

National Records of Scotland

Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

16 November 2021 at 13:30.

Chaired by Ryan Scott.

44 attendees.

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Kathleen Shirkie	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Jackie Livingstone	Dumfries & Galloway Council
John Doig	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Jill Brash	Dundee Council
Jackie McLean	East Ayrshire Council
Emma Fitzpatrick	East Dunbartonshire Council
Michelle Duncan	Falkirk Council
Siobhan Coultie	Falkirk Council
Andrew Ballingall	Fife Council
Mike Atkinson	Highland Council
Steve Morley	North Ayrshire Council
Lesley Mann	North Lanarkshire Council
Danny McAllion	Renfrewshire Council
Heidi Goodship	Scottish Borders Council
Peter Rub	South Ayrshire Council
Peadar Morgan	Bord na Gaidhlig
Sara Townsend-Cartwright	Scottish Water
Nick Cassidy	Improvement Services
Richard Pereira	ONS
James Reid	Edinburgh University
Calum Purdie	Public Health Scotland
Dominic Webber	ONS
Kerry Gadsdon	ONS
Andrew Gasiorowski	Public Health Scotland
Ryan Scott	NRS
Alan Ferrier	NRS
Sandy Taylor	NRS
Esther Roughsedge	NRS
Julie Ramsay	NRS
Daniel Burns	NRS
Marie Kaye-Bardgett	NRS
Beth Watson	NRS
Joe Adams	NRS
Rhiannon Batstone	NRS
Clare Leadbetter	NRS
Jack Reid	NRS
Alex Pritchard	NRS
Elizabeth Mann	NRS

Tony Craig	NRS
Pauline Monchy	NRS
Sundeep Dhadley	NRS
James Gosling	NRS
Piers Elias	NRS

Introduction

1. Welcome and Introduction

[13:33] Ryan Scott begins meeting and gives introduction.

2. Minutes of meeting on 18 May 2021

Ryan: No outstanding actions to be taken nor other comments. At last meeting, colleagues from census stats teams presented on work they were doing to prepare for census. This time, colleagues from communications teams will present about their preparations for census.

Scotland's Census 2022

1. Census engagement work

Sundeep and James to present their work on engagement for the Scottish census 2022.

[13:35] Sundeep begins presentation:

Overview of engagement strategy. Two key aims are accessibility and inclusivity. Stakeholder engagement strategy based around external and internal engagement. Activities include Field and partnership work, PR and marketing campaign, Knowledge sharing, empowerment and collaboration. External engagement with local authorities, Scottish Government policy teams, third sector interface, other government departments, ministers, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and Solace. COSLA is an employer's association for the 32 Scottish local authorities. Solace is a UK network for public sector professionals. Internal engagement includes establishing a stakeholder steering group and a series of online awareness sessions with stakeholders. Ideas to enhance engagement are welcome.

[13:41] James begins presentation:

Aim is to reach different population groups who might not be likely to complete census. Done by raising awareness of legal obligation to do census, communicating relevance of census to people, direct to additional support to those who need it such

as language, accessibility. Strategy involves securing partners for outreach, building relationships, support them to act as motivators, working with tiered patterns to produce bespoke materials and social media material. Digital toolkit, translations, accessible materials, PR and marketing campaign coming soon.

[13:48] Presentation ends

2. Census education campaign

[13:47] Pauline begins presentation.

She talks us through education campaign for census. Market research is being used to understand 8 key population groups where there is concern over completion of census. Campaign objectives to increase awareness:

1. inspiring pupils to act as advocates, 2. thus empowering parents and families.

Key audience: 1. Teachers, 2. Pupils, 3. parents

[13:58] Presentation ends.

[13:58] Q&A begins

[14:00] Paul McNamara from Stirling council is concerned about the completion rate amongst prisoners, and talks about his experience engaging with prisoners and staff at Barlinnie prison. For the 2011 Census, there was a shortage of questionnaires and very difficult to get prisoners to complete the form. There was a 50% response rate and Paul had to make multiple trips. So there is a need to raise awareness with prisoners and staff.

[14:01] Sundeep agrees that we need to maximise participation. He suggests liaising with other institutions to gain access to communal establishments such as prisons. Hopefully through field and partnership activity, and engaging with key people, participation can be increased. Sundeep says that if there are other people we should be aware of then let them know to ensure max participation.

[14:01] Ryan asks how can others not directly involved in the census stakeholder engagement work help out.

[14:02] James advises to keep an eye out on Facebook and twitter for updates from them. Once toolkits are available, they are happy for others to engage with NRS to help disseminate and engage. The overarching ambition is to get highest completion rate by raising awareness of the census. Anything NRS can do to raise awareness is greatly appreciated. Toolkits will help others promote the census.

[14:03] Paul adds that information was previously communicated to councils through a census liaison officer which he found useful.

[14:04] James says this was the previous model, but it is different this time. There is now a community engagement team.

Demography Updates

1. Statistics Engagement and Promotion

[14:05] Ryan - let's hear from the teams, starting with Joe with an update on stats engagement and promotion unit at NRS.

[14:05] Joe Adams gives an update for three NRS teams with the three key questions for the stakeholders: how to make outputs more valuable, how do they use council area profiles, and what did they think of the Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Statistics (RGAR)? Joe discusses RGAR which was 75% shorter than previous publications. A survey is being shared for users to give feedback on the council area profiles. Website is being tidied up by removing unused web pages. Joe wants feedback on these things. Liam's team is also working on extracts of census data for linkage for research projects. Other work include commissioned census tables and census origin-destination data used in transport modelling.

[14:09] end of Joe's presentation and now questions.

[14:01] Emma Fitzpatrick asks for recent publications to be more prominent on the website and feels they are too near the bottom of page. She is happy with the council area profiles and doesn't think anything else is needed. She adds it is really useful for signposting users to where things are as everything is in one place.

ACTION 1: Joe to check whether the recent and future publications list can be made more prominent on the NRS website

[14:11] Ryan Scott asks Emma if she has been pointing people towards the council area profiles.

Emma says that they do point people to it frequently, despite expert users using raw data more.

[14:12] Sandy Taylor adds some information on the work of the dissemination team. He says customer services team gets a high volume of enquiries (around 750 this year), many of which are understandably COVID related, but cover whole range of what NRS does. There have been 12 publications released since the last meeting, in addition to regular weekly COVID ones.

[14:14] Ryan asks if there any questions on RGAR. He says he expects councils to be familiar but wants to check if has been useful for secondary users and whether there is any feedback.

[14:15] Lesley Mann says it is really good, as it is in a simpler style. She says there is a Yammer group across the council using it. She liked the paragraph layout, easy to navigate to topics of interest, and easier to go through and summarise. As a practitioner, however, she might like more detail.

[14:16] Moving onto Beth's update

2. Population and Migration Statistics

[14:16] Beth Watson's presentation. Beth gives an overview of NRS's recent and upcoming publications. She discusses the uncertainty about the Population by Country of Birth and Nationality figures and plans to highlight this in the publication.

[14:20] End of presentation. Opens for questions.

[14:21] Heidi Goodship asks if there are small area population estimates by age band available.

Beth says yes NRS publish population estimates by single year of age and that she will put a link for Heidi in the chat.

[14:21] Dominic Webber, who works on migration stats for the ONS, discusses plans for producing international migration estimates. ONS are publishing UK level international migration for the year to mid-2021 in March 2022. As part of this, ONS will give Scottish breakdown to NRS, but they are still working on the best way to do so. Dominic is happy to have ongoing conversation about ideas for this or asks if NRS are happy for ONS just to supply them with the data. Beth agrees that NRS are happy to have an ongoing conversation.

[14:23] Paul McNamara asks what admin data can be used for international migration estimates other than the International Passenger Survey (IPS)?

Dominic explains that visa information feeds into the modelling. The exit checks dataset gives a record of arrivals and departures in the UK of people with a visa. This is focused on non-EU travellers and more assumptions are needed to estimate EU traveller numbers. They are looking to improve this by using Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) – a UK level dataset curated by Department for Work and Pensions bringing together information on PAYE and benefits. RAPID provides more geographic detail so it's likely ONS will use it to produce a Scottish breakdown of the UK level international migration. There are not a huge amount of choices available other than RAPID given the suspension of the IPS.

[14:25] Beth gives a demo of the interactive data visualisation showing small area population estimates on a map.

[14:29] demonstration ends and Beth asks for feedback.

[14:29] Emma asks if it is possible to have any other geography layers such as multi-member wards.

Beth says yes we can look into whether this is possible.

ACTION 2: Beth to look into adding more geography layers to the SAPE map data visualisation.

3. Improvement Service Sub-national population projections

[14:30] Nick Cassidy gives an update on sub council population projections.

[14:36] Nick is looking for feedback and if any of these developments be useful for stakeholders.

[14:39] Emma Fitzpatrick says there is an interest if he was to redo them with more recent data, and if there was a 20 year time series of data, and if there were more geography levels.

[14:41] Nick says that if they were to do this again they could do 20 years. It might be possible to add more geography layers. He mentions the NRS tool for creating own custom geographies.

[14:42] Paul says single year of age is especially useful as he is always getting enquiries about these age groups.

[14:43] Mike Atkinson says that Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) are underpinned by information provided by Nick, so it is very useful. But Mike would like more household information on 16-64 year olds.

[14:46] Nick says this is something he can look into after talking with NRS colleagues

4. Household Statistics

[14:46] Sandy gives an update on Household stats team activities, including recent and upcoming publications.

[14:52] Opens for questions.

[14:53] Emma asks about the need for data on housing tenure and private landlords which is information people would want quite quickly.

Sandy explains that ONS and NISRA have been starting to think about this earlier than NRS because of their censuses, so households team will be tapping into this so they can compare across UK.

[14:54] Ryan adds that NRS will be starting to think about outputs and analysis from the Scottish census in more detail next year.

[14:52] Emma asks for information on protected characteristics too.

[14:54] Ryan adds that NRS will be engaging with users next year on these outputs.

[14:55] Paul raises the change in census enumeration roles from 11 hours (for the 2011 Census) to 25 hours for the 2022 Census. This change rules out people like himself from local authorities who already work full-time.

[14:56] Ryan says he will pass this question on to relevant team.

ACTION 3: Ryan to pass on question about change in hours for census enumeration roles

5. Vital Events

[14:56] Julie gives update on Vital Events team. The publications include weekly COVID data, and monthly detailed analysis on COVID. New data on deaths due to adverse reactions to vaccines and an update to the analysis on COVID deaths by ethnicity.

[15:01] opens up for questions.

[15:01] Emma asks if statistics by cause of death for those experiencing homelessness would be published at local authority level?

Julie explains that the numbers would be very small at this level which may create issues around disclosure. Number of homeless deaths are published by local authority and cause of death breakdown separately, but not combined. Julie suggests they could do something like this in the future by combining say 5 years of data.

[15:02] end of main agenda.

AOB and date of next meeting

No further questions. Elizabeth Mann to schedule and circulate info on next meeting.

[15:03] end of meeting.

Summary of actions

ACTION 1: Joe to check whether the recent and future publications list can be made more prominent on the NRS website.

ACTION 2: Beth to look into adding more geography layers to the small area population estimates map data visualisation.

ACTION 3: Ryan to pass on question about change in hours for census enumeration roles.