

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Feedback on Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee meetings

Summary

1. We are exploring improvements to the way we run Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) committee meetings. In September 2018, we asked members for their views on what they find useful from PAMS meetings and what they would like going forward.
2. We received 10 responses, 7 of whom were from local authorities, one from the Improvement Service, one from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and one from Clydeplan. We would like to thank everyone who responded to our request for feedback. We have attached the questions which we asked in **Annex A**, along with some of the responses we have received from stakeholders.
3. All respondents indicated that there was still a need for PAMS committee meetings to continue in the future.

Recommendations being implemented

4. We will continue to have meetings twice a year, in spring and in November. For spring meetings, we will look for dates in April, rather than May and we will avoid school holidays.
5. To make morning and evening meetings easier to access, we plan to move November meetings to New Register House or General Register House, which are both NRS buildings in central Edinburgh and near train and bus stations. We plan to explore venues in central Edinburgh and Glasgow for spring meetings going forward.
6. We will consider appropriate finish times for meetings dependent on the location, so that members do not have to leave meetings early to travel home. For example, a 4.30pm finish is perhaps better if we are in a city centre location closer to public transport links. We don't envisage that the timing of morning meetings of local authority representatives will change.
7. We will aim to ensure that IT facilities are sufficient for members to dial into the meetings through conference calls or Skype.
8. We plan to spend to less time repeating updates which are covered within the papers, and instead offer more time for members to feed back any questions or comments from the papers.

9. We intend to collate a bank of topics and ideas for future meetings and we will seek input from members for their suggestions. This will help us shape the content and direction of future meetings.

Considerations for the future

10. We will consider the options of external speakers and the possibility of further targeted spinoff training which is most relevance to local authority representatives.
11. We will consider whether the title "Population and Migration Statistics" committee is still an appropriate name for the group. We will consider whether the group's remit should be widened to include Census and Demographic statistics more widely, and therefore encompass a wider scope of representatives.
12. We welcome any further feedback on the future of the meetings.

National Records of Scotland
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ANNEX A – Feedback form on future of Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) committee meetings and some comments which we received from PAMS members

Please tick yes/no or add a comment.	Yes	No	Any comments:
Are you satisfied with the meeting being held at Ladywell House, or is a more central location preferred/required?			
Are you happy with the dates/times and length of meetings in general?			
Are the contents of the meeting, adequate, or of interest, and is there anything else we should include?			
Is there still a 'need' for this meeting, and are there any changes required, going forward?			

“I think the 6 month schedule is perfect. Perhaps a lot of the updates could be distributed on an ongoing basis via email or social media. I feel a large part of the meeting is spent going over updates that are generally read through verbatim, and could be digested in our own time and fed back”

“This is one opportunity to discuss issues face to face with other LA attendees (we typically all have unique roles in our own authorities and our roles are very different for each other – but cross over for Population and Migration areas). There is the potential for the new Planning Act to require provision of information at a much more granular (“community”) level.

“The content of the meetings is always really useful. It’s a great way to keep up-to-date with progress and changes. I find the meetings really valuable and would like to see them continue”.

“The PAMS group is very important. The biannual meetings are best, and I fell that holding them less frequently would not be as good. Having a National Perspective on all the demographic and associated information is important, as is meeting with colleagues from across Scotland.”

“I am happy for it to be a roving meeting if it would help some of my colleagues get there. I am happy with the content and the spin off training sessions that are often offered.....some of us are the sole practitioner of this work within the council now, so meeting with and exchanging ideas and thoughts with similar professionals is really valuable.”