



**Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics team update**

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<b>Security marking</b>	None
<b>Can this be shared wider than PAMS?</b>	Yes
<b>Key questions for PAMS members</b>	We would welcome feedback on anything in this paper.
<b>Action for PAMS members</b>	<p>Let us know if you have any views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our publications.</li> <li>• Planned publication dates.</li> <li>• Whether you see a need for revised small area population estimates for the old data zone boundaries, or whether a revised time series for the new boundaries will be sufficient?</li> <li>• Whether you use our 'Local area migration' spreadsheet and find it valuable?</li> <li>• Whether you would be happy to be interviewed as part of a review of the NRS website.</li> </ul>

## Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee

### Population and Migration Statistics team update

#### Overview

1. Our branch has a busy year ahead, as we incorporate the new census results into our statistics, and also revise the figures from 2011 to 2021 to provide a consistent time series.
2. Because of this, our publications timetable will be different to other years, and there is more uncertainty than usual about the dates when we will be able to publish.

#### Recent publications and planned publications

3. In March, we published [Mid-year population estimates for Scotland in 2022](#). These are the first to be based on the new data from Scotland's recent census.
4. NRS will now begin the **rebasing** exercise to revise the annual mid-year population estimates for 2011 to 2021. It will not be possible to make comparisons between the 2022 mid-year population estimates and previous figures until these revisions have been made. Therefore, the publication only compared population changes between Census Day (20 March 2022) and the population as at 30 June 2022. When the rebased population estimates are published, they will contain more detail about the changes since 2011. This is planned for publication in July 2024. Rebased population estimates for people aged 90 and over, for Scotland, will be published at the same time.
5. In March, we also published a '[reconciliation report](#)' to identify the differences between the official figures from the 2022 census and the mid-year population estimates, and to consider reasons for these differences. We will produce a similar report for the small area population estimates.
6. **National population projections** (2022-based) are provisionally planned for October or November 2024 and will use the latest available population data, including use of the latest census data. New assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration will be developed using the latest available data. A range of variant projections will be provided to give an indication of uncertainty and sensitivity to alternative assumptions of fertility, mortality, and migration.
7. **Subnational population projections** will follow in Spring 2025. They will cover council areas, health boards, and other administrative areas.

Provisional publication dates:

Publication	Planned publication date
Rebased population estimates for 2011 to 2021 for council areas and health boards	July 2024
Rebased population estimates for people aged 90 and over, for Scotland	July 2024
Migration statistics	July 2024
Small area population estimates, based on data from the 2022 census (for the 2011 Data Zones boundaries, see below)	July/August 2024
National population projections	October/November 2024
Population by country of birth and nationality for Scottish areas	Late 2024
Mid-year population estimates for 2023, along with migration statistics.	October 2024
Sub-national population projections	Spring 2025
Rebased small area population estimates for 2011-2022 for the new Data Zone boundaries. These boundaries are due to be finalised by the end of 2024 (see below).	2025

### Consultation on Data Zone boundaries

8. The new 2022 census data will initially be published based on 2011 Data Zone boundaries. Once it is published, the Scottish Government will [consult on boundaries for new Data Zones](#) and intermediate zones, based on the 2022 census populations. The plan is to launch a full public consultation in July 2024, with the consultation open for 3 months. The Scottish Government then plans to publish finalised Data Zones and Intermediate Zones in Autumn of 2024. The exact timing will depend on the level of feedback received, and if people respond quickly or wait till the end of the consultation period to submit their responses. **PAMS members are likely to have an interest in responding to this consultation on Data Zone boundaries.** If you have any questions/feedback, please contact [Felicity.Rollings@gov.scot](mailto:Felicity.Rollings@gov.scot) or [Lee.Bunce@gov.scot](mailto:Lee.Bunce@gov.scot). Note that they will be coming to the PAMS meeting to discuss this.
9. After the new Data Zone boundaries become available, our team will produce new small area population estimates for the last decade, for the new Data Zone boundaries. **We are not planning to revise the backseries of small area population estimates for the current Data Zone boundaries as well, but if you think there is a need for this, please let us know ASAP.**

## Local area migration

10. We would welcome your feedback on our [local area migration spreadsheet](#). As our mid-2022 population estimates only compared changes – including migration - between Census Day and mid-year, this has not been updated following the population estimates release in March. [The Office for National Statistics has discontinued their local area migration release](#) and we would therefore welcome your feedback on whether you use our local area migration spreadsheet and still find this release valuable.

## Review of the NRS website

11. NRS is reviewing the [NRS website](#). As part of this review, an external organisation would like names of some users they can approach to carry out a ~1-hour structured online interview seeking feedback on our website. **Action for PAMS members:** Would any PAMS members like to volunteer to do this? Note, that this will cover the main [NRS website](#), not the [census](#) website.

## Contact us

12. Feel free to contact the NRS Population and Migration Statistics team via our team email address: [population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk)

NRS: Population and migration statistics team  
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