

Travel to School in Scotland

Hands Up Scotland Survey: National Summary Report 2015



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Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland)

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey based on a large sample of pupils enrolled at schools in Scotland. The survey, first conducted in 2008, is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities.

The annual National Summary Report introduces the survey and presents and interprets the national results. The results are accompanied by the National Results tables that include a breakdown of results for individual local authorities and data collected between 2008 and 2015¹.

The question asked in the Hands Up Scotland Survey is, 'How do you normally travel to school?' and has the following response options:

- Walk
- Cycle
- Scooter/Skate
- Park and Stride²
- Driven
- Bus
- Taxi
- Other

The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been designated an Official Statistic³ by Parliamentary Order. The survey is designed to provide reliable and up to date information on mode of travel to school in Scotland, both at a national and local authority level as well as by school type and year group. The dataset provides useful evidence to inform school transport policies and initiatives.

1.2 National response 2015

In 2015, 2,650 schools took part in the survey from all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Of this, 2,045 state schools participated, which equates to 80.3% of all registered state schools in Scotland⁴.

In total, over half a million children (501,559) responded to the survey. Of this, 474,200 pupils from state schools participated, which equates 69.7% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland⁴.

1.3 National results 2015 (all schools excluding nursery)

Active travel

49.7% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school in an active way (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skateboard) without any form of motorised transport:

- Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 43.3% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school.

¹ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

² Driven part of the way by car and walk the rest

³ Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

⁴ Scottish Government Education Statistics Scottish Government Education Statistics
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

- 3.5% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.9% said that they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school.

Motorised travel

42.0% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school using only a motorised mode of transport:

- 22.4% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school.
- 17.9% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school.
- 1.7% said that they normally travel to school by taxi.

Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active or motorised mode of travel to school, 7.8% of pupils said that they normally park and stride (driven part of the way by car and walk the rest) to school.

1.4 National results 2008-2015 (all schools excluding nursery)⁵

Active travel

Active travel has consistently remained the most frequently reported mode of travel to school in Scotland. In 2008, 51.8% of pupils reported travelling actively to school. This percentage has decreased slightly to 49.7% in 2015.

- The reported level of walking to school has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 43.3% in 2015.
- The reported level of cycling to school has increased from 2.8% in 2008 to 3.5% in 2015.
- The reported level of scooting or skating to school has increased from 0.7% in 2008 to 2.9% in 2015.

Motorised travel

The Hands Up Scotland Survey shows minor fluctuations in the proportion of pupils indicating they travel to school by motorised travel modes, from 41.3% in 2014 to 42.7% in 2010. Overall, motorised travel has increased from 41.6% in 2008 to 42.0% in 2015.

- The survey does not show a clear trend in car use, which has fluctuated between 21.4% (2013) and 23.3% (2009). Overall, car use has increased from 22.0% in 2008 to 22.4% in 2015.
- Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying between 17.7% (2014) and 18.8% (2013). Overall, bus use has decreased from 18.2% in 2008 to 17.9% in 2015.
- Taxi use is the least frequently reported of all the motorised travel modes, increasing from 1.4% to 1.7% in 2015.

Multi-mode travel

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has increased from 6.1% in 2008 to 7.8% in 2015.

⁵ For considerations relating to results presented in this section please see Technical Notes 10.2.1, 10.3.3 and 10.4.4.

2 Introduction

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey based on a large sample of pupils enrolled at schools in Scotland. The survey is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities.

A Parliamentary Order designates Sustrans as Official Statistics Provider⁶ as of 1st June 2012. The primary aim of Official Statistics in Scotland is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government and others⁷. The Hands Up Scotland Survey is designed to provide reliable and up to date information on mode of travel to school in Scotland, both nationally and at a local authority level as well as by school type and year group.

The specific aims of the survey are to:

- Meet central and local government needs for policy relevant data on mode of travel to school in Scotland⁸.
- Be understandable and useful to stakeholders and so lead to a high level of use of the Hands Up Scotland Survey.
- Produce high quality data in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.⁹

⁶ Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

⁷ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats>

⁸ See Section 4 (page 5)

⁹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

3 The National Summary Report

Hands Up Scotland Survey results have been reported in a series of annual reports published between 2009 and 2016. The annual National Summary Report is designed to act as an introduction to the survey and to present and interpret the results at a national level.

A short summary of key national level results for the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2015 is available in the form of a Statistical News Release. Supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2015 are also available. These documents can be downloaded from Sustrans' website:

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

Each local authority also receives their results in a comprehensive range of tables, including breakdown by school, in an Excel spreadsheet report. These local authority results contain all data collected between 2008 and 2015.

This National Results Summary focuses on key results. The Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey team can be contacted with feedback, requests or enquiries¹⁰. Where users wish to undertake more detailed analyses for a specific project and the national-level documents do not provide the required information or format, a data request for local authority reports may be submitted to Sustrans' Hands Up Scotland team¹⁰.

¹⁰ HandsUpScotland@sustrans.org.uk 0117 9150 226

4 Policy context

The overall purpose of this National Summary Report is to put the results of the Hands Up Scotland Survey into a relevant policy context. The Scottish Government has outlined its overall purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth, and five strategic objectives, which are designed to ensure the purpose is delivered¹¹.

The five objectives are:

Wealthier and Fairer

Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.

Healthier

Helping people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.

Safer and Stronger

Helping communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

Smarter

Expanding opportunities to succeed from nurture through to lifelong learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.

Greener

Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey can provide information relevant to the 'Healthier' and 'Greener' objectives outlined by the Scottish Government.

The survey provides data on levels of active travel to school. Scotland's strategy for physical activity, *Let's Make Scotland More Active*¹², and the UK Chief Medical Officers report *Start Active, Stay Active*¹³ both recommend active travel as one way of making up the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity daily for children, as well as outlining the links between physical activity and health.

The survey provides data for levels of motorised travel to school. Scottish Ministers have a duty to report on proposals and policies setting out specific measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009¹⁴. Levels of motorised travel have implications for greenhouse gas emissions, and the Scottish Government has outlined the need for behaviour change

¹¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/Strategic-Objectives>

¹² <http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/47032/0017726.pdf>

¹³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216370/dh_128210.pdf

¹⁴ [Low Carbon Scotland: meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027: RPP2](#)

to make more sustainable transport choices part of daily life in order to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint¹⁵. Levels of motorised travel also have implications for congestion, against which the Scottish Government has summarised its role to:

‘Set the framework for the provision of sustainable, integrated and cost-effective public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure as alternatives to the car.’¹⁶

The survey also provides data on levels of cycling to school. The *Cycling Action Plan for Scotland*¹⁷ sets out the shared vision of 10 per cent of everyday journeys in Scotland to be made by bike by 2020, outlines the framework for delivery of this target, and specifically encourages the promotion of cycling and active travel to school.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey results represent a large national dataset which provides potential for links to be made at a local level between mode of travel to school and school transport policies and initiatives.

¹⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/carbon>

¹⁶ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/congestion>

¹⁷ <http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/316212/0100657.pdf>

5 Comparability with other sources

The Hands Up Scotland survey is not directly comparable with any other current sources of Official Statistics in the UK. The Scottish Household Survey also provides information on travel to school in Scotland¹⁸ and a list of the main statistical publications in relation to transport in Scotland is available from the Transport Scotland website¹⁹.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census²⁰ in England published data for usual mode of travel to school until 2011. Data was available at a school level and this question was made mandatory for schools with an approved School Travel Plan in January 2007. In 2011, the mandatory use of this question was discontinued. Data on travel to school is not currently collected as part of the school census for Northern Ireland or Wales.

Other current sources of Official Statistics relating to travel to school in the UK include the National Travel Survey²¹, and the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland²².

¹⁸ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Transport-Travel/TrendTraveltoSchool>

¹⁹ <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/statistics/statistical-publications>

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-census>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-travel-survey-statistics>

²² <https://www.drdni.gov.uk/articles/travel-survey-northern-ireland>

6 Survey design

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is a joint project, managed by Sustrans and officers from each local authority in Scotland. The survey was first conducted in 2008 and has followed a consistent survey design and methodology each year.

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit is responsible for producing the survey format, guidance and data entry template to circulate to local authority officers. Local authority officers are responsible for distributing the surveys and guidance to schools. Data collection is conducted by school staff, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans. Completed survey forms are returned by the school staff to their local authority officer, who takes responsibility for inputting data for each school and returning the data to Sustrans. Data cleaning, collation, analysis and reporting are conducted by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit.

Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2015, data collection took place between the 7th and 11th of September.

The question asked in the Hands Up Scotland Survey is, 'How do you normally travel to school?' with the following response options:

- Walk
- Cycle
- Scooter/Skate
- Park and Stride²³
- Driven
- Bus
- Taxi
- Other

The survey can be conducted by schools on a class-by-class or whole-school basis. The number of pupils present at the time of the survey is recorded, and pupils are asked to raise their hand for one of the above response options only. A manual count is recorded on the survey form.

All pupils of primary and secondary school age are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves. Assistance may be provided to nursery or Special Educational Needs (SEN) school pupils by a parent, guardian or member of school staff when responding to the survey, depending on the level of support required.

²³ Driven part of the way by car and walk the rest

7 Response rates²⁴

7.1 National response rate 2015

In 2015, all 32 local authorities in Scotland participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. 1,889 nurseries and 2,544 schools across Scotland received the survey from their local authority officers. The survey was sent to 2,508 state schools²⁵, the equivalent of 98.5% of all state schools in Scotland (100% of primary schools and 99.7% of secondary schools).

A total of 590 nurseries and 2,060 schools responded to the survey across Scotland. Responses were received from 2,045 state schools²⁵, the equivalent of 81.5% of state schools receiving the survey and 80.3% of all state schools in Scotland.

A full breakdown of the number of schools responding to the survey in 2015 is presented in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 National sample size: number of schools responding to survey, 2015²⁶

School Type	Number of schools which received survey	% of all schools in Scotland which received survey	Number of schools which returned data	% of schools receiving survey which returned data	% of all schools in Scotland which returned data
Nursery	1,889	-	590	31.2%	N/A
Primary	2,043	100.0%	1,716	84.0%	84.0%
Secondary	361	99.7%	287	79.5%	79.3%
SEN	104	73.2%	42	40.4%	29.6%
Independent	36	-	15	41.7%	N/A
All State Schools ²⁴	2,508	98.5%	2,045	81.5%	80.3%
All Schools ²⁵	2,544	-	2,060	81.0%	N/A

Responses were received from 21,398 nursery pupils and 480,161 school pupils in total across Scotland. Responses were received from 474,200 state school pupils, the equivalent of 69.7% of all state school pupils (excluding nurseries) enrolled in Scotland.

A full breakdown of the number of pupils responding to the survey in 2015 is presented in Table 7-2 (page 10).

²⁴ For considerations relating to results presented in this section please see Technical Notes 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.2.2 and 10.2.3

²⁵ All schools in Scotland excluding nursery

²⁶ Table 1.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

Table 7-2 National sample size: Number and percentage of pupils responding to survey, out of total Scottish state school roll for each school type 2015²⁷

School Type	Number of pupil respondents	% of Scottish state school roll
Nursery	21,398	N/A
Primary	298,194	76.2%
Secondary	173,841	61.7%
SEN	2,165	31.3%
Independent	5,961	N/A
All State Schools ²⁸	474,200	69.7%
All Schools ²⁹	480,161	N/A

7.2 National response rate 2008-2015 (excluding nursery)

The total number of state schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has increased from 1,811 in 2008 to 2,045 in 2015, the largest number of state schools ever responding to the survey (Table 7-3 and Chart 7-1, page 11). State school responses as a proportion of all state schools in Scotland have increased from 63.2% in 2008 to 80.3% in 2015, a slight decrease from 80.6% in 2014 (Table 7-3).

Table 7-3 National sample size: state school (excluding nursery) responses to survey as % of all state schools in Scotland, 2008-2015³⁰

Year	Number of state school respondents	% of Scottish state schools
2008	1,811	63.2%
2009	1,928	67.7%
2010	1,977	70.9%
2011	1,885	68.4%
2012	1,969	76.2%
2013	2,004	78.7%
2014	2,036	80.6%
2015	2,045	80.3%

The total number of schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has increased from 1,824 in 2008 to 2,060 in 2015, the largest number of schools ever responding to the survey (Chart 7-1, page 11).

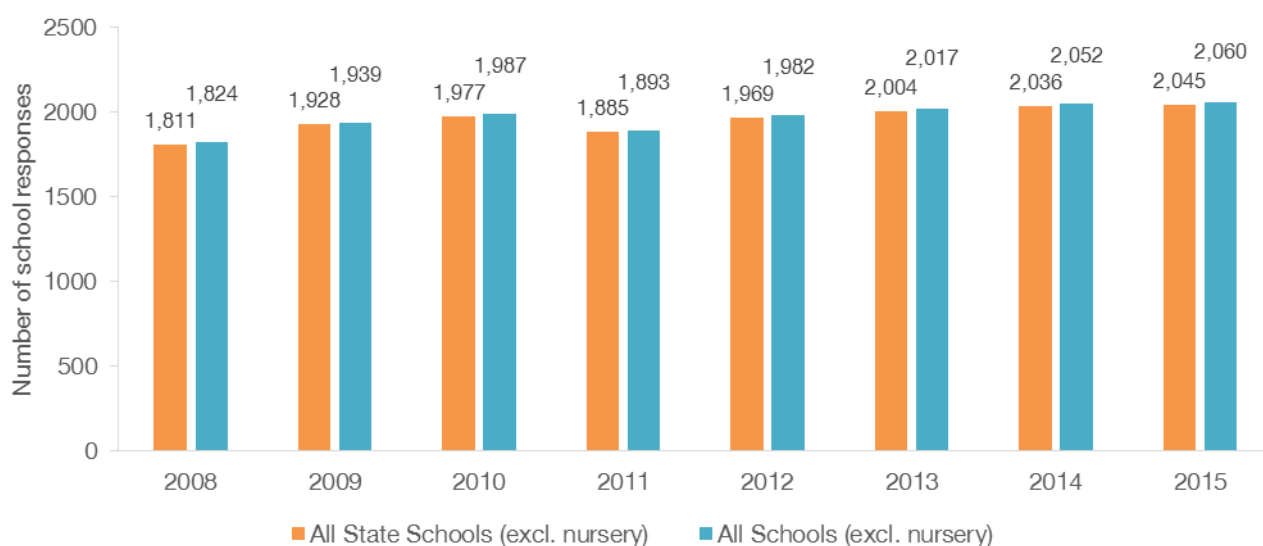
²⁷ Table 1.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

²⁸ All state schools in Scotland excluding nursery

²⁹ All schools in Scotland excluding nursery

³⁰ Table 1.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

Chart 7-1 National sample size: Number of schools (excluding nursery) responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2015



The total number of pupil respondents from all schools to the Hands Up Scotland Survey increased from 396,377 in 2008 to 439,401 in 2010. Total pupil respondents decreased to 427,104 in 2011, before increasing year-on-year to 487,147 in 2014. Between 2014 and 2015 the number of pupil respondents has decreased slightly to 480,161 (Chart 7-2).

Chart 7-2 National sample size: Number of pupils (excluding nursery) responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2015



The percentage of state school pupils responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has increased from 57.3% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland in 2008 to 69.7% in 2015, a slight decrease from 70.9% in 2014. Pupil response rates in 2015 have dipped slightly to 69.7% of the Scottish School roll (Table 7-4, page 12).

Table 7-4 National sample size: Number and percentage of state school pupils (excluding nursery) responding to survey, out of total Scottish state school roll, 2008-2015³¹

Year	Number of pupil respondents	% of Scottish state school roll
2008	389,799	57.3%
2009	413,118	61.2%
2010	435,770	64.9%
2011	424,829	63.5%
2012	450,192	67.1%
2013	461,707	67.7%
2014	480,155	70.9%
2015	474,200	69.7%

7.3 Nursery response rate 2009-2015

No nursery schools were approached to participate in the first Hands Up Scotland Survey in 2008. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to increase participation among nursery schools. Since 2009, the number of nursery school pupils responding to the survey has more than doubled.

The total number of nursery pupil responses to the Hands Up Scotland survey has increased from 7,999 pupils in 2009 to 21,398 in 2015. The total number of nursery school pupils and nurseries responding to the Hands Up Scotland survey has increased from 238 nurseries in 2009 to 590 in 2015, the highest number of nursery schools participating since the survey began.

Table 7-5 displays data on the number of nursery schools and pupils participating in the Hands Up Scotland Survey across all years of the survey.

Table 7-5 Nursery participation: Number of nursery pupils and nursery schools participating in the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2015

Year	Number of nursery pupil respondents	Number of nurseries responding
2008	-	-
2009	7,999	238
2010	13,349	387
2011	14,038	423
2012	19,411	523
2013	19,737	540
2014	19,911	539
2015	21,398	590

³¹ Table 1.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

7.4 Local authority response rates 2008-2015

All 32 local authorities in Scotland have participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey since 2010 (29 and 31 local authorities participated in 2008 and 2009 respectively).

In 2015, 12 local authorities³² received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools, 18 local authorities³³ received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools and 4 local authorities³⁴ received responses from 100.0% of all SEN schools.

³² Angus, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire, Western Isles.

³³ Aberdeenshire, Angus, Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, Shetland Islands, Stirling, West Lothian, Western Isles.

³⁴ Aberdeenshire, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Perth & Kinross.

8 National results

8.1 National results 2015 (all schools excluding nursery)

Active travel

49.7% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school in an active way (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skateboard) without any form of motorised transport:

- Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 43.3% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school.
- 3.5% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.9% said that they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school.

Motorised travel

42.0% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school using only a motorised mode of transport:

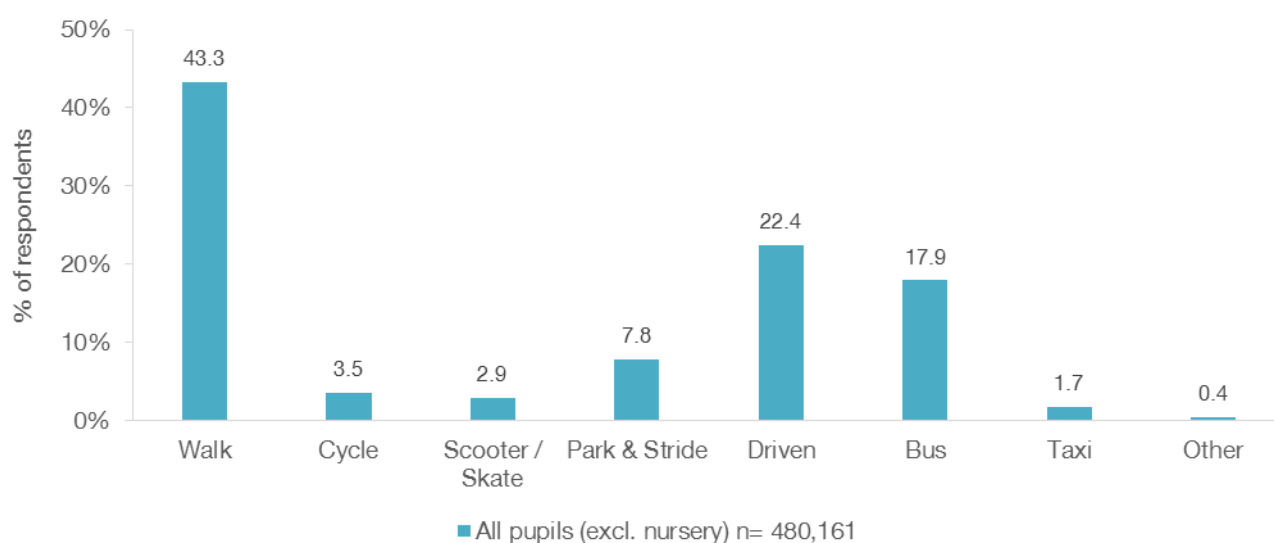
- 22.4% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school.
- 17.9% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school.
- 1.7% said that they normally travel to school by taxi.

Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active or motorised mode of travel to school, 7.8% of pupils said that they normally park and stride to school (driven part of the way by car and walk the rest).

Results for all schools are displayed in Chart 8-1, Table 8-1 and Table 8-2 (page 16).

Chart 8-1 National travel modes: all school pupil responses (excluding nursery), 2015



8.2 National results 2008-2015 (all schools excluding nursery)

The following is a brief summary of national results from the Hands Up Scotland Survey for primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools³⁵.

Active travel

Across all years of the Hands Up Scotland Survey, active travel to school has consistently remained the most frequently reported mode of travel to school across Scotland.

In 2008, 51.8% of pupils reported travelling actively to school. This percentage has decreased to 49.7% in 2015.

- The reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 43.3% in 2015.
- The Hands Up Scotland Survey shows a broadly increasing trend in cycling from 2.8% in 2008 to 3.5% in 2015.
- The percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skateboard to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.9% (2015).

Motorised travel

The Hands Up Scotland Survey shows fluctuations in motorised travel between 41.3% (2014) and 42.7% (2010). Motorised travel has increased from 41.6% in 2008 to 42.0% in 2015.

- The survey does not show a clear trend in car use, which has fluctuated between a low of 21.4% (2013) to 23.3% (2009). Overall, car use has increased from 22.0% in 2008 to 22.4% in 2015.
- Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying between a minimum of 17.7% (2014) and a maximum of 18.8% (2013). Overall, bus use has decreased from 18.2% in 2008 to 17.9% in 2015.
- Taxi use is the least frequently reported of all the motorised travel modes, increasing from 1.4% to 1.7% in 2015.

Multi-mode travel

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has increased from 6.1% in 2008 to 7.8% in 2015.

As summary of annual changes in reported normal travel mode for all schools is presented in Table 8-1 and Table 8-2 (page 16).

³⁵ For considerations relating to results presented in this section please see Technical Notes 10.2.1, 10.3.3 and 10.4.4.

8.3 Data tables

Table 8-1 National travel modes: all schools (excluding nursery) combined active and motorised travel, 2008 - 2015

Year	Active travel ³⁶	Multi-mode travel ³⁷	Motorised travel ³⁸	Other	Total
2008	51.8%	6.1%	41.6%	0.5%	396,377
2009	49.9%	6.7%	43.0%	0.4%	415,804
2010	49.3%	7.4%	42.7%	0.5%	439,401
2011	49.9%	7.5%	42.2%	0.3%	427,104
2012	49.7%	7.8%	42.0%	0.5%	457,488
2013	50.3%	7.5%	41.8%	0.4%	467,397
2014	50.4%	7.8%	41.3%	0.5%	487,147
2015	49.7%	7.8%	42.0%	0.4%	480,161

Table 8-2 National travel modes: all schools (excluding nursery), 2008-2015³⁹

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
2008	48.3%	2.8%	0.7%	6.1%	22.0%	18.2%	1.4%	0.5%	396,377
2009	47.0%	2.3%	0.6%	6.7%	23.3%	18.1%	1.6%	0.4%	415,804
2010	45.8%	2.8%	0.7%	7.4%	22.9%	18.2%	1.6%	0.5%	439,401
2011	45.9%	3.0%	1.0%	7.5%	22.4%	18.2%	1.6%	0.3%	427,104
2012	45.1%	2.9%	1.6%	7.8%	22.2%	18.2%	1.7%	0.5%	457,488
2013	44.1%	3.5%	2.8%	7.5%	21.4%	18.8%	1.6%	0.4%	467,397
2014	44.2%	3.4%	2.8%	7.8%	21.9%	17.7%	1.6%	0.5%	487,147
2015	43.3%	3.5%	2.9%	7.8%	22.4%	17.9%	1.7%	0.4%	480,161

³⁶ Walk, cycle and scoot/skate

³⁷ Park and stride - driven part of the way by car and walk the rest

³⁸ Car, bus and taxi

³⁹ Table 2.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

9 National results by school type

9.1 Nursery results 2015

A larger proportion of nursery school pupils normally travel to school using motorised travel modes than active travel modes.

- 46.3% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to nursery school actively without any form of motorised transport (39.3% walk, 3.2% cycle and 3.8% scoot or skate).
- 49.8% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school solely by motorised transport (46.1% travel by car, 2.7% travel by bus and 1.0% travel by taxi).
- 3.7% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by park and stride.

Results for nursery schools are displayed in Table 9-1 (page 20).

9.2 All state school comparison 2015

Active travel

Primary school pupils in 2015 reported the highest level of active travel to school at 54.2% of all pupils, followed by secondary school pupils at 43.9% and SEN school pupils at 2.5%.

- 44.6% of primary school pupils report normally walking to school compared to 42.7% of secondary school pupils and 2.0% of SEN school pupils.
- 5.1% of primary school pupils report normally cycling to school compared to 1.0% of secondary school pupils and 0.5% of SEN school pupils.
- 4.5% of primary school pupils report normally scooting or skating to school compared to 0.2% of secondary school pupils⁴⁰.

Motorised travel

In 2015, primary school pupils report the lowest levels of travel to school using motorised transport of all pupils, at 35.6%. This is less than the 51.4% of secondary school pupils and 92.9% of SEN school pupils who report normally doing so.

- Only 3.4% of SEN pupils are normally driven to school in a car, compared to 7.1% of secondary school pupils and 26.8% of primary school pupils.
- The highest levels of bus usage are reported in SEN pupils at 41.0% compared to 35.9% of secondary pupils and 7.1% among primary school pupils.
- 48.5% of SEN pupils report normally using a taxi to travel to school. Neither primary nor secondary school pupils report high levels of normally using a taxi to travel to school (1.7% and 1.2% respectively) in 2015.

⁴⁰ Value(s) for SEN pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see Technical Note 10.5.1

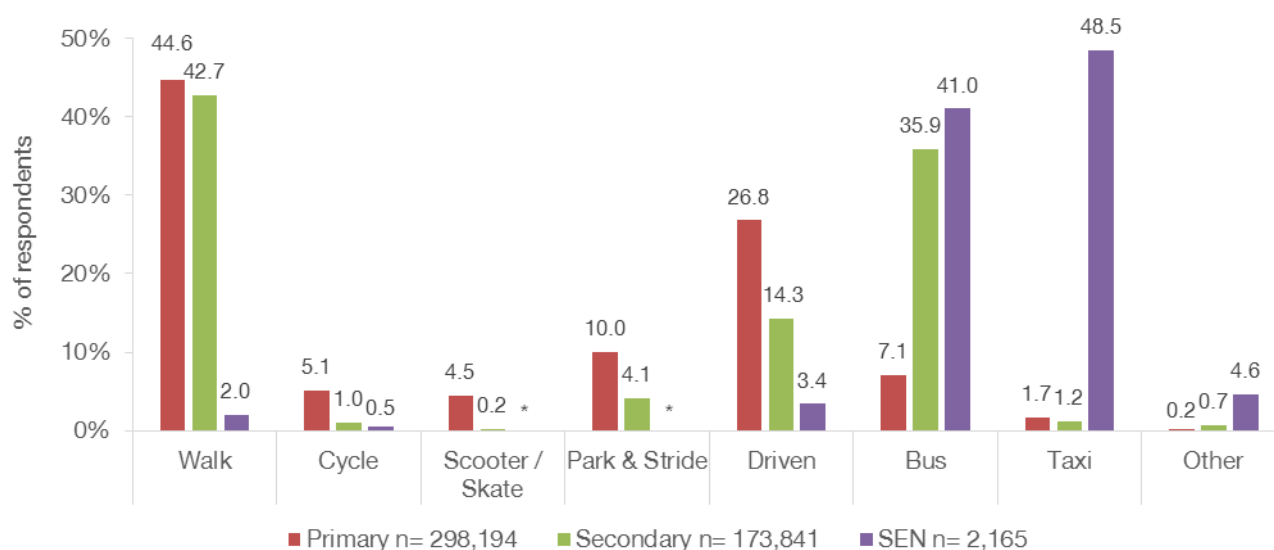
Multi-mode travel

In 2015, 10% of primary school pupils report travelling to school using multiple modes⁴¹, compared to 4.1% of secondary school pupils⁴².

Results for all state schools are displayed in Chart 9-1 and Table 9-3 (page 21).

For a breakdown of these results by school type (primary, secondary and SEN) and year group, please see Table 9-3 (page 21).

Chart 9-1 National travel modes: All state school (primary, secondary and SEN) comparison of travel modes, 2015⁴²



9.3 State and independent school comparison 2015

Active Travel

Pupils in state schools (primary, secondary and SEN) report higher normal travel to school through active modes compared to independent schools in 2015, with half of state school pupils (50.1%) either walking, cycling or scoot/skating compared to 17.6% of independent school pupils.

- 43.7% of state school pupils report normally walking to school compared to 14.9% of independent school pupils.
- 3.5% of state school pupils report normally cycling to school compared to 1.3% of independent school pupils.
- 2.9% of state school pupils report normally scoot or skating to school compared to 1.4% of independent school pupils.

⁴¹ Park and stride - driven part of the way by car and walk the rest

⁴² Value(s) for SEN pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see Technical Note 10.5.1

Motorised travel

A lower percentage of state school pupils normally travel using motorised modes at 41.7% compared to 69.7% of independent school pupils.

- 22.1% of state school pupils report normally travelling to school by car compared to 46.2% of independent school pupils.
- 17.8% of state school pupils report normally travelling to school by bus compared to 23.2% of independent school pupils.
- 1.8% of state school pupils report normally travelling to school by taxi compared to 0.3% of independent school pupils.

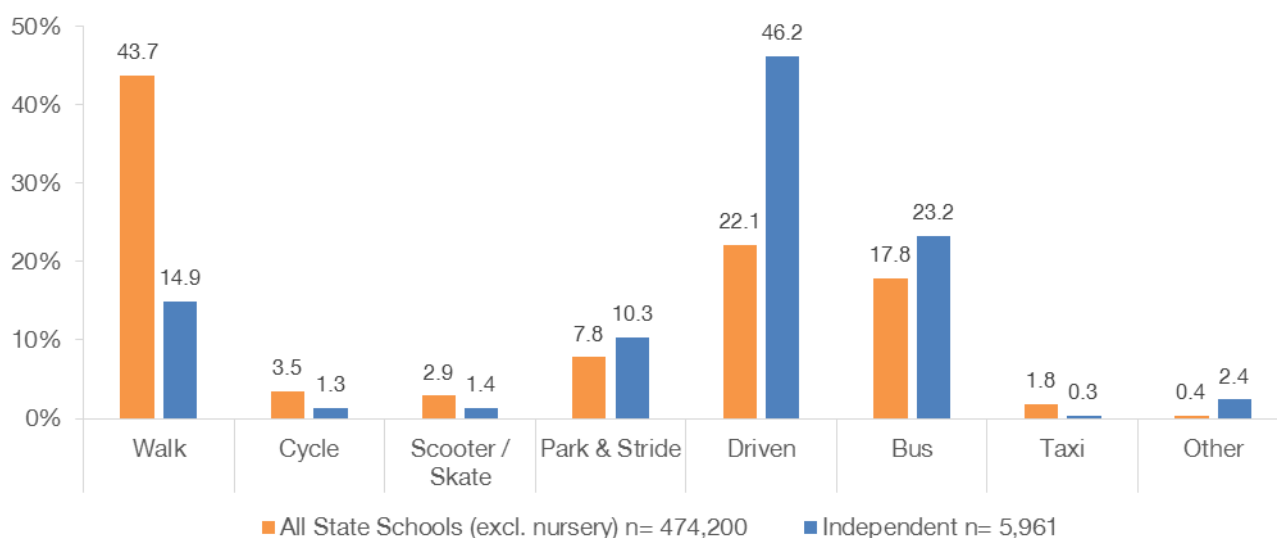
Multi-mode travel

In 2015, 10.3% of independent school pupils report travelling to school using multiple modes⁴³, compared to 7.8% of state school pupils.

Results for the comparison between all state schools (excluding nursery) and independent schools are displayed in Chart 9-2, Table 9-1 (page 20) and Table 9-3 (page 21).

For a breakdown of these results by school type and year group, please see Table 9-3 (page 20).

Chart 9-2 National travel modes: All state schools (excluding nursery) and independent comparison of travel modes, 2015



⁴³ Park and stride - driven part of the way by car and walk the rest

9.4 Data tables

Table 9-1 National travel modes: by school type, 2015⁴⁴

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate ⁴⁵	Park & Stride ⁴³	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Nursery	39.3%	3.2%	3.8%	3.7%	46.1%	2.7%	1.0%	0.3%	21,398
Primary	44.6%	5.1%	4.5%	10.0%	26.8%	7.1%	1.7%	0.2%	298,194
Secondary	42.7%	1.0%	0.2%	4.1%	14.3%	35.9%	1.2%	0.7%	173,841
SEN	2.0%	0.5%	*	*	3.4%	41.0%	48.5%	4.6%	2,165
Independent	14.9%	1.3%	1.4%	10.3%	46.2%	23.2%	0.3%	2.4%	5,961

Table 9-2 National travel modes: all state schools (excluding nursery), 2008-2015⁴⁶

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
2008	48.7%	2.8%	0.7%	6.1%	21.7%	18.2%	1.4%	0.4%	389,799
2009	47.1%	2.4%	0.6%	6.7%	23.1%	18.1%	1.6%	0.4%	413,118
2010	46.0%	2.8%	0.7%	7.5%	22.7%	18.2%	1.6%	0.5%	435,770
2011	46.0%	3.0%	1.0%	7.5%	22.3%	18.2%	1.6%	0.3%	424,829
2012	45.6%	3.0%	1.7%	7.7%	21.8%	18.0%	1.7%	0.5%	450,192
2013	44.4%	3.5%	2.8%	7.5%	21.1%	18.7%	1.6%	0.4%	461,707
2014	44.7%	3.5%	2.8%	7.8%	21.6%	17.7%	1.7%	0.4%	480,155
2015	43.7%	3.5%	2.9%	7.8%	22.1%	17.8%	1.8%	0.4%	474,200

⁴⁴ Table 2.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

⁴⁵ Value(s) for SEN pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see Technical Note 10.5.1

⁴⁶ Table 2.2 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

Table 9-3 National travel modes: by school type and year group, 2015⁴⁷

School Type Year Group	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Primary									
P1-4	42.0%	4.8%	4.9%	9.7%	29.9%	6.8%	1.7%	0.2%	159,106
P5-7	47.8%	5.6%	4.0%	10.9%	22.5%	7.5%	1.6%	0.1%	106,838
Secondary									
S1-3	43.4%	1.1%	0.2%	4.7%	13.1%	35.6%	1.4%	0.6%	79,963
S4-6	41.8%	0.8%	0.3%	4.0%	16.4%	35.0%	1.1%	0.7%	58,181
SEN⁴⁸									
P1-4	*	*	0.0%	0.0%	*	33.6%	55.2%	9.0%	223
P5-7	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	58.2%	24.3%	13.0%	177
S1-3	*	*	0.0%	0.0%	*	33.6%	55.2%	9.0%	223
S4-6	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	33.1%	47.2%	9.3%	248
Independent⁴⁹									
P1-4	17.2%	*	*	7.2%	34.3%	35.7%	0.6%	4.5%	1,276
P5-7	15.0%	1.4%	*	14.1%	45.1%	21.6%	*	1.4%	1,267
S1-3	17.2%	*	*	7.2%	34.3%	35.7%	0.6%	4.5%	1,276
S4-6	20.5%	*	*	6.2%	32.5%	35.6%	*	4.8%	1,256

⁴⁷ Table 2.4 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

⁴⁸ Value(s) for SEN pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see Technical Note 10.5.1

⁴⁹ Value(s) for Independent pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see Technical Note 10.5.1

10 Technical notes

10.1 Data collection

- 10.1.1 Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2015, data collection took place between the 7th and 11th September. In 2016 data collection will take place between 12th and 16th September.
- 10.1.2 All 32 local authorities in Scotland are invited to take part in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. As with the census, there is no quota-based sampling or selective participation mechanisms in the survey sampling design. As such, it is designed to acquire and record information about any and all pupils enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and independent schools in Scotland.
- 10.1.3 This approach is designed to produce a large national dataset which can be used to examine information on mode of travel to school in detail at a national, local authority and school level as well as by school type and year group.
- 10.1.4 Pupils of primary and secondary school age are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves. Assistance may be provided to nursery or SEN school pupils by a parent, guardian or member of school staff when responding to the survey, depending on the level of support required.

10.2 Response rates

- 10.2.1 There are limitations to the comparability of data across years; although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, survey sample size has increased considerably. Changes in results have not been tested for statistical significance.
- 10.2.2 Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of equivalent schools in Scotland and equivalent Scottish school roll are calculated using the Scottish Government Education Statistics⁵⁰. Data on both the number of schools and their pupil roll is available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools from the Scottish Government. Pupil roll numbers are not published for state nursery schools nor is any data provided for independent schools in Scotland.
- 10.2.3 Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of Scottish/LA school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland/LA are calculated using Scottish Government Education Statistics. This is only available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools. It is therefore not possible to calculate these receipt or response rates from nursery or independent school types.

⁵⁰ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

10.3 School type

- 10.3.1 All state schools includes primary, secondary and Special Education Needs (SEN) schools only.
- 10.3.2 All schools includes primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools only.
- 10.3.3 Nursery data is presented separately as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected (from 7,999 pupil responses in 2009 to 21,398 in 2015).

10.4 Interpreting results

- 10.4.1 In 2013 a prize draw was offered to schools as an incentive for returning responses from all year groups by Sustrans Scotland. Between 2012 and 2013, the percentage of state schools responding to the survey increased from 76.2% to 78.7%. However, it is not possible to ascertain whether a proportion of these schools were encouraged by the incentive or whether this increase in school responses was the continuation of an overall trend.
- 10.4.2 The aggregated national-level results are not necessarily based on the same pupils each year as the same schools/pupils might not respond to the survey each year. The survey data is not weighted to take this into account. This may have implications for year on year comparison; particular caution should be applied when attempting to draw conclusions from small percentage point changes.
- 10.4.3 Where the sample size is small (totalling less than 100), care should be taken when interpreting results. Moreover, fields with a small number of responses may see large changes in percentage between years.
- 10.4.4 A number of variables may impact on travel behaviour from year to year (e.g. weather conditions, school mergers, closures and relocations) as well as policies and schemes introduced by central and local government or individual schools. Therefore, caution should be applied when seeking to understand annual variations.
- 10.4.5 As the Hands Up Scotland Survey is carried out over a one week period, weather conditions may differ considerably from year to year. It should be noted that weather conditions have an impact on travel choices and may influence pupil response to the survey, although the phrasing of the survey question aims to overcome this limitation as much as possible.
- 10.4.6 Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100%.

10.5 Confidentiality

- 10.5.1 Where a percentage represents a value of between one and four pupils, it has been suppressed to maintain anonymity of respondents and replaced with an asterisk (*).
- 10.5.2 Where a particular school type does not exist within a local authority (e.g. there are no SEN or independent schools), the data cells have been shaded out.

10.6 Official Statistics Publication

- 10.6.1 The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been designated an Official Statistic in Scotland by Parliamentary Order and is produced in line with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The code covers a range of measures, such as relevance, integrity, quality, accessibility, value for money and freedom from political influence⁵¹.
- 10.6.2 A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1st June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland 2011⁵². The primary aim of Official Statistics in Scotland is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government and others⁵³.
- 10.6.3 More information on the standards of Official Statistics in Scotland is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About>

10.7 Enquiries

- 10.7.1 For media enquiries relating to the information contained in this, or any other Hands Up Scotland Survey documents, please contact Sustrans' Press Office on email at press@sustrans.org.uk
- 10.7.2 Non-media enquiries about Hands Up Scotland Survey and data requests should be made to Sustrans' Hands Up Scotland Team, Sustrans Research & Monitoring Unit, 5th Floor, Colston Tower, Bristol, BS1 4UX or email HandsUpScotland@sustrans.org.uk
- Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit assesses the impacts of Sustrans' work and evaluates the interventions of partners and clients across the UK, including extensive work with schools and young people. More information is available at: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/research-monitoring-and-evaluation>

⁵¹ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/about-this-site/index.html>

⁵² Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

⁵³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats>