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Staidrimh

Central
Statistics
Office

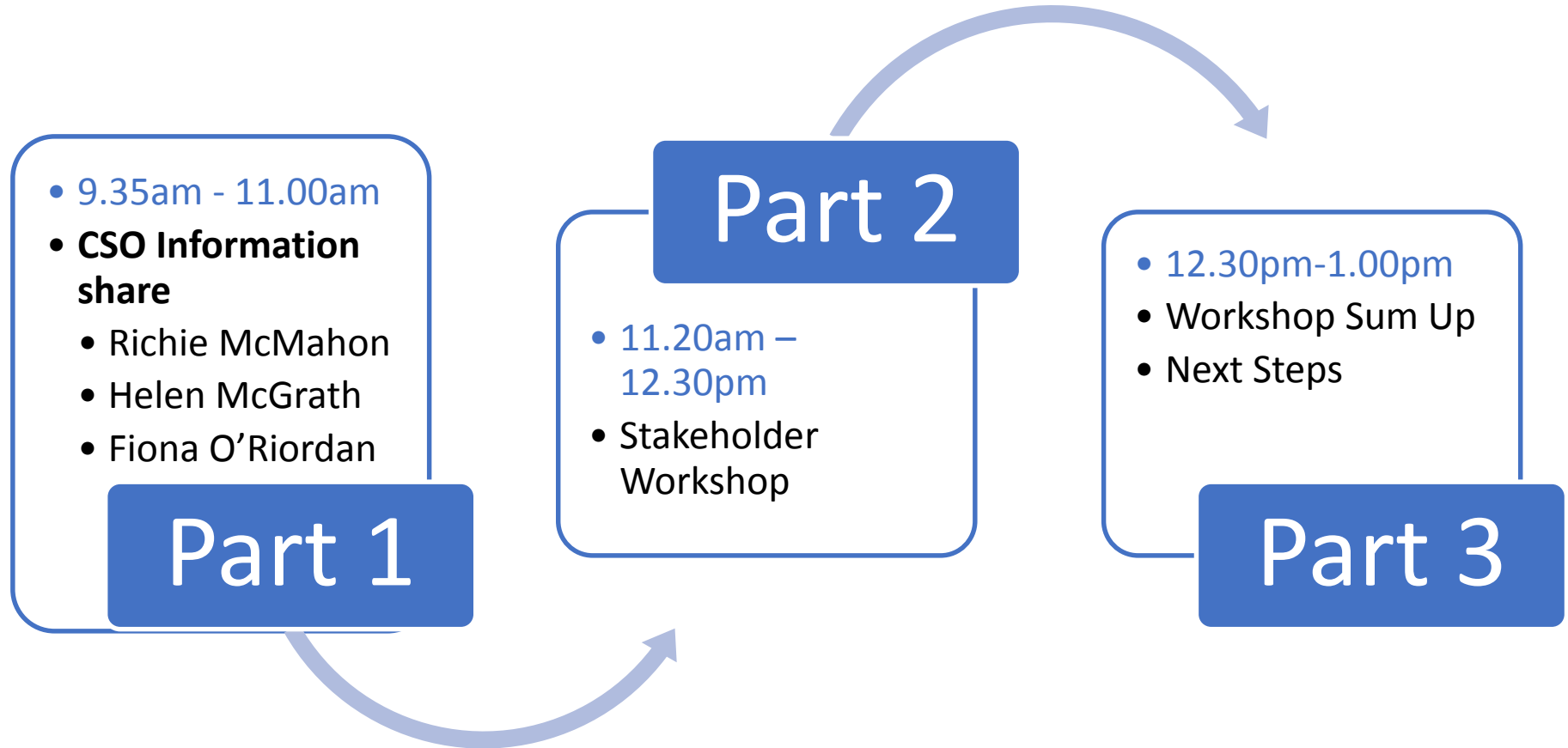
Sexual Violence Survey

Stakeholder Information Session

Summary Slides

22th May 2019

Session Layout





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Sexual Violence Survey

Overview of the Central Statistics Office

Assistant Director General
Richie McMahon

Sexual Violence Survey

- CSO requested to undertake survey in late 2018
- Fully appreciate the need for information on sexual violence
- CSO committed to the survey
- Working closely with Dept. of Justice and Equality
- Recognise the ground-breaking work done with SAVI



Sexual Violence Survey

- Establish statistics on sexual violence on a long term sustainable basis
- Provide high quality information for society
- Invested in new statistical division in the CSO
- Big challenges – value your input and advice
 - Today's townhall
 - Other fora



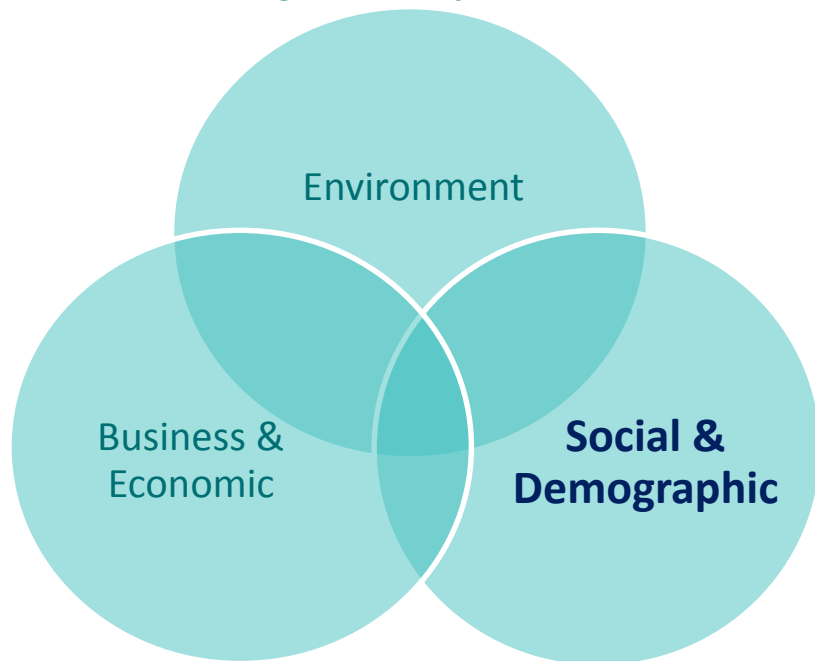
Central Statistics Office - Organisation

- Ireland's National Statistics Institute
- 800 staff spread over 3 locations
 - 150+ professional statisticians
 - 25 Statisticians embedded in other government departments
 - Specialist support units – HR, IT, Communications, Data Protection



Institutional Framework

- Compiler of 'Official Statistics' for Ireland
- Legal framework - Statistics Act, 1993
- CSO's role is to provide high quality information on key issues for our society



Importance of CSO statistics

Our statistics have real-world consequences

- Understanding society and societal issues and changes
- Monitoring economic progress
- Key policy decisions and fiscal planning
- Ireland's international reputation



Central Statistics Office - Mandate

Turning data into information and knowledge for Ireland



DATA

INFORMATION

KNOWLEDGE

**INFORMED
DECISION-
MAKING**

creates

which generates

and leads to

Core values of the CSO



TRUST.



www.cso.ie

Independence and objectivity of CSO

Section 13 – Independence on statistical matters

- The Director General shall have the sole responsibility for and be independent in the exercise of the functions of deciding—
 - (a) the statistical methodology and professional statistical standards used by the Office;
 - (b) the content of statistical releases and publications issued by the Office; and
 - (c) the timing and methods of dissemination of statistics compiled by the Office.



Confidentiality

Section 21 – Declaration of secrecy

- Legal obligations for CSO staff and researchers

Sections 21 – Protection of Information

- Information collected for statistical purposes only
- Prohibition on disclosure of information



Quality

Formal Quality Mechanisms

- Specialist statistical expertise across all areas
 - Questionnaire design, sampling, processing.....dissemination
- Quality Management Framework
 - Ensure quality control mechanisms in place
 - Repeatability of surveys
- International standards and peer review where necessary
- Sustainability and repeatability of data collection and outputs



Customer focus

- Large EU regulatory requirements
- Also meet wide variety of national statistical needs
 - Liaison with key user groups
 - Exploiting existing data sources
 - Add questions to existing surveys
 - Develop new surveys
- Tailored Dissemination channel
 - General public
 - Policy makers
 - Researchers



Central Statistics Office

- Thank you for your participation
- Input & advice really important
- Important that you support our work
 - Pilot
 - Survey operation
 - Dissemination of results
- Keep you informed





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CSO and SVS

Helen McGrath

Stakeholder Meeting Presentation #2
22 May 2019

Background

- Report of the Scoping Group on Sexual Violence Data
- Minister for Justice and Equality requested CSO to conduct it
 - Official statistics
 - Embedded in workplan for 10 years' time
- Memorandum of Understanding signed Jan 2019



Report of the Scoping Group on Sexual Violence Data

- Need for national survey on sexual violence
- Methodological approach described
- Data list provided
 - Identified issue with length of data list
- Solid basis for work to begin



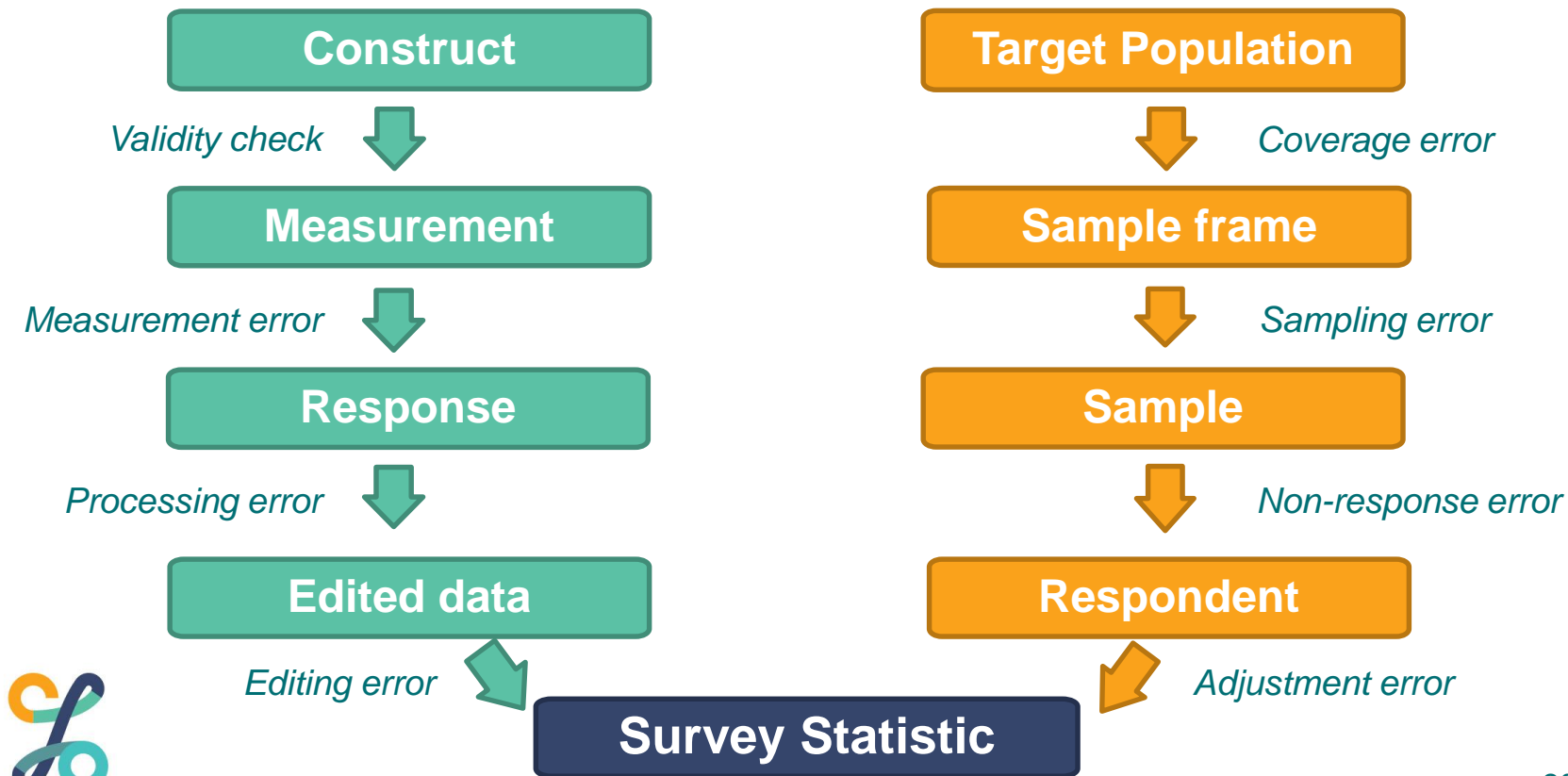
What is SVS?

- Prevalence of sexual violence in Ireland
- Nationally representative survey
- Using data list from Scoping Group as first iteration for refinement

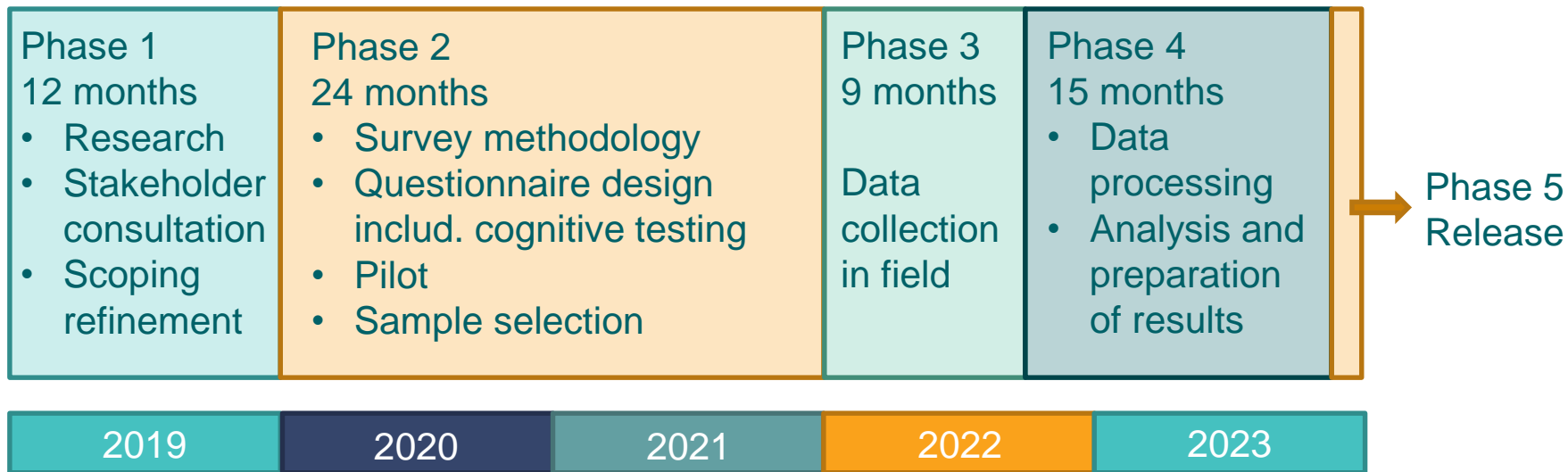
Respondent burden



Development model



Timeline



Why not SAVI #2?

- Changed environment
- Mode change potential
 - Initial contact with households
- Methodological updates
- Future-proofing the survey for next iteration

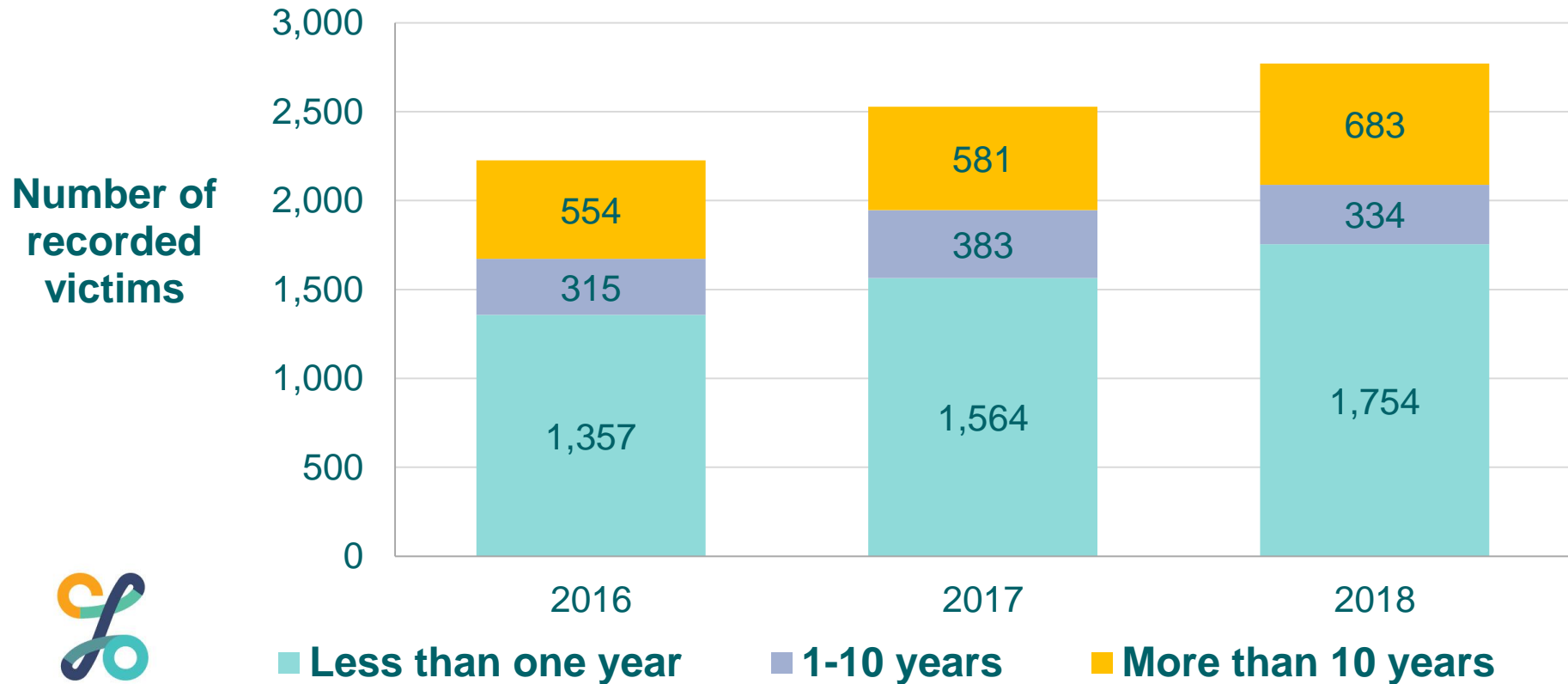


Other sources?

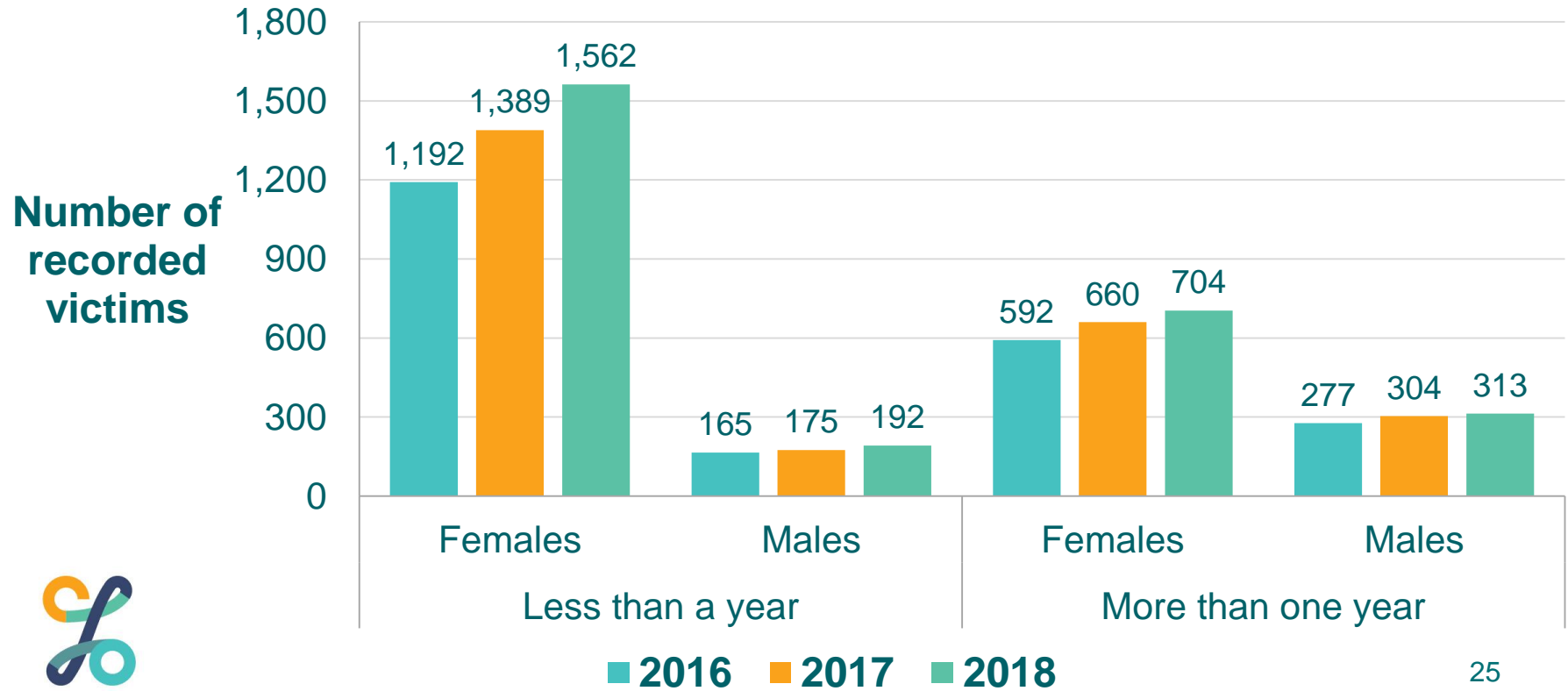
- Administrative data
- PULSE
 - Recorded Victims 2018
 - Statistics under reservation
- Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence



Recorded victims of sexual violence crimes by time lag in reporting



Recorded victims of sexual violence crimes by sex and time lag in reporting





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On publication day – what will it look like?

Helen McGrath/Fiona O’Riordan

Stakeholder Meeting Presentation #3
22 May 2019

Publication day

- Press conference
- Provided at 11am:
 - Release or Publication
 - Additional data provided via Statbank
 - Quality and Standards Report
 - Research Microdata File (RMF)



Report layout

Standard release



Themed releases



Standard publication



What can we offer after the day?

- Help understanding the results
- Custom tables
- Survey design (metadata) walkthrough
- Step by step breakdown of RMF process
- Format:
 - Information note
 - Detailed manual
 - Conference
 - Workshop
 - One-on-one communication



Results

Survey decisions
→
Impact on results



Environment

- Clerical abuse/Institutional abuse scandals
- Online harassment/cyber bullying
- Consent
- #MeToo movement
- No Excuses campaign 2019-2021

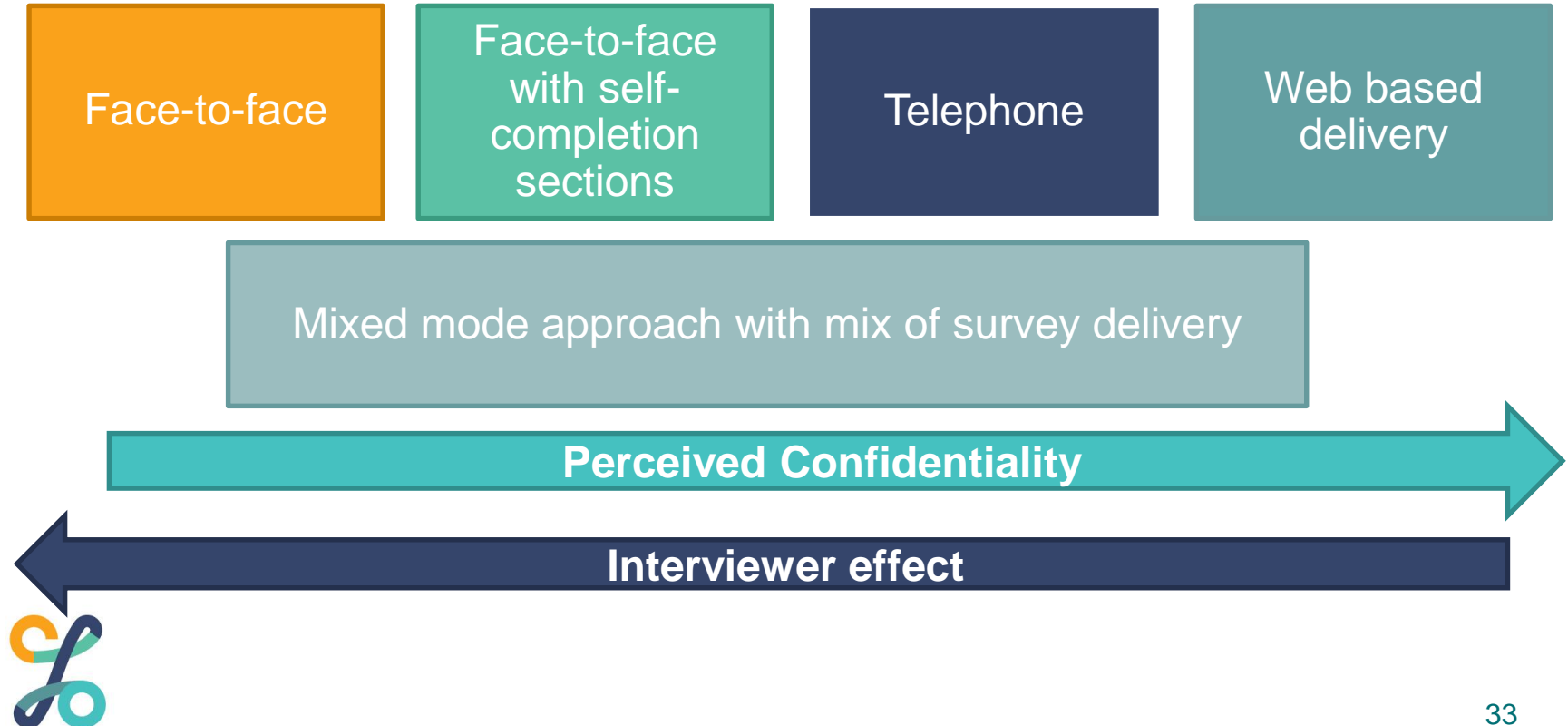


Survey format - Household survey

- Sample frame/size
- Target population
- Initial contact with households
- One person per household
- Granularity
- Reliability thresholds



Survey delivery (mode) selection



Mode - key considerations

- Ability to Support
 - Respondent
 - Interviewer
- Response rate
 - Household non-response
 - Question non-response



Mode - other important aspects

- Cost
- Convenience for respondent
- Questionnaire length
- Sample frame available?
- Development time





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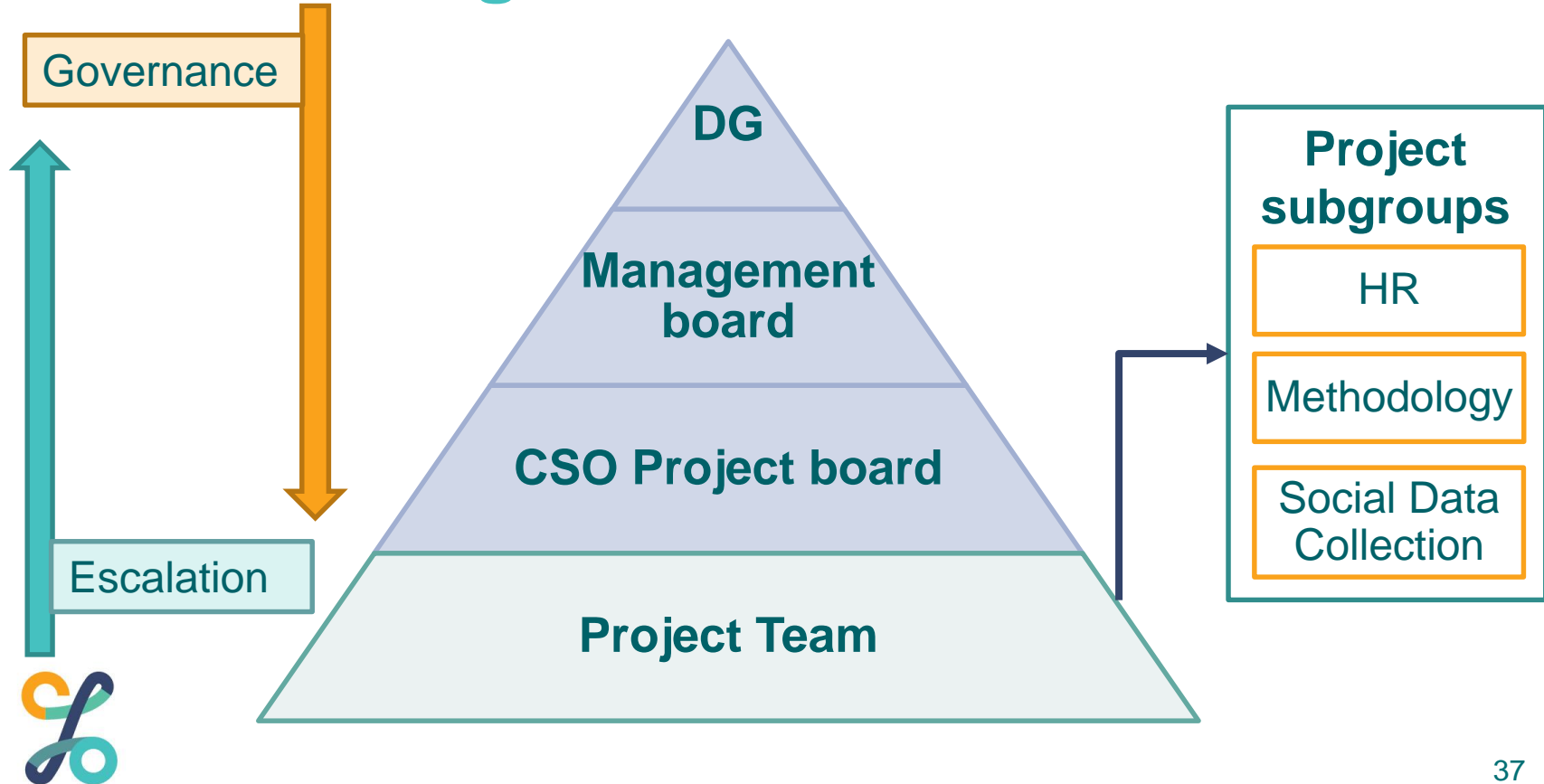
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Liaison Group – purpose and outline

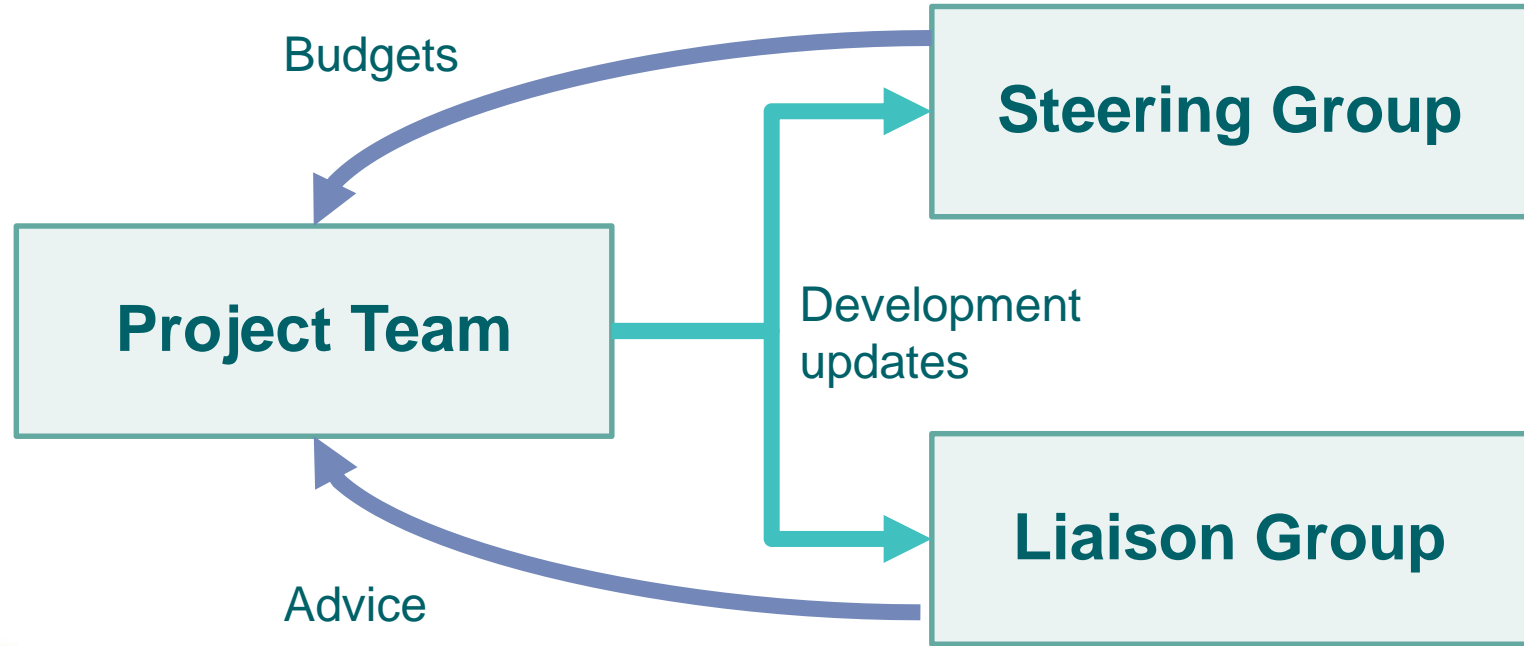
Helen McGrath

Stakeholder Meeting Presentation #4
22 May 2019

Overview of governance within CSO



Overview of governance outside CSO



What is the Liaison Group?

- **Information sharing and advisory mechanism** (Point 10 in the MOU)
- Representatives from the CSO (Chair), DJE, specific non-governmental organisations and other relevant experts (Point 12 in the MOU)
- Terms of reference are to (Point 13 in the MOU):
 - Provide a mechanism for the CSO to share information on progress of the overall programme of work
 - Advise on user needs and where necessary prioritise demands
 - Provide a mechanism for the CSO to leverage the experience and expertise of the National Liaison Group members in dealing with this complex and sensitive topic.



Key areas of work for group

- Further advice/refinement on data needs
- Share expertise on phrasing/formatting questions when requested
- Advise on dissemination approach
- Assist in development of questionnaire via focus group work
- Be the voice for victims



Responsibilities of members

- Information dissemination from the Liaison Group to the wider community
- Work together on areas for decision for SVS
- Practicalities:
 - Attend meetings twice a year
 - Size: 8-10 members



Liaison Group

NGO seats

- National view
- Research or policy expert
- Dissemination network to share information



Agency seats

- Research or policy expert
- Relevant

Academic seats

- Research or policy expert



Next steps

- After this meeting
 - Finalised list of criteria produced
 - Invites sent by CSO to potential members
 - First meeting by end June/early July





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Workshop

Discussion Points

Overall Feedback

Summary

3 Discussion points

1. What can you in the wider group bring to the development of the survey?
2. Consent - Do we define consent in the survey? When do we define consent?
3. Refinement of the concept of sexual violence or sexual abuse



Discussion Point 1 – Liaison Group

- Discussion of the criteria already identified
 - What, if any, additional criteria are appropriate?
 - What is the best way to disseminate information to the wider stakeholder group?
- What can you in the wider group bring to the development of the survey?



Summary Discussion 1: Liaison Group Criteria

- More NGO Seats
- Gender representative
- Some representation to reflect:
 - Different forms of SV
 - Migrants and teens/ children
- Ensure representation is not Dublin-centric
- Would recommend vulnerable groups representation/subgroup
- Useful for Tusla to be involved given remit and national role



Summary Discussion 1: Best Way To Disseminate

- Email messages
- Working with and through 'umbrella' groups
- Email with link to protected web page
- Conference /webinar
- How can LG take questions from SV groups not on LG?



Summary Discussion 1: What can stakeholder offer for development?

- Expertise and/or practical help with:
 - Survivor centered understanding of the impact of being questioned about their experience
 - Assist with training of field interviewers
 - Information on trends, insights, language
 - Sourcing focus group participants
- ‘Newer’ forms of SV – e.g. forced marriages, human trafficking etc
- Background to why people don’t report
- Be the voice of service user
- An understanding of the support role groups can play. [Need to ensure groups are prepared when survey takes place]
- Services for interviewers/interviewees – regional basis; not on an adhoc basis.



Discussion Point 2 – Consent

- Consent is a key element of this survey. How can I define it?
- Where in the survey is it appropriate to define it?
 - In an introduction to a section?
 - In each question?
- Should I leave it to the respondent's own judgement?



Summary Discussion 2: How Can We Define Consent?

- A range of differing perspectives were offered on this point:
 - Some supported the use of the legal definition – but only in the right context - e.g. does not apply to child sex abuse.
 - Others supported no definition: ‘Did you feel a sexual assault occurred?’
 - While others felt a definition should only be produced when requested. It should be in simple layman’s terms – not too constrained by legal definition.



Summary Discussion 2: Where to define Consent?

- Beginning of the survey
- Define at the beginning of the section – too much to define for every question
- Need to be flexible – should be able to revisit the issue during the survey instrument



Summary Discussion 2: Should it be left to respondent's own judgement? 1/2

- A range of views offered and included:
 - Respondent should not be left to define it as it is subjective.
 - How to keep a respondent in the survey after they say they have not been victimised.
 - Have an agreed definition, if queried.
 - Equip interviewer with a series of questions to categorise, according to the legal definition.
 - Need to be sure we haven't set the bar too low in terms of defining SV by a soft or hard definition of SV.



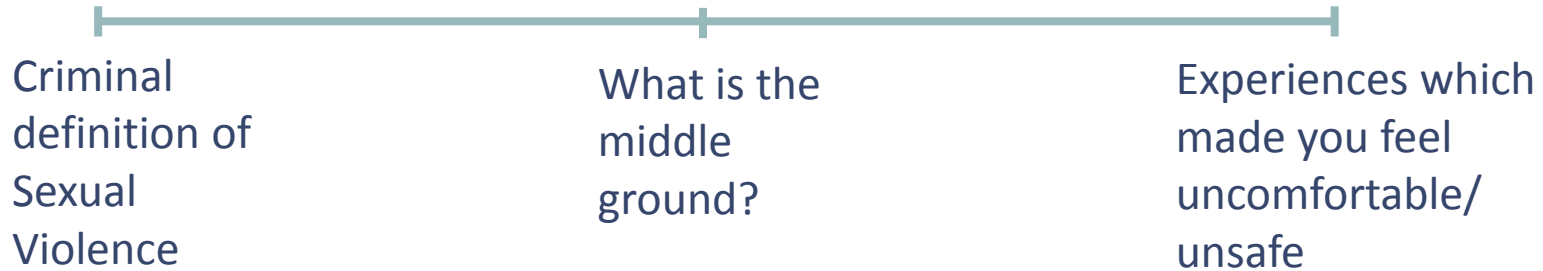
Summary Discussion 2: Should it be left to respondent's own judgement? 2/2

- No – working with too many definitions will impact on reliability.
- Very mixed views/ interpretations of consent in society.
- Leaving to respondents' own judgement may result in non disclosure.
- Have a 'don't know' option as respondents may not be sure
- Respect the answer
- Offer victims choice in how to answer the survey and offer support → the questionnaire may be a triggering event



Discussion Point 3 – Concept refinement

- Where does “Sexual Violence” as a concept begin and end for the headline figure?



Summary Discussion 3: Concept Refinement

1/3

- How to capture and define:
 - On-line abuse e.g. cyber harassment
 - Personal Coercion
 - Sextortion, revenge porn, slut shaming, stalking, harassment.
 - Incidents that respondents don't categorise as abusive
- 'Violence' should be clarified at the start of the survey including psychological abuse
- Danger that term 'SV' will have meanings attached e.g. stereotypes, rape myths



Summary Discussion 3: Concept Refinement

2/3

- Start with 'experiences that made you feel uncomfortable' and scale up i.e. gradation
- Include definitions, where appropriate (sexual harassment, assault, rape)'
- Specific descriptions of behaviour rather than competing concepts.
- SV could be described as 'unwanted sexual experience or behaviour'.
- Issue of disclosure - needs to be considered.
- Ensure recognition of both genders



Summary Discussion 3: Concept Refinement

3/3

- Linking current legal definition of SV including the meaning of consent.
- Follow international practice.
- Future proofing patterns of behaviour – allowing us to measure societal change via pattern analysis.
- Issue with clarity on definition being too broad and being discredited or too tight and not reflective of the true experience



Summary – Overall additional comments

- Issue with lack of knowledge of what sexual violence (abuse) is in the general population
- Need for disability for respondent but at time of activity or whether the disability occurred before or after SV
- Additional variables were suggested by some members of the group



Next steps

- Update website with documentation from this session
- Produce report on the day
- Move forward with Liaison Group invites
- Create area on website to share to Steering Group and Liaison Group discussions





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