

Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)
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**Minutes of the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland):
9 October 2013**

Present

Jenny Boag
Heidi Goodship
Rachel Forrest
Lorraine Cooke
A Cotton
Alistair Harvey
Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie
Allan Lambie
Michelle Kirkpatrick
Konrad Zdeb
Lesley Mann
Chris Carr
Iain Stewart
Kateryna McKinnon
Dylais Mattison (minutes)

Julie Ramsay
Esta Clark
Kirsty MacLachlan (chair)
Frank Dixon
Amy Wilson
Esther Roughsedge
Alan Sloan
Michael Hunter
Tom Wallace
Alexander Stannard
Darren Knox

Organisation

Falkirk Council
Scottish Borders Council
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Cosla
West Lothian Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Church of Scotland
South Lanarkshire Council
Information Services Division (ISD)
Improvement Service
North Lanarkshire Council
Argyll & Bute Council
Renfrewshire Council
Highland & Islands Enterprise
National Records of Scotland (NRS)
Population and Migration Statistics
NRS Vital Events
NRS Population and Migration Statistics
NRS Demography
NRS Vital Events
NRS Census
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Statistical Information Services
NRS Population and Migration Statistics
NRS Census
NRS Alternative Sources
NRS Demography

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed the group. There were apologies received from Jules Goodlet-Rowley, Jan Freeke, Hervey Gibson, Ken MacKinnon and Norman Jamieson.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Paper 9 PAMS (13) 09)

- 2.1 The minutes were approved. Kirsty MacLachlan noted that at para. 3.7 Divorce Statistics published by the Scottish Government (SG) were for the financial year whereas National Records of Scotland (NRS) published statistics were for calendar years. The publication of divorce statistics will now be by SG Justice dept who have agreed to publish the next divorce statistics at the end of January 2014.

- 2.2 The Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) conference will now be held on 28 November in Victoria Quay and PAMS members and local authority representatives will be invited first. The invite will then be put on to those registered to receive updates on demography on the ScotStat Register next week. Kirsty asked for a volunteer from the PAMS committee to speak at the conference for 10-15 minutes on the use of NRS data. Fiona Tweedie kindly agreed to speak about her work using small area demographic estimates for parishes.

3. Update on action points from previous meeting Paper 1 PAMS (13) 10

- 3.1 **Action point 2011.10** – Letter now issued to local authorities last week. This action point was now closed.

Action point 2013.01 – Data Access Agreements and Privacy Impact Assessments were with Glasgow City at present to access more detailed data. Access to data was being progress through the Scottish Information Security Group, which includes local authority security officers within the 32 local authority areas. The Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators (SOLAR) has also been involved.

Action point 2013.02 - closed.

Action point 2013.03 – Amy Wilson explained that adding user defined geographies was not possible at the moment. The priority at present was to get information out. If the facility to have user defined geographies was a major requirement then she would look at the possibilities again. Jenny Boag agreed to send an e-mail out to council areas on 10 October 2013 to find out about any issues arising about using the new dissemination system and also using Census data with the SASPAC software package. It was noted that being able to aggregate columns in the new online system was a positive point. Amy mentioned that more data where possible would be added, for example, some 2001 Census data next year. There was a discussion around whether the new datazone geography would be added to the site. Amy confirmed that they would be added, but that the first priority would be completing publication the current geographies.

Action point 2013.04 - closed.

Action point 2013.05 - closed.

Action point 2013.06 - closed, any comments should be sent to Alan Sloan.

Action point 2013.07 – a mechanism would be put in place for views. These would be covered by e-mail from Jenny Boag to the rest of the committee. Any helpful suggestions about what was working would be welcome - ongoing.

Action point 2013.08 – closed.

4. 2011 Census Progress

- 4.1 Amy Wilson presented this item and explained that census had published the first set of characteristics about the population of Scotland from the 2011 Census on 26 September 2013. She talked through a power point presentation that had been used at the press conference on Release 2A on the 26th and covered the main points from the release: www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk.

Questions and points which came up in discussion included:-

- Alistair Harvey asked if cohabiting couples were shown as single persons in release 2A but not for release 2C. Amy confirmed that it was legal marital status which was asked for, so it is possible for someone to have the legal marital status of 'single', but to be living with their partner, and different tables will reflect that differently, depending on whether they refer to marital status or household composition.
- Julie Ramsay responded to Paul McNamara's query on the biggest increase in middle age groups as carers.
- Tom Wallace advised that an updated Census Prospectus had been published and was now available on the website. Release 2B would be published on 14 November 2013 and would contain labour market data and education data. More data would be published in mid December 2013 completing release 2.
- The new online Census results system – the ODS, was launched on 3rd October 2013 and enables people to download the data they are interested in and look at mapping/visualisations. Jenny Boag agreed to encourage people to use the new system in her e-mail to be issued to Local Authority (LA) users on 10th October 2013.
- Questions were asked about data on Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) and NOMIS, and comparisons with what is available in England and Wales. SNS as a hub for census data was suggested.
- It was asked if 2003 wards would be included as a geography on the online dissemination tool. Amy agreed to look into whether this was possible.

Action point: Amy to look in to whether it is possible to include 2003 wards on the census online dissemination tool.

Further census outputs would be published throughout 2014 on local and detailed characteristics. Amy said that they are continuing to think about plans for future releases, taking time to consider table design and disclosure issues to make sure that consistent decisions are taken for all tables and that early decisions taken on tables does not then preclude more detailed releases due the categories already published in earlier tables.

After some discussion it was noted that the suppression of categories in detailed tables raised concerns for some of the PAMS committee members. Therefore Amy agreed to organise a meeting to discuss these issues further.

Action point: Amy agreed to set up a meeting to discuss future detailed tables for census releases.

It was noted that there was a lot of interest in comparable UK Statistics. ONS have issued a letter as part of their current consultation including a question of how important 'Harmonisation' is.

5. Geographies and 2011 Data zone revision

- 5.1 Michael Hunter introduced this item and explained that NHS Board boundaries were likely to change from 1 April 2014 to bring them into line with council area boundaries. Michael noted that depending on when the sub-national projections were published they may be for the new NHS Board Boundaries i.e. if published after 1 April or for the existing NHS Board boundaries i.e. if published before 1 April 2014.
- 5.2 Michael also drew the group's attention to the data zone boundary consultation currently being run by the Office of the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government. The consultation was due to run until 12 February 2014 on the proposed new data zone boundaries. The new boundaries had been derived by aggregating up 2011 output areas and existing data zone boundaries were to be maintained where possible unless the data zone population had fallen or risen a lot from the desired population size. Michael explained that NRS would be publishing 2011 and 2012 data zone population estimates based on the existing boundaries and the 2011 Census in December 2013. Population estimates for the new data zone boundaries would be published after they are available in 2014.

6. Migration Methodology

- 6.1 Esta Clark introduced this item and noted that this was a re-run of the session she had presented at the morning local authority meeting. Esta talked through the methodology used to produce migration estimates for Scotland and areas within Scotland. Esta drew the group's attention to the [Mid-Year Population Estimates for Scotland: Methodology Guide](#) which was published on the National records of Scotland (NRS) website alongside the 2011 and 2012 mid-year estimates on 8 August 2013.
- 6.2 Esta went through the main sources used in estimating migration and drew the group's attention to pages 12 and 13 of the methodology guide and the changes made to how international out-migration was allocated to council areas. These were the changes PAMS members were consulted on at the previous meeting and were detailed in [Paper 5 PAMS \(13\) 05](#) which is available on the NRS website.
- 6.3 Esta Clark then talked through the results of the new population estimates based on the 2011 Census and the work carried out to reconcile the 2011 Census results with the estimates rolled forward from the 2001 Census. She referred to the reconciliation report also published on 8 August 2013 and talked through the main points from a presentation given recently by Kylie Hill at the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conference in September on 'How well did we capture migration?'
- 6.4 Following the presentation there was a discussion around the results of the 2011 Census compared with the rolled forward estimates from 2001 and how well it was thought that migration had been captured. Concerns were raised about how well internal migration was captured and Esta explained that there was more work to be done to investigate the sources used for estimating migration to see if they could be supplemented with other sources to improve estimates. For example,

NRS were hoping to get access to individual record level Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data to improve estimates of student flows. Also when 2011 Census data on address 12 months ago becomes available in 2014 NRS would be able to compare this with migration estimates from patient register sources.

7. Rebasing the Mid Year Estimates

- 7.1 Esta talked through paper PAMS (13) 12 on proposals for the methods to be used to rebase the population estimates for 2002 to 2010 using the 2011 Census results. Differences between the 2011 Census results and the rolled forward population estimates were expected and rebasing population estimates using the new census results was a key part of the mid-year estimates methodology. Esta explained that these were initial thoughts on how to rebase the estimates and that views from the group were welcome. The methodology was likely to develop as work progressed and she asked for a couple of volunteers from councils to help quality assure the revised estimates. Jenny Boag and Lesley Mann both kindly agreed to help with the quality assurance process.
- 7.2 The revised population estimates for 2002 to 2010 are planned to be published in December 2013.
- 7.3 Andy Cotton asked whether the sources used to estimate population movement would capture the closure of a West Lothian factory, where a large number of the workforce were Polish. How would you capture their movement if they were not registered with a doctor? Esta replied that if they had not registered or if they had registered and then re-registered then their movement would be picked up if they changed their address. Esta said that they would look at this when the data for mid-year 2013 is available and see if there is movement being picked up.

8. European Standard Population (ESP) PAMS (13) 13

- 8.1 Frank Dixon presented Paper 4 PAMS (13) 13 and provided background to proposed changes in the European Standard Population (ESP). Frank invited the PAMS committee to look at the 3 questions within the paper. The first question was in paragraph 9, the 2nd in paragraph 10 and the 3rd in paragraph 11.
- When should National Records of Scotland (NRS) introduce the 2013 ESP for its statistics? Jenny Boag suggested at the same time as ONS unless there was a strong reason to do something different. Frank suggested August next Jenny and the group thought that seemed ok.
 - How far back should NRS calculate age-standardisation death rates using the 2013 ESP? – Jenny suggested that 1996 would be ok for local authorities but that academics may have a different view and want to go back to 1974.
 - For how long should the NRS website provide separate tables of rates calculated using the 2 versions of the ESP. The group thought that some may prefer the new data, while others may prefer the old. It was agreed to keep the old data on the NRS website for 2 or 3 years and then ask again about the need for 2 versions in a few years time.

Jenny asked if other European Union (EU) countries would switch to use the new ESP. Frank replied that at present this was not known. Frank reported that ONS consulted on behalf of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) including NRS and that the consultation had closed on 3 October. Details of the consultation can be obtained from the link at paragraph 4 in Paper 4 PAMS (13) 13.

9. Branch Updates

- 9.1 Esther Roughsedge Paper 5 PAMS (13) 14 – Household Estimates and Projections
- 9.2 Esther covered the paper on her branch and asked for opinions on what they should include as options for Household Projections i.e. should they use projections based on 2 or 3 census points. The Household Analysis Review Group was meeting in December and it would be useful to get PAMS member's view on what they would like to see at this meeting. It was thought that the 3 points method had been tried before, and had the branch thought about a 4 point method? After some discussion there was general support for a 3 point method, and members agreed to contact Esther directly with their thoughts on what the best method might be.
- Action point:** PAMS members to contact Esther Roughsedge with comments on household projection methodologies in time to feed into the HARG meeting in December.
- 9.3 Esta Clark Paper 6 PAMS (13) 15 – Population and Migration Statistics
- 9.4 Esta updated the PAMS committee about staff changes to the branch, and outlined the future timetable of publications. It was noted that the branch would consult councils on the migration assumptions to be used in the 2012-based Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP) in December/January and aim to produce a consultation document as soon as the rebased population estimates for 2001-2010 were published.
- 9.5 The committee were also asked if they felt a POPGROUP (software package) user group meeting should be held next year. Jenny said that a POPGROUP meeting after the sub-national projections had been published would be useful.
- 9.6 Beyond 2011 Statistical Options Paper 7 PAMS (13) 16
- 9.7 Alex Stannard gave an overview of his paper, covering the 2 options they are currently looking at, an eCensus and an administrative data model with surveys. There is a third option would be a combination of the two.
- 9.8 The branch had also looked at the 'Integrated Census' model that was developed in Israel. Alex also outlined the work for his branch over the next 6 months.
- 9.9 Beyond 2011 Stakeholder Engagement Work Paper 8 PAMS (13) 17
- 10.0 Alex Stannard addressed this paper in Jules's absence. He gave an overview of the work undertaken by the branch to date and future plans. Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) had been carried out for specific pieces of work and there was a series of stakeholder events planned. A priority over the next 6 months is working with ISD on research plans to create an activity flag to help remove people from the NHSCR who are likely to no longer be in the country.

- 10.1 It was asked if the quality of the online 2011 Census results were better than the results from paper forms. Amy Wilson advised that the online form for the 2011 Census was based on the paper form, but the online version did allow for routing people to the next appropriate question depending on their responses. She noted that in 2011 there was an improvement in the response rate and quality compared to the 2001 census that used a basic method of collection. Future censuses, which may be completed online may require a different approach depending on technology and modal effect would need to be investigated. It was asked whether admin data would be used to pre-fill census forms in the future. Amy said that this would be investigated if that solution was adopted but there were potential privacy and accuracy issues to consider when using admin data in this way.
- 10.2 Strong concerns were expressed about paragraph 3 of the Beyond 2011 Statistical Options paper, for how often data zone information would be published, e.g. 10 years and annually for local authority data. It was felt that data zone information only every 10 years would not be acceptable. Alex explained that NRS were looking for costed examples of the use to which data zone census type information was used and the impact its use has had. The continued justification for data zone information had not come across strongly in the recent consultation.
- 10.3 The results of the consultation would be out soon and there are 2 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) events planned, on 5 November in Edinburgh and 7 November in Glasgow when views on Census alternatives would be sought.
- 10.4 Statistical Information Services PAMS (13)18
- 10.5 Alan Sloan introduced this paper and gave a report on publications since the last meeting and a timetable for future work. Alan informed the group that the new National Records (NRS) of Scotland website was under construction at present and the new webpage which was launched in May 2013 did not have any statistics on it apart from the statistical news releases. There were links from the news release to the NRS / General register Office for Scotland (GROS) website. All the material on the GROS website would be moved over to the new NRS website for Spring 2014. Alan asked the group for any feedback on the use of data visualisations and the use of HTML on the website. No strong views were expressed by the group. It was noted that the data visualisations were good for the non-expert user.

10.6 **ScotStat Board update**

- 10.7 Jenny Boag advised the meeting that there was nothing to report since the last PAMS meeting in April as the ScotStat Board had not met. Jenny had e-mailed Roger asking about when the next meeting would be held and would keep the PAMS group updated.

10.8 **AOB**

- 10.9 No items added.

Date of Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PAMS committee should take place in the Spring of 2014.