



Paper Title: Household Estimates and Projections update

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Aims for discussion	To update PAMS members on developments in Household Estimates and Projections, and seek feedback.
Key questions/ points to note for PAMS members	<p>Issues around definitions on data on empty properties (section 1)</p> <p>Process for signing off Data Sharing Agreements (section 3)</p> <p>Suggestions for specific pieces of analysis of census data on households in Scotland (section 6)</p>
What is required from PAMS members	Comments/feedback on the paper, in particular the key questions noted above

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Household estimates and projections update

1. Household and dwelling estimates

The latest edition of [Households and Dwellings in Scotland](#) is due to be published on 20 June. This will include statistics for 2023 on occupied dwellings, vacant dwellings (split into unoccupied exemptions and empty properties), second homes and trends in household types. Analysis for the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and Scottish Government Urban Rural classifications and an updated set of interactive data visualisations (to enable viewing of key charts and maps of the data for selectable choice of councils and years) will also be made available.

The method for deriving mid-year estimates of the number of households uses census data to adjust the number of occupied dwellings at June. Data is collected on occupied dwellings as at September each year. However, the mid-year household estimates are calculated by adjusting the number of occupied dwellings from September back to June. Then the Census adjustment is applied. This aims to adjust for dwellings that contain more than one household and dwelling records in council tax billing systems that relate to special populations (in particular accommodation for students). Census adjustment factors based on information from the 2011 Census have until now been applied for the household estimates in each year since 2011. However, a revised set of adjustment factors is now available that incorporates information from the 2022 Census. The statistics we will publish on 20 June will therefore include revised household estimates for Scotland and council areas for the years 2012 to 2022.

Earlier this year we became aware of possible inconsistencies in the **empty homes data** submitted in the past by councils, both to Scottish Government Local Finance Statistics in the CTAXBASE returns (line 8b) and in the corresponding postcode level data collected by NRS. Line 8b of the CTAXBASE form is intended to capture the number of properties that have been empty for over 6 months and its main purpose is to collect data for Scottish Government to be used in funding calculations. A consultation with councils indicated that, of those who responded, the majority have been including some properties empty less than 6 months in line 8b. For the CTAXBASE 2024 form and guidance, Scottish Government will amend to make it clearer 8b should just include empty properties over 6 months. NRS will similarly clarify for its next data collection. It should be noted that this could produce a step change reduction in the number of empty properties reported in the annual official statistics. This will be explained and caveated in outputs.

2. Small area household and dwelling estimates

The small area (2011 Data Zone) household estimates data for 2023 are planned for release on 20 June on the [NRS website](#), The data will also be uploaded onto [statistics.gov.scot](#).

This data will include updated information on unoccupied exemptions (eg dwellings that are new builds not yet occupied, undergoing repair or awaiting demolition) and on other empty properties. An updated version of the [app](#) to enable visualisation of the small area data through an interactive map will also be made available.

Along with this data, dwellings by council tax band at small area level for 2023 will be published, both on the [NRS website](#) and on [statistics.gov.scot](#).

Updated aggregations of the data zone level information to provide household and dwelling estimates for a number of [other geographies](#) will be made available:

- Electoral wards
- Scottish parliamentary constituencies
- UK (redrawn in 2023) parliamentary constituencies
- 2020 Urban/Rural classification (6-fold and 8-fold classes)
- 2020 SIMD deciles, for Scotland overall and broken down by councils and NHS health boards.
- Scottish Island Regions
- National Park areas

We are grateful to local authorities for their help with the 2023 round of data collection.

3. Data governance

In order to follow best practice we have been updating or creating data governance documents to cover our data collections. A standard Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) was issued to each local authority in December 2023 for review and sign off in relation to our collection and use of postcode level information from council tax billing systems. To date 13 local authorities have signed off their DSA. We will shortly be issuing reminders to those local authorities who have still to sign off their DSA, and **we would be grateful for any assistance local authority PAMS members can provide to help with this process.** A separate DSA has been issued to the Scottish Assessors Association in relation to the extract of data on dwellings we obtain from the Assessors portal on dwelling characteristics – dwelling type, council tax band and number of rooms.

4. UPRN data

In order to extend the scope and reach of our analysis of household estimates, we are investigating the feasibility of collecting data from local authorities' council tax billing systems at an individual address (UPRN) level in the future. This would open up the potential for more flexible analysis in combination with other data sets, eg data from the Assessors on dwelling characteristics.

We have been carrying out some initial exploratory analysis of UPRN data sets for 2022 and 2023 for two councils - Argyll and Bute and Shetland. UPRN coverage and matching rates between local authority and Assessors records via UPRN both look promising. Work on this development project is currently on hold due to a staffing redeployment within Demographic Statistics but we plan to resurrect it later in the year.

5. Household projections

The planned timing of the next (2022-based) set of household projections is essentially unchanged since the last PAMS meeting in November 2023. This remains dependent on when the underlying population projections are next updated. The sub-national population projections for Scotland are planned for spring 2025, with household projections to follow around mid-2025. Confirmed release dates will be provided in due course. We will be consulting with the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) and others over the summer on the methodology to be used in the household projections. We will also be reviewing the format of the publication report for the projections and updating the format of publication tables to meet accessibility standards.

6. 2022 Census data

The [latest release](#) of results from Scotland's Census 2022 took place on 21 May 2024. It included a table on [household size](#).

We will be contributing to further analyses of the detailed topic data on housing and households from the census, including the topic data release scheduled for August 2024. **We would also be interested in any suggestions from PAMS members for specific pieces of analysis of 2022 Census data on households in Scotland.** For example, if there are any comparisons of interest with the results of 2011 and previous censuses, and comparisons with other parts of the UK, see for example some of the [ONS reports](#) published on the 2021 Census data on housing and households in England and Wales.

We are also carrying out an exercise to compare the census household estimates with our annual household estimates. A report of this analysis will be released following publication of the household estimates for 2023 in June 2024.

7. Statistics on people registered to vote (previously called Electoral Statistics)

The latest (as at 1 December 2023) [summary statistics](#) on people registered to vote in Scotland were published on 13 April. These included figures on the electoral rolls in the new UK parliamentary constituencies which came into effect in late 2023.

8. Cross-government housing statistics group

The Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG) continues its work to review the quality, coherence and accessibility of official housing statistics across the UK. It met most recently on 13th May. An overview of the work being undertaken in this area is available on the Government Analysis Function [website](#).

9. Household statistics strategy

We have now refreshed a draft strategy document to guide our work on household statistics over the next few years. This will be shared with PAMS and others to get feedback.

10. Text for web pages

We have tidied up the text content of some of the pages on household statistics on the NRS website. This content had built up over time and was out of date in places. We therefore aimed to refresh it, and make it simpler to follow and easier to navigate.

**NRS: Household Estimates and Projections
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