

Chapter 16

Day Visitors Data

Background

273. In several formulae, we take into account not only the resident population but also the numbers of visitors to an authority's area, as these can place additional demand on some local services. Visitors can be split as net in- commuters, day visitors and overnight visitors (both domestic and foreign). In the existing formulae, a 'day visitors' indicator is used in the EPCS block, the Highways Maintenance block and the Police block. In the proposed formulae, day visitors will remain in the EPCS block and Highways Maintenance block. As before, the indicator used in these two blocks will exclude visits to friends and family.

274. Unlike the other visitor indicators, there is no consistent reliable source on the number of day visitors to an authority from another authority. So the indicator has to use models to estimate the number of day visitors, using data from a number of sources. The current indicator (which has not been updated since 1993) was constructed using various information including the 1988/9 Leisure Day Visits Survey, the 1991 Census, the 1991 Census of Employment and 1991 Survey of visits to tourist attractions and other information about the area. It is accepted that this indicator is now out of date.

275. As part of the review, research was commissioned to update the day visitors indicator to include information from the 2002/03 Great Britain Day Visits Survey (GBDVS), the 2001 Census, 2003 Labour Force Survey, and other information on local facilities and attractions from Visit Britain and Ordnance Survey, and distances from the ONS. The research was also asked to consider any necessary adjustments to the existing methodology.

276. Unlike the 1993 indicator where all trips below 20 miles were excluded from the analyses, the new model considers all trips (outdoor, primary, queued and residential) and assigns them to either a "local" or "non-local" trip depending on the distance of the round-trip and other local authority characteristics. "Local" trips are those below the distance threshold and assumed to be made by residents and to remain within the authority. "Non-local" trips are those over the distance threshold but are split between non-local trips into the authority by the authority's residents and non-local trips made into the authority by residents from other authorities. We would only use the "non-local" trip data made by residents from outside the authority. The model also applies the average party size as reported from the GBDVS to the estimated number of trips to estimate the number of day visitors.

277. The distance threshold is a key part of the modelling process and the research has considered using a 5-mile, 10-mile or 20-mile round trip threshold. The indicator that we propose to use will be based on a 10 mile

round trip threshold to determine whether the visitor was from another local authority. Exemplification D1 shows the difference between the existing and proposed options. Note we have not exemplified the impact that the proposed option will have on service blocks.

Question

Question 37: Would you prefer us to use the new day visitors indicator?