

Learning Disability Data: Looking Beyond Scotland (Background Report)

A report by the Fraser of
Allander Institute

Easy read version



May 2023

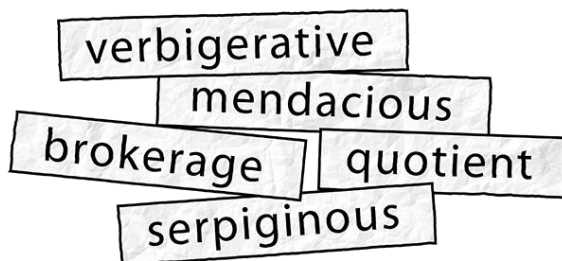
Who are the Fraser of Allander Institute?



We are researchers who want to know more about life for people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



We wrote this report.



In this report difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what they mean in the sentence after they have been used.

What is this report about?



This report is about the ways that different countries collect information on learning disabilities.



We have already written a report about how Scotland collects information on learning disabilities.



If you would like to read that report you can find it on our website.

Comparing Scotland with the rest of the UK



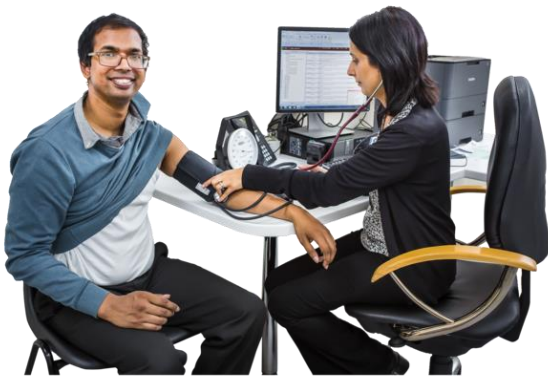
Scotland decides its own policies for learning disabilities.



That means we can look at the rest of the UK to see different ways of doing things.



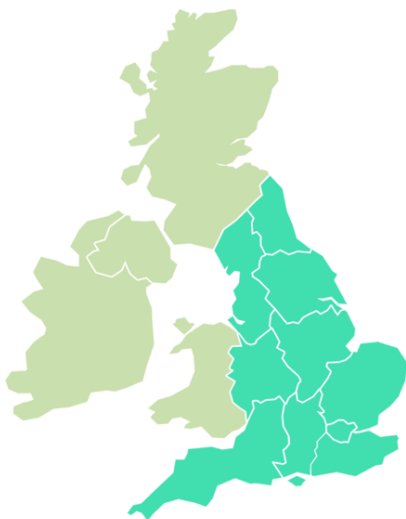
Some parts of the UK have a **learning disability register**.



A **learning disability register** is a list of people with a learning disability that the doctor's surgery looks after.



A learning disability register will help the doctor, nurse and other healthcare staff know what support is needed.



There are some things that England does that we think Scotland should consider.



Other parts of the UK are like Scotland and do not collect enough information to fully support people with learning disabilities.



It can be hard to compare learning disabilities across the UK because of differences in the way information is gathered.

Other countries



We have also looked at countries outside of the UK who collect information on learning disabilities in this report.



We can learn ideas from these countries to help collect better information on learning disabilities in Scotland.



Some countries collect more information about learning disabilities than we do in Scotland.



First the country will find out which people have a disability from their population **census**.



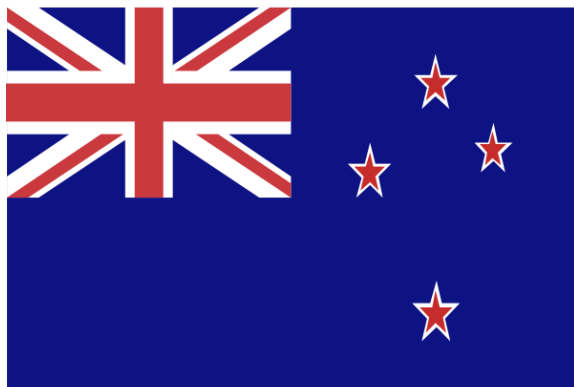
A census is a survey to collect information about the people living in a country.



Then they will send more detailed questions to people who said they have a disability.



In Canada this happens every 5 years.



In New Zealand they collect lots of other helpful **social and economic data** as part of their Disability Survey.



Social and economic data includes information like employment and housing and education.



This helps the country to learn more about people with learning disabilities.

What did we find?



Our research found there are some things that all countries find difficult when collecting information on people with learning disabilities.



Countries defining learning disabilities in different ways can make things confusing and unclear.

Confused



Every country needs to decide what information to collect and when to collect it.



Countries can only collect so much information because collecting information can be expensive.



It will cost more money to collect brand new information in Scotland.



It is very important that people with learning disabilities need to be involved in future choices about information that is collected.

Our website



You can read more
information on our website.

Our website is

www.fraserofallander.org/learning-disabilities

