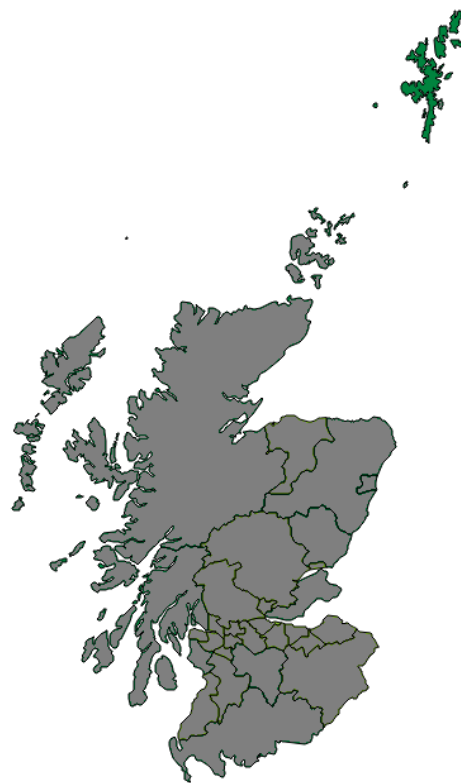


Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020)

Spotlight on differences between Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles



Shetland Mainland: East Burra, Mainland of Shetland, Muckle Roe, Trondra, West Burra

Shetland Outer islands: Bressay, Bruray, Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Housay, Papa Stour, Unst, Whalsay, Yell



Photo credit: Miles Welstead

RESAS

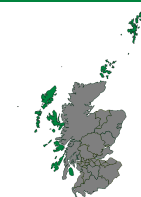
Rural & Environmental Science
and Analytical Services



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

National Islands Plan Survey

Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles



What is the report about?

The Scottish Government developed Scotland's National Islands Plan (2019) following the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. The National Islands Plan Survey (*National Islands Plan Survey Final Report*) gathered data with a view to collecting information about people's lives against which we'll measure the effectiveness of the Plan.

The National Islands Plan Survey collected data from October 2020 - January 2021 from 4,347 people from 59 islands. Responses were based on perceptions of island life prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This publication reports on the findings for Shetland mainland and outer isles only and is part of a series of short reports.

Where can I find out more?

An interactive data explorer can be found here: [Scottish National Islands Plan Survey \(2020\): results explorer \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/scottish-national-islands-plan-survey-2020/). This allows you to explore the data by island region, age group, gender, household income, long term health condition, and household type.

There are three other publications in this series of four. They include:

- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020) Spotlight on demographic differences between people living in the Scottish islands
- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020) Spotlight on differences between the Inner Hebrides and Outer Hebrides
- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020) Spotlight on differences between Orkney Mainland and Orkney Outer Isles

What do we recommend?

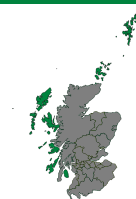
Life is considerably different in each island group and different age groups also have distinct experiences of island life. Any recommendations or policies should recognise this and be tailored to each island group and the different age groups within them.

Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank all of the survey respondents for sharing their time and experiences. The James Hutton Institute conducted the Scottish National Islands Plan Survey on behalf of the Scottish Government. We'd also like to thank all the organisations and individuals involved for their work in developing and analysing the survey, including Miles Welstead (Scottish Government / Scottish Graduate School of Social Science Internship). The views expressed in this report are those of the researchers and do not necessarily represent those of the Scottish Government or Scottish Ministers.

National Islands Plan Survey

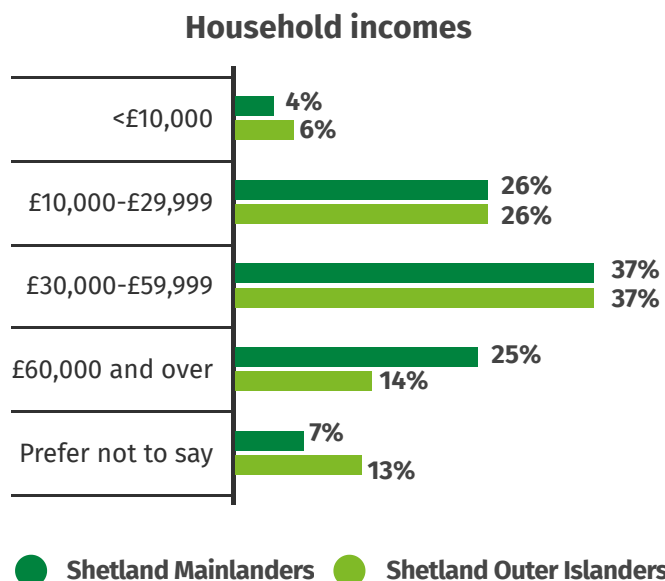
Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles



1) Population

The majority of respondents agree that they plan to stay on the island for the next five years.

Household income is significantly higher for those living on Shetland Mainland. 25% of Shetland mainlanders have a household income of £60,000 or more, compared to only 14% of the Shetland Outer Islanders.

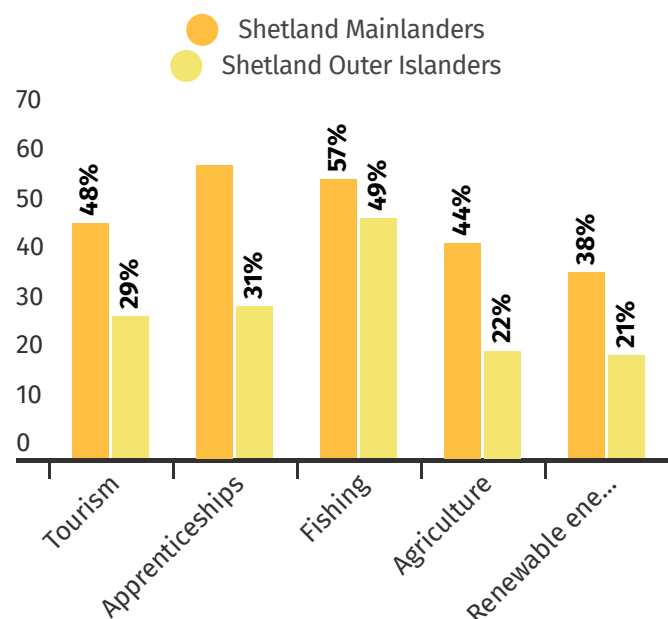


2) Jobs

42% of Shetland Mainlanders perceive that there is a good array of jobs to suit interests, skills, and ambitions, whilst only 20% of Shetland Outer Islanders feel this way.

Responses indicate that perceptions of job opportunities differ between Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles. Respondents from both regions are most positive about fishing opportunities, and almost half of the Shetland Mainlanders perceive there are apprenticeships available.

Agree there are job opportunities in...



3) Transport

Shetland Outer Islanders are less positive about transport on all measures. Only 43% live within walking distance of a bus.

33% of Shetland Outer Islanders feel that the local bus connects to essential services, compared to 73% of Shetland Mainlanders. Less than half (49%) of the Shetland Outer Islanders feel safe using the roads and pavements, whilst 63% of Shetland Mainlanders feel this way.

Live within walking distance of a bus



● Shetland Mainlanders
● Shetland Outer Islanders



4) Housing

Perceived house availability is higher for Shetland Mainlanders, however fewer Shetland mainlanders (19%) feel there is enough housing to meet local demand compared to Shetland Outer Islanders (32%).

Of the perceived available housing, only 36% of Shetland Mainlanders and 41% of Shetland Outer Islanders agree that there are affordable options.



54%

Shetland Mainlanders agree there is a variety of housing available to meet local needs



42%

Shetland Outer Islanders agree there is a variety of housing available to meet local needs

5) Fuel Poverty

77% of Shetland Mainlanders and 79% of Shetland Outer Islanders believe that their heating bills have increased in the past year.

14% of Shetland Mainlanders and 12% of Shetland Outer Islanders feel that they were unable to afford to keep their home warm over the past year.

Energy efficiency schemes have been accessed by 13% of Shetland Mainlanders and 22% of the Shetland Outer Islanders.

Respondents who have received help from an energy efficiency scheme



13%

Shetland Mainlanders



22%

Shetland Outer Islanders

6) Digital

Most respondents have access to the internet. However, whilst 61% of Shetland Mainlanders agree that their connection was reliable, only 30% of Shetland Outer Islanders feel this way.

Over half of the Shetland Mainlanders have good mobile signal in the home, compared to 43% of Shetland Outer Islanders.

Agree that their internet is reliable

61%



30%

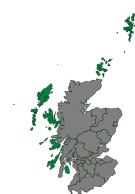


● Shetland Mainlanders

● Shetland Outer Islanders

National Islands Plan Survey

Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles

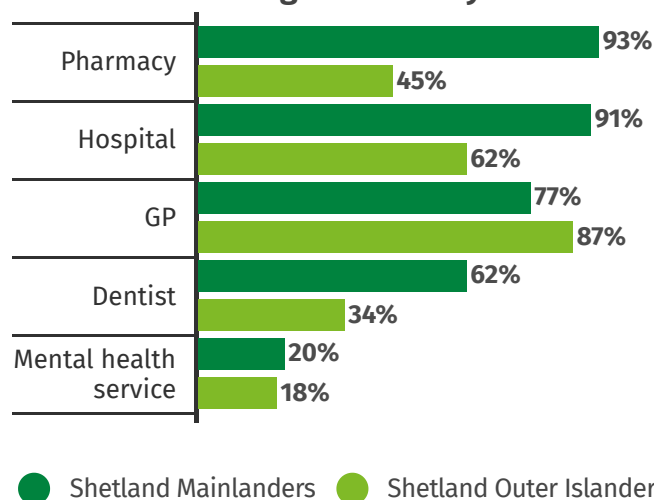


7) Health

In general, Shetland Mainlanders have higher perceived access to healthcare than Shetland Outer Islanders.

In particular, Shetland Mainlanders have much higher perceived access to a pharmacy. Perceived access to sport facilities is high in both Shetland Mainlanders (93%) and Shetland Outer Islanders (84%). However, in general, people felt that facilities were not affordable.

% of those who agree it is easy to access...

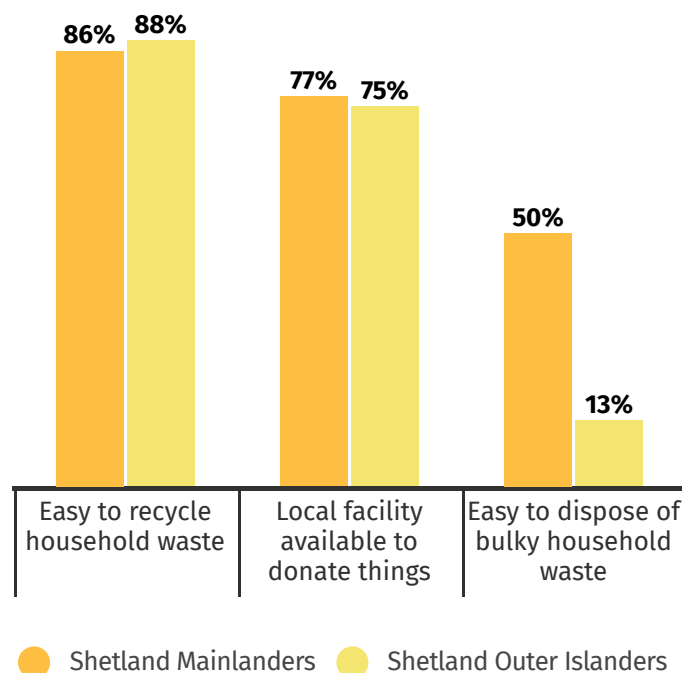


8) Environment

Just under three quarters of both Shetland Mainlanders (74%) and Shetland Outer Islanders (73%) agree that the environment is clean and litter free.

The vast majority of respondents also indicate that they see lots of wildlife and that the air quality is good.

Responses indicated that some people, particularly Shetland Outer Islanders, find it difficult to dispose of bulky items such as white goods and furniture.



9) Climate change

The majority of respondents from Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Islands buy food from local sources and a high proportion use LED light bulbs in the home.

Few respondents have had equipment installed to generate renewable energy for use in their home, and even fewer use an electric/hybrid car.



85% Shetland Mainlanders
92% Shetland Outer Islanders
buy food from local sources



13% Shetland Mainlanders
10% Shetland Outer Islanders
generate their own renewable energy



5% Shetland Mainlanders
3% Shetland Outer Islanders
use an electric/hybrid car

National Islands Plan Survey

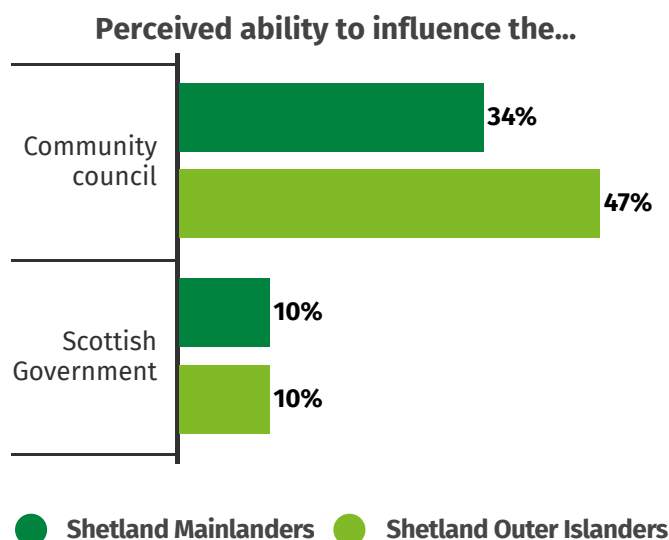
Shetland Mainland and Shetland Outer Isles



10) Community empowerment

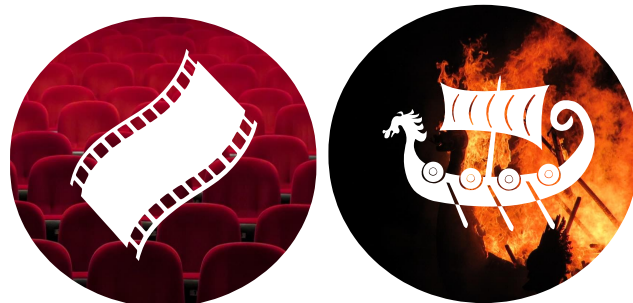
79% of Shetland Outer Islanders and 82% of Shetland Mainlanders feel that there is a strong sense of community.

Perceived influence over the Scottish Government was low. A higher proportion of Shetland Outer Islanders feel that they can influence their community council compared to the Shetland Mainlanders.



11) Culture and language

69% of Shetland Mainlanders agree that there is investment in cultural and historic places, whilst only 48% of Outer Islanders feel this way.



12) Education

High proportions of both Shetland Mainlanders (94%) and Shetland Outer Islanders (92%) agree that children have access to good quality primary school education.

Outlooks differ significantly between regions on accessibility to education, with higher proportions of Shetland Mainlanders feeling that they have more access to college qualifications, university degrees, and professional training.

73% Shetland Mainlanders
60% Shetland Outer Islanders agree that they could access college education



53% Shetland Mainlanders
45% Shetland Outer Islanders agree that they could access university education



53% Shetland Mainlanders
48% Shetland Outer Islanders agree that they could access professional training



Resources

- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey Final Report (2020)
- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020) Visual summary of headline findings
- Scottish National Islands Plan survey questionnaire (2020)
- Scottish National Islands Plan Survey (2020): results explorer (shinyapps.io)