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# National Summary Report

June 2017



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Hands Up Scotland Survey 2016: National Summary Report

External

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National Summary Report



National response rates: number of schools responding to the survey, 2016.....

National response rates: number and percentage of pupils responding to the survey, out of total Scottish state school roll for each school type 2016.....

National travel categories: by school type, 2016.....

National travel modes: by school type, 2016.....

National travel modes: by school type and year group, 2016.....

National response rates: number of state and all schools (excluding nursery) responding to the survey, and state schools responding as a proportion of all state schools in Scotland, 2008-2016.....

National response rates: number of state and all school pupils (excluding nursery) responding to the survey, and state school pupils responding as a proportion of all pupils in Scotland, 2008-2016.....

Nursery participation: number of nursery schools and pupils participating in the survey, 2008 2016.....

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey of pupils enrolled at schools in Scotland

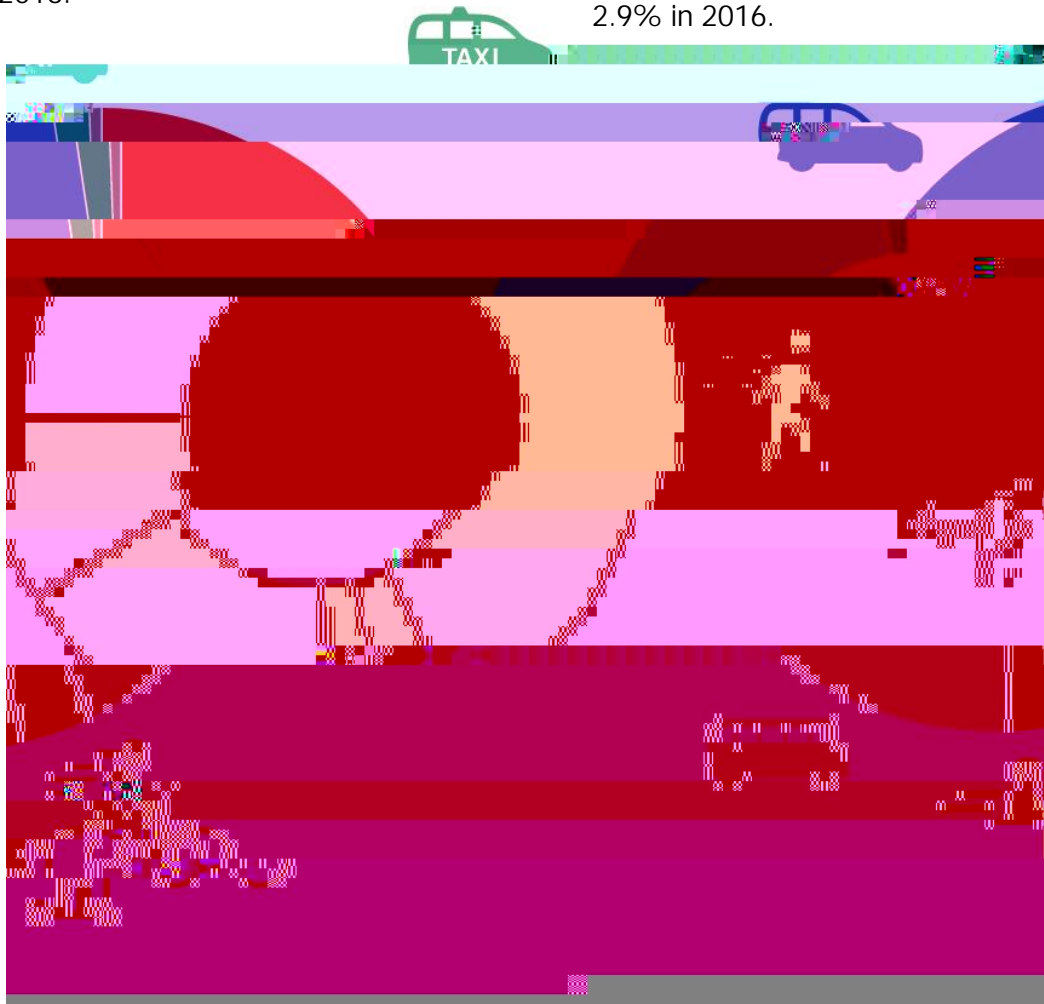
Overall, this figure has changed little over the 9 years of the survey, from 24.5% in 2010, to a low of 23.0% in 2013.

Pupils being driven to school in a car has decreased slightly from 22.9% in 2010, to 22.3% in 2016.

Pupils using a taxi to travel to school has increased slightly from 1.6% in 2010, to 1.8% in 2016.

Active travel has consistently remained the most frequently reported mode of travel to school in Scotland, from 49.3% in 2010, to a high of 50.4% in 2014.

Walking to school has decreased from 45.8% in 2010, to 42.8% in 2016. Cycling to school has increased from 2.8% in 2010, to 3.6% in 2016. Scootering or skating to school has increased from 0.7% in 2010, to 2.9% in 2016.



Overall, the percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has increased from 7.4% in 2010, to 9.3% in 2016.

Overall, the percentage of pupils travelling to school using the bus has decreased from 18.2% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2016.



The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey 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.

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 Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

- Be understandable and useful to stakeholders and so lead to a high level of use of the Hands

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is conducted each September, and has been running since 2008. Results are reported annually, with publication towards the end of the academic year.

The National Summary Report is designed to act as an introduction to the survey, presenting the results at a national level, as well as the policy context that the survey results can be used to evidence.

A short summary of key national level results for the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2016 is available in the form of a Statistical News Release. Supplementary National Results tables, including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008 to 2016, are also available. These documents can be download

<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. These local authority reports contain all data collected between 2008 and 2016.

As 2010 was the first year all 32 local authorities took part in the survey, this is used as the baseline year for the purpose of analysing trends in the data.

The National Summary Report was reissued on 21 June 2017, with values from previous publication of the report (25 May 2017) updated to include primary school pupils omitted in error.

The Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey team can be contacted with feedback or enquiries.<sup>5</sup> Where users wish to undertake more detailed analyses for a specific project and the national level documents







In light of the policy context, this year Hands Up Scotland Survey data has been re-categorised:

- walking, cycling and scootering or skating,
- Public sustainable travel: bus,
- Multi-mode travel: park & stride,<sup>26</sup>
- Private motorised travel: driven (car) and taxi.

This categorisation is intended to support more useful interpretation of results for policy areas, particularly with regards to health (levels of active travel) and air pollution, and CO<sup>2</sup> emissions (levels of private motorised travel).

As well as helping to evidence national policy areas, the 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 in

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 Scotland<sup>27</sup> and a list of the main statistical publications in relation to transport in Scotland is available from the Transport Scotland website.<sup>28</sup>

The *Pupil Level Annual School Census*<sup>29</sup> 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 Survey*,<sup>30</sup> and the *Travel Survey for Northern Ireland*.<sup>31</sup>

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.

g Unit is responsible for producing survey participation guidance and forms to circulate to local authority officers. Local authority officers are then responsible for distributing this to schools, and providing ongoing support where necessary.

Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs annually in the second week of September. In 2016, data collection took place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Data collection is conducted by school staff, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans.

8 response options:

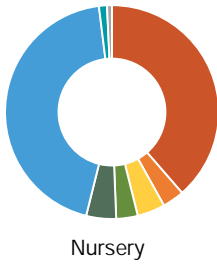
Walk

In 2016, 31 local authorities<sup>35</sup> in Scotland participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey during the designated survey week (12 to 16 September 2016).

2,844 nurseries and 2,575 schools received the survey from their local authority officers. The survey was sent to 2,484 state schools,<sup>36</sup> representing 98.2% of all state schools in Scotland.

A total of 452 nurseries and 1,938 schools responded to the survey. 1,923 state schools took part, representing 77.4% of state schools receiving the survey and 76.0% of all state schools in Scotland.





The proportion of nursery school pupils normally travelling to school by an active mode is slightly more than those that travel to school using private motorised travel modes, at 46.1% and 45.4% respectively. Of the active modes, walking was the most frequent mode, reported by 38.6% of nursery pupils. 3.3% of nursery pupils said they normally cycle to nursery, and 4.2% said they normally scooter or skate.

3.3% of nursery school pupils reported normally travelling to school by bus.

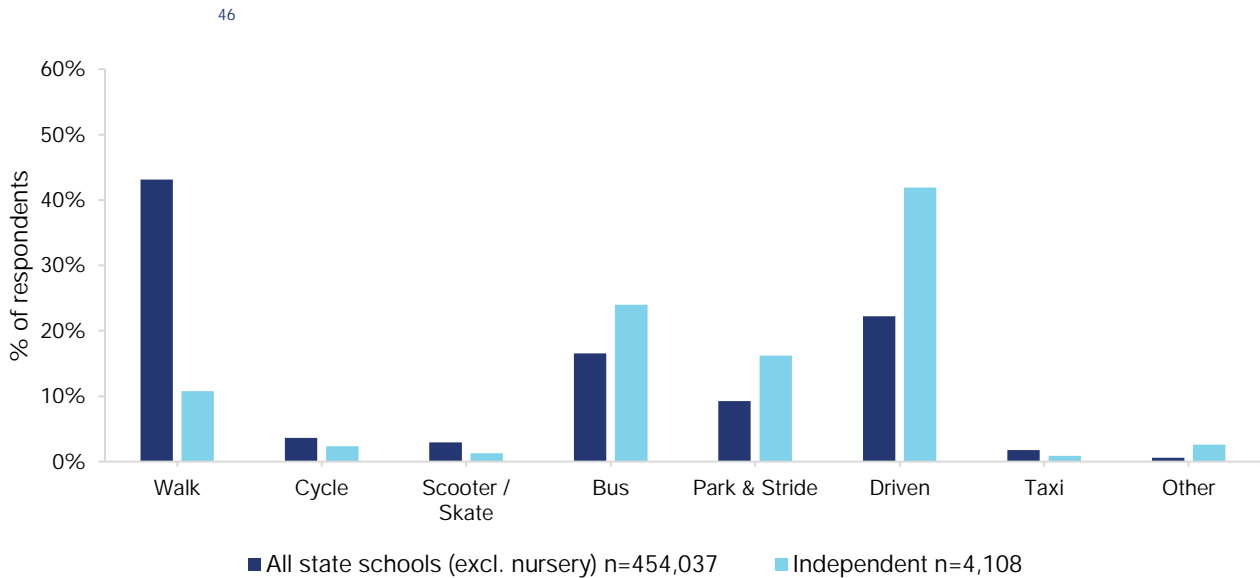
4.5% of nursery school pupils reported normally travelling to school by park and stride.

45.4% of nursery school pupils reported normally travelling to school by private motorised transport, 44.2% driven by car and 1.2% by taxi.

.271 7 137 6 514.2475.435210 735475.40107 617.44 28 734.98rg134.58 659.93 m[(S)6654.752







Pupils in state schools reported higher active travel levels compared to independent schools in 2016, with half of state school pupils (49.7%) either walking, cycling, scootering or skating, compared to 14.4% of independent school pupils.

This trend is true of each mode of travel within the active category. 43.1% of state school pupils report normally walking to school compared to 10.8% of independent school pupils. 3.6% of state school pupils report normally cycling to school compared to 2.4% of independent school pupils. 2.9% of state school pupils report normally scootering or skating to school, compared to 1.3% of independent school pupils.

A lower percentage of state school pupils (16.6%) reported normally travelling to school by bus compared to 24.0% of independent school pupils.

9.3% of state school pupils reported travelling to school using multiple modes, compared to 16.2% of independent school pupils.

A lower percentage of state school pupils normally travel using private motorised modes at 24.0% compared to 42.8% of independent school pupils.

22.2% of state school pupils report normally travelling to school by car compared to 41.9% of independent school pupils. However, more state school pupils (1.8%) travel to school by taxi, compared to 0.9% of independent school pupils.



All 32 local authorities in Scotland participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey between 2010 and 2015. 29 local authorities participated in 2008 and 31 local authorities participated in 2009 and 2016.

In 2016, 6 local authorities<sup>48</sup> received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools, 11 local authorities<sup>49</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools and 2 local authorities<sup>50</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all SEN schools.

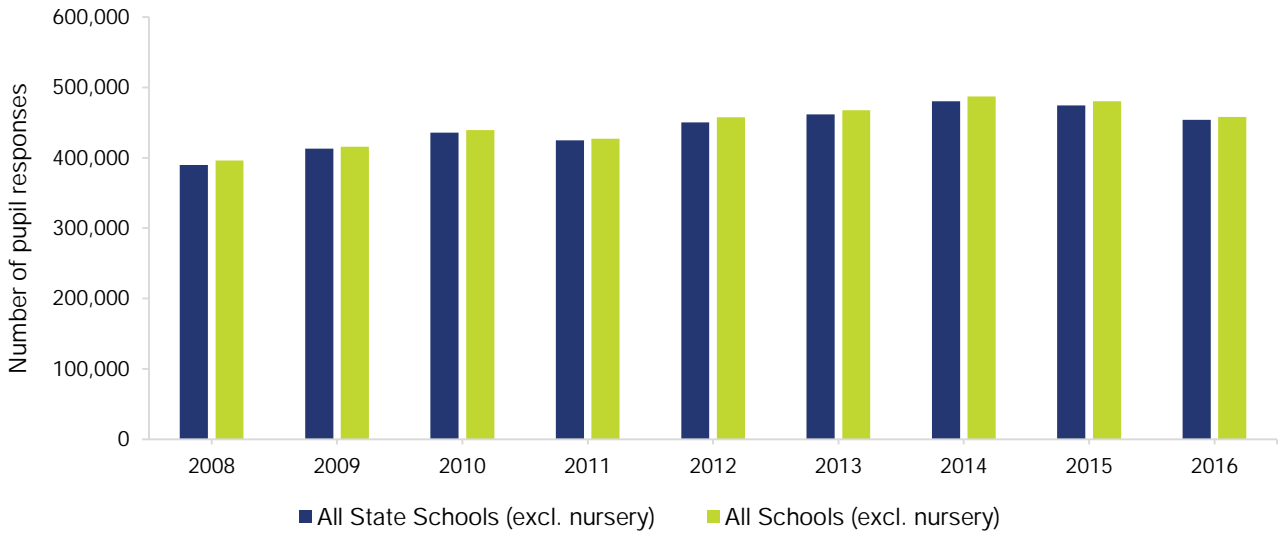
In all cases, this is a decrease in school response rates in comparison to 2015, when 12 local authorities<sup>51</sup> received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools, 18 local authorities<sup>52</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools and 4 local authorities<sup>53</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all SEN schools.

The total number of state schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has decreased from a maximum of 2,045 in 2015 to 1,923 in 2016.

State school responses as a proportion of all state schools in Scotland increased from 76.0% in 2010 to 81.1% in 2015, then decreased to 76.0% in 2016. This amounts to 5.1% fewer state schools in Scotland participating in 2016 as compared to 2015.<sup>35</sup>

Similarly, the total number of schools (including independent) responding to the survey has increased fairly steadily from 1,987 in 2010 to 2,060 in 2015, but has decreased to 1,938 in 2016.

Year	Number of state schools responding	% of Scottish state schools <sup>55</sup>	Number of schools responding
2008	1,811	67.6%	1,824
2009	1,928	72.5%	1,939
2010	1,977	76.0%	1,987
2011	1,885	73.1%	1,893
2012	1,969	77.0%	1,982
2013	2,004	78.7%	2,017
2014	2,036	80.5%	2,052
2015	2,045	81.1%	2,060
2016 <sup>38</sup>	1,923	76.0%	1,938



The number and percentage of state school pupils responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has fluctuated year on year, but increased from 435,770 (64.9% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland) in 2010 to 454,037 (66.3%) in 2016. Highest pupil response rates of 480,155 (70.9%) were recorded in 2014.

The total number of pupils from all schools responding to the survey has fluctuated year on year, however increased from 439,401 in 2010 to 458,145 in 2016.

Year	Number of state school pupil respondents	% of Scottish state school roll	Number of school pupil respondents
2008	389,799	57.3%	396,377
2009	413,118	61.2%	415,804
2010	435,770	64.9%	439,401
2011	424,829	63.5%	427,104
2012	450,192	67.1%	457,488
2013	461,707	67.7%	467,397
2014	480,155	70.9%	487,147
2015	474,200	69.7%	480,161
2016 <sup>38</sup>	454,037	66.3%	458,145

For considerations relating to response rates, please see Technical Notes 8.2 and 8.4.





has facilitated comment around differences in motorised transport use by primary and secondary school children. In previous years, secondary pupils have been highlighted as reporting the highest motorised travel use, however it is now apparent that much of this is public sustainable travel. 16.2% of secondary school pupils report using private motorised transport, in comparison to 27.9% of primary school pupils, 53.5% of SEN pupils, and 42.8% of independent school pupils.

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by other modes has fluctuated between 0.3% in 2011 and 0.6% in 2016.

This year there has been a large increase in SEN pupils reporting travel to school by other means, from 4.6% in 2015 to 14.0% in 2016. However this is not unusual and SEN pupils reporting travelling by other modes has fluctuated considerably between a low of 1.1% in 2011 and a high of 21.3% in 2010.

refers to local authority taxis or other transport provided by the local authority or school.



These data tables contain a further breakdown of results presented throughout section 7.

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Year	Active	Public sustainable	Multi-mode	Private motorised	Other
2008	51.8%	18.2%	6.1%	23.4%	0.5%
2009	49.9%	18.1%	6.7%	24.9%	0.4%
2010	49.3%	18.2%	7.4%	24.5%	0.5%
2011	49.9%	18.2%	7.5%	24.0%	0.5%
2012	49.7%	18.2%	7.8%	23.9%	0.5%
2013	50.3%	18.8%	7.5%	23.0%	0.4%
2014	50.4%	17.7%	7.8%	23.5%	0.5%
2015	49.7%	17.9%	7.8%	24.1%	0.4%
2016 <sup>38</sup>	49.3%	16.6%	9.3%	24.1%	0.6%

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Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Bus	Private motorised	Other
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- 8.1.1 Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2016 data collection took place between 12th and 16th September. In 2017 data collection will take place between 11th and 15th September. All 32 local authorities in Scotland are invited to take part in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. The survey is designed to record information about any and all pupils enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools in Scotland.
- 8.1.3 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.
- 8.1.4 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.
- 8.2.1 There are limitations to the comparability of data across years; although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, response rates have varied considerably over the 9 years that the Hands Up Scotland Survey has been conducted.
- 8.2.2 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 Statistics. 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 or independent schools in Scotland.
- 8.2.3 Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of Scottish/local authority school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland/local authority are calculated using Scottish Government Education Statistics. As per 8.2.2, 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.
- 8.3.1 All state schools includes primary, secondary and SEN schools only.
- 8.3.2 All schools includes primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools only.
- 8.3.3 Nursery data is presented separately as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected.



□

The aggregated national-level results are not necessarily based on the same pupils each year as the same local authorities/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. For further information regarding school participation please refer to Table 1.5 Local authority response rates: number of schools surveyed, and Table 1.6 Local authority response rates: number of schools returning data, in the Hands Up Scotland Survey National Results data tables

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

- 8.4.2 Where the number of responses is low (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.
- 8.4.3 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.
- 8.4.4 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.
- 8.4.5 Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100.0%, and category totals may not always add up to the values presented for individual travel modes.
- 8.4.6 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 77.0% to 78.7%. However, it is not possible to as







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<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00488493.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Park and stride: driven part of the way by car and walk the rest.

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<sup>53</sup> Aberdeenshire, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire and Perth & Kinross received responses from all SEN schools in 2015.

<sup>54</sup> 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>

<sup>55</sup> 2008-2015 values from previous reports updated to ensure consistent calculation based on Scottish Government Education Statistics data.

<sup>56</sup> 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>

<sup>57</sup> Table 1.1 and 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>