our statistical releases do you find most useful?**

Infographics, spreadsheets, tables, Taking Part Data Analysis Tools.

**29. How do you usually hear about DCMS statistics?**

Newsletter, Gov.uk website

**30. Do you have any other comments on how we could improve the content, format or dissemination of our statistical releases and associated outputs?**

Generally, widen understandings of what the heritage sector constitutes and consider broadening the questions in the Taking Part survey to reflect a wider range of the sector claims to public benefit creation (see above answer to Q.26).

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



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