

## TEXTING IS WALES' TOP TOILET HABIT

1. Texting is the most popular toilet pastime in Wales, with one in four people (534,000 people) texting whilst on the loo, as revealed this week in a new survey to mark World Toilet Day (19 November).

The 'Toilet Habit Survey', commissioned by aid agency Tearfund, also finds that the Welsh are the chattiest whilst on the loo, with 28% talking on the phone or in person, compared to 21% in England and 18% in Scotland.

Wales' top 5 toilet habits are texting (27%), reading newspapers (22%), reading books (21%), making a phone call (18%) and chatting with family and friends (18%).

More people in Wales think about food on the loo (292,000) than listen to the radio (254,000) or reach for crosswords or sudoku (158,000). The Welsh are almost five times more likely to meditate on the loo (190,000) than play games on their mobile phone or a games console (41,000).

The survey also finds that toilets in Wales fair particularly badly when compared to Scottish or English loos. People found toilets in Wales the most likely to lack toilet paper, be left unflushed or dirty.

But Tearfund's research was commissioned with a serious message in mind. While 3 in 4 Brits complained about toilets being dirty, unflushed, or having no loo roll, more than a third of the world's population today do not have a clean, safe place to go to the toilet.

Hywel Meredydd, Manager of Tearfund in Wales says, "It's scandalous that in the 21st century, every twenty seconds a child dies from the effects of poor sanitation or unclean water.

"World leaders need to take extraordinary action to end this sanitation scandal which causes misery for more than 2.5 billion people who lack something as simple as a clean and safe toilet."

Tearfund has launched a campaign to highlight this injustice and is calling on world leaders to tackle the problem by creating a Global Action Plan on water and sanitation by 2010.

Tearfund Media Officer for Pembrokeshire Sharron Hardwick says: "If people in Pembrokeshire would like to get involved, why not join Tearfund's SuperBadger group on social networking site [www.Facebook.org](http://www.Facebook.org). Make your first badger to Mike Foster, our new Aid Minister to improve the current sanitation situation. There have been 1009 Badgers so far, lets make it more!"

As Mike Foster settles in to his new role, Tearfund SuperBadgers can tell him a story of one organisation that Tearfund works with, through whom the community of Sefiberet in Ethiopia has been transformed, to explain the impact that providing clean water and basic sanitation can have. Thousands of communities like Sefiberet are looking for a hero, to speak about the importance of taps and toilets at every opportunity they get. Mike Foster can be that man. Visit [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org) or call 0845 355 8355 for more details.

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