

**Outcome of User Engagement on ‘Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors’ Report**

**Background**

The [Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/average-journey-time-key-economic-corridors-2016-2018) statistical report presents an estimate of the average journey time on key economic corridors (KECs) in Northern Ireland.

It provides an estimate of the average time it takes for a car to travel the inter-urban sections of the KECs during the morning peak period (07:00 to 09:30). The data presented enabled the progress of the draft Programme for Government indicator ‘Average journey time on key economic corridors’ to be monitored. The statistical bulletin was published in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/).

**Proposal**

The “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors” statistical report was published following a data development project initiated when a need for data to measure the indicator “Average journey time on key economic corridors”’ was identified and added to the draft Programme for Government (PfG) data development agenda.

As indicators included under the former draft PfG are no longer being monitored, a user consultation exercise was carried out to determine the level of future need for this statistical report. Engagement with key stakeholders indicated that there is currently no requirement for journey time data so a user engagement survey was carried out to seek the wider views of users.

**Engagement Period**

The user engagement opened on 29 June 2021 and closed on the 3 August 2021, a period of 5 weeks.

An email was sent from the ASRB branch email account on 29 June 2021 to notify key stakeholders of the purpose of the survey and that it was live for user engagement. A further reminder email was sent out to the same group of people on 26 July 2021 as the survey was due to close on Tuesday of the following week (3 August 2021).

In order to capture the views of a wider range of potential users, DfI issued three tweets to notify and remind users of the survey, which was active on Survey Monkey. An initial notification was tweeted on 29 June 2021 and this was retweeted from the NISRA twitter account; a reminder tweet was posted on 27 July 2021 and again this was retweeted by NISRA.

**Responses Received**

The user engagement survey received replies from 279 respondents. However, whilst 138 respondents were aware of the publication only 46 were aware of the publication, made use of the publication and stated what they used the publication for. The summary below is based on the responses made by the 46 respondents.

**Summary of Responses**

Although the report was initially developed to support the monitoring of a draft PfG indicator, the survey found that the report is mainly used for ‘Personal use’ (48% or 22 out of 46 respondents), ‘General Information’ (30% or 14 out of 46 respondents), Transport Modelling/Planning’ (17% or 8 out of 46 respondents) and ‘Academic or other research’ (17% or 8 out of 46 respondents). Six respondents (13%) indicated that the report was used for PfG purposes while the same number of respondents indicated that it was used for policy development/review. (Note that percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents were able to provide more than one response).

Almost half of the responses indicated that the report was used on an adhoc basis while 30% of responses stated that the information was used on a monthly basis.

 Approximately 46% of respondents (21 out of 46) were not in favour of a cessation of the report with participants saying they would like the report to continue stating reasons such as the usefulness of the data and its use in seeing patterns and trends. Thirty percent (14 out of 46) would support the cessation of the report with some stating that that if there was no longer a policy need for this report they would be in favour of the publication stopping. The remaining 11 respondents did not express a view either way.

A few respondents stated they use the information for personal use to inform journey travel times however there are other real time sources which would provide more timely and detailed information for this purpose. Users should note that the report does not provide live data so it would not inform current travel time and take into account traffic on a given day. The report only provides an average journey time at peak morning travel time as an indicator for PfG.

**Outcome**

The responses from this user engagement have been considered along with the input provided through meetings and correspondence with key stakeholders. In light of these responses, ASRB has taken the decision to cease production of this report. Given the ad hoc use of the report, that less than half of the survey respondents are opposed to withdrawing the report and that no critical reason has been identified for retaining the report, ASRB do not currently plan to publish a future edition of this report. Furthermore, as these data are no longer required for their intended purpose (PfG monitoring), ASRB need to prioritise the use of limited statistical resources.

If you would like to be kept informed about our future products then please join our user distribution list by emailing the responsible statistician at the address below.

**Contact Details**

Responsible statistician: Allan Nesbitt

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**Annex A User Engagement Survey**

1. Are you aware of the statistical report “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”**?

| Yes | Please go to Q2 |
| --- | --- |
| No | No further responses are required |

1. Have you used the statistics within the “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”** report?

| Yes | Please go to Q3 |
| --- | --- |
| No | No further responses are required |

1. If your answer was Yes to Q2 … What do you use the “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”** report for (please select all that apply): -

| Programme for Government |  |
| --- | --- |
| Briefing (eg to Ministers / colleagues) |  |
| Policy development / review |  |
| Academic or other research |  |
| Transport modelling/planning |  |
| Media use |  |
| Commercial purposes |  |
| Personal use  |  |
| General information |  |

Other, (please specify below): -

|  |
| --- |

1. How often do you make use of the “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”** report?

| Monthly |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quarterly  |  |
| Annually |  |
| Ad hoc |  |

1. Which sources of Journey Time information do you **use** (please tick all that apply)?

| Main Report |  |
| --- | --- |
| Infographic |  |
| Tables and figures |  |

Other, (please specify below): -

|  |
| --- |

1. Are you supportive of our proposal to cease production of the“Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”** report?

| Yes | Please go to Q7 |
| --- | --- |
| No | If no, can you provide reasons why you do not support the proposal |

Please provide reasons why you do not support the proposal to cease the publication

|  |
| --- |

1. Please provide any general feedback on the “Average Journey Time on Key Economic Corridors**”** report below: -

|  |
| --- |

1. Please provide your contact details below if you are content that ASRB can contact you about your responses: -

| Contact details: -  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Organisation (if applicable) |  |
| Phone |  |
| Email |  |

Note: - your contact details will only be used in relation to this user engagement and will be deleted once responses are analysed and clarified

**Responses should be returned no later than Tuesday 3 August 2021**