



Consultation on the National Records of Scotland's Demographic Statistics Products

Analysis of Responses

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Summary

Thirty-five responses were submitted to our consultation on Demographic Statistics products mainly through SurveyMonkey and a few by email. We received valuable information on uses of our statistics, feedback on their quality and impact of discontinuing some statistical products. We were also provided with feedback on engagement with users of our products. This report summarises the responses we received. The next steps are to evaluate how the information received will inform our decisions.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of responses to National Records of Scotland's Demographic Statistics consultation which was carried out from 11 February to 22 April 2015. National Records of Scotland (NRS) asked for views both to inform potential reductions to some of its Demographic Statistics outputs and to identify ways in which its other outputs might be improved. The consultation was aimed at obtaining feedback on the need for and use of outputs to ensure that we continue to produce the statistics that meet user needs. In common with much of the public sector, we are still facing reductions in our funding and therefore NRS has to consider savings where these can be made.
- 1.2 The consultation was intended to get views on four specific outputs and more generally other outputs produced by the teams in the Demographic Statistics area. The four statistical outputs which we asked specific views for are: Marital Status Population Estimates; Registrar General's Annual Review; Publication of Statistics on Same Sex Marriage and Electoral Statistics.

For other statistical products within Demographic Statistics, we sought views on:

- What NRS Demographic Statistics products are used and how they are used;
- What users think about the quality of our products; and
- The impact on users on possible reductions in various areas of NRS Demographic statistical work.

- 1.3 An outline of the next steps is given in [section 10](#).

2. Consultation process

2.1 Introduction

The consultation was launched on 11 February and closed on 22 April 2015. It was a web based consultation through SurveyMonkey, with the consultation placed within the Consultations section of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website. Respondents also had the option to complete the consultation in Microsoft Word format.

2.2 Consultation document

The document set out the consultation and the topics on which views were being sought. Respondents were asked to consider and respond to specific consultation points regarding proposed changes to particular publications, uses of demographic outputs, quality of outputs and views on possible reductions in various areas of NRS Demographic Statistics work. An example of the [consultation form](#) (Portable Document Format (PDF) 591Kb) is available on the NRS website.

2.3 Promotion of the consultation

- 2.3.1 We recognised that the consultation needed to reach as wide a range of users as possible. The consultation document was therefore published on the NRS website in order to make it open for anyone to respond. When the consultation was launched, members of ScotStat (the Scottish Government's statistical consultation network) were contacted and sent a link to the website. Other users with an interest in our statistics were also contacted including the Office for National Statistics (ONS), members of the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS), Local Authority representatives and other customers who regularly ask NRS for information. Additionally, all colleagues within NRS were asked to include the consultation link on their email signature to give a wide range of our contacts a chance to complete the consultation. Depending on the type of user, one or two reminders were sent during the consultation period.
- 2.3.2 The consultation was therefore widely publicised through a combination of email alerts and the notice on our website.

2.4 Responses and respondents

- 2.4.1 In total, 35 responses were submitted to the consultation mainly through the SurveyMonkey link which was on the NRS website and a small number were received by email.
- 2.4.2 The respondents to the consultation can be classified into six broad categories. In the analysis of responses, this gave a broad indication of the variety of user interest and requirements. The profile of respondents is summarised in [Table 1](#) and a list of individual respondents (who were happy for their response to be made publically available) is given in [Annex A](#). The largest single group of respondents were from the NHS.

Table 1: Number of respondents by type

Type of respondent	Number
Central Government department	5
Local government	11
Government agency	3
NHS	12
Higher/further education	2
Other	2
TOTAL	35

2.5 Analysing responses

If a response was received which did not answer the question directly, it was treated as a general comment. If ratings were given on quality aspects of an output while no uses had been identified, these ratings were not included in the analysis as in all these cases no further comments were made on the outputs. Incomplete questionnaires with fully completed sections of the consultation were all included.

2.6 Interpretation of findings

The purpose of the consultation was to give a wide range of users the opportunity to comment on the impact of proposed changes to some of our outputs and provide feedback on the quality of our outputs including suggestions for changes to make them more useful. Those replying did so voluntarily, each with their own particular motivation and interpretation of the issues involved. It should also be kept in mind that, while the consultation was open to anyone who wished to respond, it will tend to have captured the views of established demographic statistics users, predominantly those working in organisations such as councils, NHS Board areas and elsewhere who already make significant use of our outputs.

3. Summary of results for specific outputs

3.1 Marital Status Population Estimates

There were two respondents who gave their view on the Marital Status Population Estimates publication.

Both respondents indicated that discontinuation of the publication would have a medium impact on their work. They described their use of the publication with one saying the estimates are used for creating an area profile while the other used them for Health Inequalities Impact Assessments since marriage/civil partnership is a legally protected characteristic. They thought that the Scottish Household Survey estimates are less precise for their requirements.

3.2 Registrar General's Annual Review

There were 23 responses to the question on the Registrar General's Annual Review. The uses of the publication were for research (15 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (11), monitoring and formulating policy (7), personal interest (6), teaching/education projects (4), service planning (3), resource allocation (2), business/financial planning (1), comparison with other countries (1) and reference purposes (1).

Respondents were asked to indicate the impact on them/their work if content of the Registrar General's Annual Review was cut down to only include main points accompanied by an infographic supplement. Everyone who responded rated the impact of this as being low. Some users provided further comments – several people noted that as long as all the information that is currently included in this publication is made available elsewhere, the impact of this change would be low. However, several people noted that while it was not essential, they did find it useful for providing an overview of the subject.

3.3 Publication of Statistics on Same Sex Marriage

There were six responses to the question on same sex marriage statistics.

There was a desire amongst users to have information on the number of same sex marriages broken down by the gender of the parties. There was also a demand for statistics on the number of couples changing their civil partnerships to marriage.

Users wanted to be able to separately identify the number of same sex marriages from opposite sex marriages for comparative purposes with earlier data and with other countries data where same sex marriage was available.

One user asked for as fine a breakdown of the data as possible, subject to disclosure policies.

4. Summary of the quality, uses and importance of outputs

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section summarises the responses to questions which asked about uses of particular products, their quality, how important they are to respondents and the impact of discontinuing these products on user's work. [Table 2](#) shows a summary of the number of responses that each output received.
- 4.1.2 The three outputs which received the highest number of responses to say that the output was used were: Mid-Year Population Estimates (25), Small Area Population Estimates (23) and Registrar General's Annual Review (23). Those outputs with the fewest number of responses to say that they were used are: Marital Status Population Estimates (2), Most Common Surnames (4), Babies' First Names (5), Hypothermia Deaths (5) and Centenarians (5). However, [Table 3](#) shows that there is a mismatch between user responses, page views and downloads for some outputs. For example Babies' First Names were used by five respondents but received total page views of nearly 46,000.
- 4.1.3 National Records of Scotland (NRS) launched a new website on 30 September 2014, [Table 3](#) only includes analysis from that date onwards, so the figures may underestimate the relative popularity of outputs where they were published before the new website launch.
- 4.1.4 Respondents were asked the impact on their work should the statistical products they use be discontinued. Respondents were asked to mark whether discontinuing these outputs or activities would have 'High', 'Medium', 'Low' or 'No' impact on them. A summary of the number of responses can be seen in [Table 4](#).
- 4.1.5 Please note that in the following analysis for individual outputs:
- For some publications, the number of responses varies from topic to topic. This is because some users of a publication did not answer all the questions which related to it
 - 'Satisfied' covers both 'Satisfied' and 'Very satisfied'
 - 'Dissatisfied' covers both 'Dissatisfied' and 'Very dissatisfied'
 - Some people answered 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'
- 4.1.6 Each output is taken in turn in the remainder of this section and the responses made on each output summarised.

Table 2: Use of NRS Demographic Statistics outputs (total respondents =35)

Outputs	Number of responses by tick box to say that they used that particular output
Registrar General's Annual Review:	
Registrar General's Annual Review	23
Electoral Statistics:	
Electoral Statistics	10
Vital Events:	
Accidental deaths	18
Age-standardised death rates	16
Alcohol-related Deaths	19
Babies' First Names	5
Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Deaths registers	4
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures	18
Clostridium Difficile (C. diff) Deaths	10
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland	18
Hypothermia Deaths	5
Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Deaths	9
Suicides	19
Vital Events Reference Tables	15
Winter Mortality in Scotland	9
Household Statistics:	
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland	15
Household Projections for Scotland	15
Household Projections for Scotland's SDP Areas and National Parks	9
Population Estimates:	
Mid-Year Population Estimates	25
Small Area Population Estimates	23
Settlement and Locality Estimates	11
Special Area Population Estimates	12
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	10
Centenarians (including estimates of those aged 90+)	5
Marital Status Population Estimates	2
Migration:	
Total Migration To or From an Area	13
Migration within Scotland	12
Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK (RUK)	10
Migration between Scotland and Overseas	10
Local Area Migration Reports	11
Population Projections:	
Projected Population of Scotland	18
Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS Board areas)	19
Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas	7
Life Expectancy:	
Scottish National Life Tables	7
Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland and Other Special Areas	14

Table 3: Page views and downloads: 30 September 2014 to 31 May 2015

Outputs	Most recent publication date ¹	Estimated Total downloads ²	Page Views ³
Registrar General's Annual Review:			
Registrar General's Annual Review	14-Aug-14	1,075	4,647
Electoral Statistics:			
Electoral Statistics	16-Apr-14	355	2,196
Vital Events:			
Accidental deaths	14-Aug-14	72	430
Age-standardised death rates	14-Aug-14	358	694
Alcohol-related Deaths	14-Aug-14	374	1,458
Babies' First Names	18-Dec-14	15,114	45,878
Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Deaths registers	18-Dec-14	1,268	1,780
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures	11-Mar-15	1,339	2,257
Clostridium Difficile (C. diff) Deaths	14-Aug-14	44	200
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland	14-Aug-14	642	2,064
Hypothermia Deaths	14-Aug-14	17	170
Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Deaths	14-Aug-14	38	209
Suicides	14-Aug-14	570	2,204
Vital Events Reference Tables	14-Aug-14	2,630	8,287
Winter Mortality in Scotland	29-Oct-14	339	1,281
Household Statistics:			
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland	30-Jul-14	760	2,752
Household Projections for Scotland	30-Jul-14	811	1,102
Household Projections for Scotland's SDP Areas and National Parks	26-Nov-14	260	460
Population Estimates:			
Mid-Year Population Estimates	26-Jun-14	1,788	17,595
Small Area Population Estimates	21-Aug-14	1,588	4,799
Settlement and Locality Estimates	31-Jul-14	956	3,096
Special Area Population Estimates		752	7,923
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	28-Aug-14	155	238
Centenarians (including estimates of those aged 90+)	25-Sep-14	168	802
Marital Status Population Estimates	06-Oct-09	17	189
Migration:			
Total Migration To or From an Area	20-Jul-14	255	623
Migration within Scotland	20-Jul-14	161	623
Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK (RUK)	20-Jul-14	94	623
Migration between Scotland and Overseas	24-Jul-14	216	623
Local Area Migration Reports	30-Oct-14	308	110
Population Projections:			
Projected Population of Scotland	06-Nov-13	833	2,921
Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS Board areas)	14-May-14	2,162	4,555
Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas	21-Aug-14	112	398
Life Expectancy:			
Scottish National Life Tables	14-Aug-14	483	800
Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland and Other Special Areas	16-Oct-14	2,316	9,624

Footnotes

- 1) Figures may underestimate relative popularity of outputs where they were published before the new website launch on 30 September 2014. Soon after publication there is usually a peak in downloads and page views.
- 2) These figures were derived by looking at the common file paths for each output. It was assumed that every version of a publication would be found under this file path. This is not always true, so some figures may be lower than actual numbers.
- 3) Page views is the total number of pages viewed for an output, including sub-pages. Repeated views of a single page by a single user are counted.

Table 4: Impact of discontinuing outputs

Outputs	Number ticked high or medium impact	Number ticked low impact or none
Registrar General's Annual Review:		
Registrar General's Annual Review	0	23
Electoral Statistics:		
Electoral Statistics	2	8
Vital Events:		
Accidental deaths	13	4
Age-standardised death rates	13	3
Alcohol-related Deaths	14	5
Babies' First Names	4	1
Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Deaths registers	4	0
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures	13	5
Clostridium Difficile (C. diff) Deaths	8	2
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland	14	4
Hypothermia Deaths	4	1
Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Deaths	7	2
Suicides	14	5
Vital Events Reference Tables	13	2
Winter Mortality in Scotland	8	1
Household Statistics:		
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland	12	1
Household Projections for Scotland	12	1
Household Projections for Scotland's SDP Areas and National Parks	7	0
Population Estimates:		
Mid-Year Population Estimates	21	2
Small Area Population Estimates	22	0
Settlement and Locality Estimates	10	0
Special Area Population Estimates	11	0
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	10	0
Centenarians (including estimates of those aged 90+)	4	0
Marital Status Population Estimates	2	0
Migration:		
Total Migration To or From an Area	10	3
Migration within Scotland	10	2
Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK (RUK)	9	1
Migration between Scotland and Overseas	9	1
Local Area Migration Reports	9	2
Population Projections:		
Projected Population of Scotland	18	0
Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS Board areas)	18	1
Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas	7	0
Life Expectancy:		
Scottish National Life Tables	5	2
Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland and Other Special Areas	11	3

Note

Some respondents did not indicate the impact of discontinuing an output to their work, so numbers in this table may not always add up to the number of respondents who stated they use a particular output.

4.2 Electoral Statistics

Electoral Statistics were used by 10 respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication with the rest saying there were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Six out of ten were satisfied that they met their needs, were accurate, clearly presented and easier to find (4 were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied). There was an even split (5 out of 10) for respondents who said they were satisfied with the timely release of statistics and those who were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

The statistics were said to be used for research (5 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (4), monitoring and formulating policy (3), service planning (1), personal interest (1) and responding to queries (1).

Electoral Statistics were very important to the work of one of the 10 respondents, fairly important for (2 out of 10), were of minor importance to (6 out of 10) and one said they 'don't know'.

All 10 respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: one said 'high', one said 'medium', the majority (7 out of 10) said 'low' and another said 'none'.

4.3 Vital Events Statistics – Deaths from particular causes statistics

- 4.3.1 Eighteen respondents said that they used Accidental Deaths. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Twelve out of sixteen who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 13 out of 16 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 10 out of 17 were satisfied that they were timely (but 3 were dissatisfied); 13 out of 17 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 11 out of 18 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 3 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (12 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (9), monitoring and formulating policy (7), service planning (5), personal interest (3), teaching or education projects (2) and comparisons (1).

Accidental Deaths was very important to the work of half (9 out of 18) of the respondents who used it, a third (6 out of 18) said that it was fairly important, two that it was of minor importance and one ticked 'don't know'.

Seventeen respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; seven said 'medium' and four said 'low'.

- 4.3.2 Alcohol related deaths was used by 19 respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. Fifteen out of eighteen who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 13 out of 18 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 9 out of 18 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was

dissatisfied); 13 out of 18 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 13 out of 19 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for research (13 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (11), incorporating into other statistics (8), service planning (3), quality assurance (2), resource allocation (1), teaching or education projects (1), media use (1), personal interest (1) and comparisons (1).

Almost two-thirds (12 out of 19) of the respondents who used it said that Alcohol-related Deaths was very important to their work, over a quarter (5 out of 19) that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance and one ticked 'don't know'.

All 19 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; eight said 'medium' and five said 'low'.

- 4.3.3 Ten respondents said that they used Clostridium Difficile Deaths. Only just over half were satisfied with the statistics included in the publication; some were dissatisfied with some aspects. Six out of nine who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 5 out of 9 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 2 were dissatisfied); 5 out of 9 were satisfied that they were timely (no-one was dissatisfied); 5 out of 9 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (7 respondents), research (5), incorporating into other statistics (4), service planning (2), resource allocation (1), teaching or education projects (1), quality assurance of outputs (1) and comparisons (1).

Clostridium Difficile Deaths was very important to the work of four of the ten respondents who used it, two said that it was fairly important, two that it was of minor importance, one that it was not important and one ticked 'don't know'.

All 10 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: three said 'high'; five said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

- 4.3.4 Drug-related Deaths was used by 18 respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Twelve out of sixteen who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 12 out of 16 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 9 out of 17 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 13 out of 17 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 12 out of 18 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 3 were dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for research (12 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (11), monitoring and formulating policy (9),

service planning (4), teaching or education projects (3), quality assurance of outputs (2), resource allocation (1), media use (1) and personal interest (1).

Over half (10 out of 18) of the respondents who used it said that Drug-related Deaths was very important to their work, a third (6 out of 18) said that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance and one ticked 'don't know'.

All 18 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; eight said 'medium' and four said 'low'.

- 4.3.5 Five respondents said that they used Hypothermia Deaths. Only just over half were satisfied with the statistics included in the publication; one was dissatisfied with one aspect. Three out of four who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (no-one was dissatisfied); 2 out of 3 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 3 out of 4 were satisfied that they were timely (and no-one was dissatisfied); 2 out of 4 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 2 out of 5 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no-one was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (3 respondents), service planning (2) and research (2).

Hypothermia Deaths was very important to the work of two of the five respondents who used it, one said that it was of minor importance, one that it was not important and one ticked 'don't know'.

All five gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: one said 'high'; three said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

- 4.3.6 MRSA Deaths was used by nine respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. Six out of seven who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 5 out of 7 were satisfied that they were accurate (but one was dissatisfied); 4 out of 7 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 out of 7 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 5 out of 8 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no-one was dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for monitoring and formulating policy (5 respondents), research (5), incorporating into other statistics (3), service planning (2), teaching or education projects (1), quality assurance (1) and comparisons (1).

Over half (5 out of 9) of the respondents who used it said that MRSA Deaths was very important to their work, two that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance and one ticked 'don't know'.

All nine gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: three said 'high'; four said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

- 4.3.7 Nineteen respondents said that they used Probable Suicides. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. Fourteen out of seventeen who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 14 out of 17 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 11 out of 18 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 14 out of 18 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no-one was dissatisfied); and 14 out of 19 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (14 respondents), research (11), incorporating into other statistics (6), service planning (3), quality assurance (2), personal interest (2), teaching or education projects (1) and comparisons (1).

Probable Suicides was very important to the work of over half (11 out of 19) of the respondents who used it, over a quarter (5 out of 19) said that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance, one that it was not important and one ticked 'don't know'.

All 19 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; eight said 'medium' and five said 'low'.

4.4 Vital Events Statistics – Other publications

- 4.4.1 Sixteen respondents said that they used Age-standardised Death Rates. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. All gave their views. Twelve were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (but 2 were dissatisfied); 14 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 11 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 13 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no-one was dissatisfied); and 10 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (12 respondents), research (11), incorporating into other statistics (5), service planning (4), personal interest (3), preparing legislation (1), business or financial planning (1), teaching or education projects (1), quality assurance (1) and comparisons (1).

Age-standardised Death Rates was very important to the work of almost half (7 out of 16) of the respondents who used it, nearly as many (6 out of 16) said that it was fairly important and three that it was of minor importance.

All 16 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: eight said 'high'; five said 'medium' and three said 'low'.

- 4.4.2 Babies' First Names was used by five respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. All gave their views. Three were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 3 were satisfied that

they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 3 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 4 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no-one was dissatisfied); and 4 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no-one was dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for personal interest (2 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (1), preparing legislation (1), research (1) and comparisons (1).

Two of the five respondents who used it said that Babies' First Names was very important to their work, one said that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance and one that it was not important.

All five gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: one said 'high'; three said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

- 4.4.3 Four respondents said that they used Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Death Registers. Only about half were satisfied with the statistics included in the publication; one was dissatisfied with one aspect. All gave their views. Two were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and 1 was dissatisfied); 2 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 3 were satisfied that they were timely (and no-one was dissatisfied); 3 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no-one was dissatisfied); and 2 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no-one was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for preparing legislation (1), research (1), personal interest (1) and comparisons (1).

Most Common Surnames was very important to the work of one of the respondents who used it, one said that it was fairly important, one that it was of minor importance and one that it was not important.

All four gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: one said 'high' and three said 'medium'.

- 4.4.4 Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures was used by 18 respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. Sixteen out of eighteen who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 16 out of 17 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 10 out of 16 were satisfied that they were timely (and no-one was dissatisfied); 12 out of 16 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 9 out of 16 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for incorporating into other statistics (8 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (7), research (7), service planning (3), personal interest (2), resource allocation (1), preparing legislation (1), quality assurance (1) and comparisons (1).

Over half (10 out of 18) of the respondents who used it said that Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events - Quarterly Figures was very important to their

work, a third (6 out of 18) said that it was fairly important and two that it was of minor importance.

All 18 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; seven said 'medium' and five said 'low'.

- 4.4.5 Fifteen respondents said that they used the Vital Events Reference Tables. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. All gave their views. Thirteen were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (and no-one was dissatisfied); 12 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was dissatisfied); 9 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 10 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 8 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (9 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (9), research (8), service planning (5), preparing legislation (2), teaching or education projects (1), personal interest (1), reference (1) and comparisons (1).

Two-thirds (10 out of 15) of the respondents who used the Vital Events Reference Tables said that they were very important to their work, over a quarter (4 out of 15) that the tables were fairly important and one that the tables were of minor importance.

All 15 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: seven said 'high'; six said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

- 4.4.6 Winter Mortality was used by nine respondents. About half were satisfied with the statistics included in the publication; one or two were dissatisfied with some aspects. All gave their views. Five were satisfied that the statistics met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 6 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 7 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no-one was dissatisfied).

Respondents said that they used the statistics for monitoring and formulating policy (4 respondents), research (3), incorporating into other statistics (3), preparing legislation (2), service planning (2), personal interest (2), teaching or education projects (1) and comparisons (1).

Almost half (4 out of 9) of the respondents who used it said that Winter Mortality was very important to their work, two said that it was fairly important and three that it was of minor importance.

All nine gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high'; two said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

4.5 Household Statistics

- 4.5.1 Estimates of Households and Dwellings were used by 15 respondents. Almost all users said they were satisfied with this publication on all the categories covered (meeting user needs, accuracy, timeliness, being clearly presented and easy to find). The only negative comment was that one person said they were dissatisfied with how timely the publication is.
- Respondents said that they used the statistics for monitoring and formulating policy (13 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (12), service planning (11), research (11), resource allocation (5), business/financial planning (3), preparing legislation (1), teaching/education purposes (1) and personal interest (1).
- The majority of them (12 out of 15) rated this publication as very important, with a further two rating it as fairly important and one rating it as being of minor importance.
- Of those who responded to say what the impact would be if these statistics were discontinued, most (9 out of 13) said the impact would be high, a further three said it would have a medium impact and one said it would have a low impact.
- 4.5.2 Household projections were used by 15 respondents. Almost all users said they were satisfied with this publication on all the categories covered (meeting user needs, accuracy, timeliness, being clearly presented and easy to find). One person said they were dissatisfied with how timely the publication is and a further four said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- Respondents said that they used the statistics for monitoring and formulating policy (14 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (11), research (11), service planning (10), resource allocation (6), business/financial planning (3), preparing legislation (1), teaching/education purposes (1) and personal interest (1).
- The majority of them (13 out of 15) rated this publication as very important, with a further one rating it as fairly important and one rating it as being of minor importance.
- Of those who responded to say what the impact would be if these statistics were discontinued, most (9 out of 13) said the impact would be high, a further three said it would have a medium impact and one said it would have a low impact.
- 4.5.3 Household projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Plan Areas and National Parks were used by nine respondents. Almost all users said they were satisfied with this publication on all the categories covered (meeting user needs, accuracy, timeliness, being clearly presented and easy to find). One person said they were dissatisfied with how timely the publication is.
- Respondents said that they used the statistics for monitoring and formulating policy (all 9 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (6), research (6),

resource allocation (5), service planning (5), business/financial planning (3), preparing legislation (1) and personal interest (1).

Almost all of them (8 out of 9) rated this publication as very important and one said it was fairly important.

Of those who responded to say what the impact would be if these statistics were discontinued, most (6 out of 7) said the impact would be high and a further one said it would have a medium impact.

4.6 Population Estimates

- 4.6.1 Mid-Year Population Estimates were used by 25 respondents. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in the publication, but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Twenty-two out of twenty-five who gave their view were satisfied that the statistics meet their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 20 out of 24 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 19 out of 24 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 22 out of 24 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 19 out of 23 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for incorporating into other statistics (18 respondents), research (18), monitoring and formulating policy (17), service planning (12), resource allocation (11), business/financial planning (6), teaching/education projects (1), media use (1), personal interest (1), calculating rates (1), estimations (1) and for reference purposes (1).

Mid-Year Population Estimates were very important for 23 out of 25 respondents who used it and fairly important for 2 out of 25 respondents.

Twenty-three respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: 19 said 'high', two said 'medium', one said 'low' and one said 'none'.

- 4.6.2 Twenty-three respondents said that they used Small Area Population Estimates. They were generally satisfied with the statistics included in this publication, but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Nineteen out of twenty-three were satisfied that they met their needs (but 2 were dissatisfied); 16 out of 23 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 15 out of 23 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 21 out of 23 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (no one was dissatisfied); 17 out of 23 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 3 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for incorporating into other statistics (18 respondents), research (16), monitoring and formulating policy (15), resource allocation (12), service planning (12), business/financial planning (6), media use (1), teaching/education projects (1), personal interest (1), computing rates (1), estimations (1) and reference purposes (1).

Small Area Population Estimates were very important for 21 respondents who used it and two said they were fairly important.

Twenty-two respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: 20 said 'high' and two said 'medium'.

- 4.6.3 Settlement and Locality Estimates were used by 11 respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in the publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Nine out of eleven were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 9 out of 11 were satisfied that they were accurate (no one was dissatisfied); 6 out of 11 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 8 out of 11 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (no one was dissatisfied) and 9 out of 11 were satisfied that they were easy to find (no one was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (9 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (8), monitoring and formulating policy (5), resource allocation (5), service planning (5), business/financial planning (3) and teaching/education projects (1).

Settlement and Locality Estimates were very important for seven respondents who used it and four said they were fairly important.

Ten respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication and all of them said it would have a 'high' impact.

- 4.6.4 Twelve respondents said that they used Special Area Population Estimates. Around half of the respondents were satisfied and a similar proportion were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Seven out of twelve were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 6 out of 12 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no one was dissatisfied); 5 out of 12 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 7 out of 12 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (no one was dissatisfied); and 7 out of 12 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were used for incorporating into other statistics (10 respondents), research (9), monitoring and formulating policy (7), service planning (5), resource allocation (4), business/financial planning (2), teaching/education projects (1) and reference purposes (1).

Special Area Population Estimates were very important for 8 out of 12 respondents who used it, two said they were fairly important and one said they were of minor importance.

Eleven respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication and all of them said it would have a 'high' impact.

- 4.6.5 Population by Country of Birth and Nationality was used by 10 respondents. They gave their views in all aspects. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Eight were satisfied that they met their needs (no one was dissatisfied); 6 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no-one was

dissatisfied); 5 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 7 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 7 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no one was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for incorporating into other statistics (6 respondents), research (6), monitoring and formulating policy (5), service planning (4), resource allocation (3), business/financial planning (1) and personal interest (1).

Around a third (3 out of 10) of respondents who used Population by Country of Birth and Nationality said that they were very important to their work, half (5 out of 10) said they were fairly important and 2 out of 10 said they were of minor importance.

All 10 gave their view on the impact to their work of discontinuing these statistics. They all said it would have a 'high' impact.

- 4.6.6 Five respondents said that they used Population Estimates of Centenarians. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Three out of five said they were satisfied that they met their needs (and no one was dissatisfied); 3 out of 5 were satisfied that they were accurate (but one was dissatisfied); 2 out of 5 were satisfied that they are timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 4 out of 5 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 3 out of 5 were satisfied that they were easy to find (and no one was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (3 respondents), service planning (2), incorporating into other statistics (2), research (2), resource allocation (1) and personal interest (1).

Over half (3 out of 5) of the respondents who used Population Estimates of Centenarians said that they were very important to their work, 1 out of 5 said they were fairly important and 1 out of 5 said that they were of minor importance.

Four respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication. All of them said that it would have a 'high' impact.

4.7 Migration

- 4.7.1 Thirteen respondents said that they used Total Migration To or From an Area. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Nine out of thirteen were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 7 out of 12 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 8 out of 12 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 11 out of 12 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 8 out of 12 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (10 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (8), incorporating into other statistics (7), resource

allocation (3), service planning (3), business/financial planning (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Just over two-thirds (9 out of 13) of respondents who used Total Migration To or From an Area said that it was very important to their work and (4 out of 13) said it was fairly important.

All 13 respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: eight said 'high', two said 'medium' and three said 'low'.

- 4.7.2 Migration within Scotland was used by 12 respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Eight out of twelve were satisfied that they met their needs (but 2 were dissatisfied); 7 out of 11 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 7 out of 11 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 10 out of 11 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (no one was dissatisfied); and 7 out of 11 were satisfied they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (8 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (7), resource allocation (2), service planning (2), research (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Just over half (7 out of 12) who used Migration within Scotland said that it was very important to their work and 5 out of 12 said it was fairly important.

All 12 gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: seven said 'high', three said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

- 4.7.3 Ten respondents used Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK. Responses were evenly split between those who were satisfied by the statistics included in the publication and those who were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Five out of ten were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no one was dissatisfied); 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 8 out of 10 were satisfied they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (8 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (6), incorporating into other statistics (5), resource allocation (2), service planning (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Half (5 out of 10) of the respondents who use Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK said that it was very important to their work and an equivalent proportion said it was fairly important.

All the respondents gave their view on the impact of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high', three said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

- 4.7.4 Migration between Scotland and Overseas was used by 10 respondents. Responses were generally split between those who were satisfied with the statistics included in this publication but a few dissatisfied with certain aspects. Five out of ten were satisfied that they met their needs (but 3 were dissatisfied); 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 8 out of 10 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 5 out of 10 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (8 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (6), incorporating into other statistics (5), resource allocation (2), service planning (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Half (5 out of 10) of the respondents who used Migration between Scotland and Overseas said that it was very important to their work and the same proportion said they were fairly important.

All the 10 respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high', three said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

- 4.7.5 Eleven respondents used Local Area Migration Tables. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication. Seven out of eleven were satisfied that they met their needs (but 2 were dissatisfied); 6 out of 10 were satisfied they were accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 7 out of 10 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 9 out of 10 were satisfied they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 7 out of 10 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (9 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (6), incorporating into other statistics (6), resource allocation (2), service planning (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Nearly two-thirds (7 out of 11) of the respondents who use Local Area Migration Tables said they are very important to their work, just over a quarter (4 out of 11) that they are fairly important and one said they 'don't know'.

All the 11 respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing the publication: six said 'high', three said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

4.8 Population projections

- 4.8.1 Projected Population of Scotland was used by 18 respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied with some aspects. Sixteen out of eighteen were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 13 out of 17 were satisfied they are accurate (but 1 was dissatisfied); 8 out of 17 were satisfied that they are

timely (but 3 were dissatisfied); 14 out of 17 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 12 out of 17 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 4 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (12 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (11), incorporating into other statistics (11), resource allocation (6), service planning (5), personal interest (2), teaching/education projects (1), internal projections (1) and reference purposes (1).

Nearly three-quarters (13 out of 18) of the respondents who use Projected Population of Scotland said it is very important to their work and just over a quarter (5 out of 18) said it was fairly important.

All 18 respondents gave their view of the impact on their work of discontinuing this publication: 15 said 'high' and three said 'medium'.

- 4.8.2 Nineteen respondents said that they used Sub-National Population Projections. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication with also a fair number neither satisfied nor dissatisfied by some aspects. Sixteen out of nineteen were satisfied that they met their needs (but 1 was dissatisfied); 11 out of 18 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no one was dissatisfied); 9 out of 18 were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 16 out of 18 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (but 1 was dissatisfied); and 16 out of 18 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for incorporating into other statistics (16 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (13), service planning (12), research (11), resource allocation (8), business/financial planning (3), teaching/education (1), personal interest (1) and reference purposes (1).

Almost all the respondents (18 out of 19) who use Sub-National Population Projections said they are very important to their work and only one said they were of minor importance.

All 19 respondents gave their view of the impact of discontinuing this publication: 14 said 'high', four said 'medium' and one said 'low'.

- 4.8.3 Population Projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Areas and National Parks were used by seven respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in the publication but a few were dissatisfied by the timeliness aspect. All the respondents who gave their views on the following aspects were satisfied: meeting their needs, were accurate, were clearly presented and were easy to find. Three out of six respondents were satisfied that they were timely (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (7 respondents), incorporating into other statistics (6), research (5), service planning (4), resource allocation (2), business/financial planning (1) and personal interest (1).

Population Projections for Scotland's SDP Areas and National Parks is very important to 5 out of 7 respondents who use it and fairly important for two of them.

All seven respondents gave their view of the impact of discontinuing this publication: five said 'high' and two said 'medium'.

4.9 Life Expectancy

- 4.9.1 Seven respondents said that they used Scottish National Life Tables. They were generally satisfied by the statistics included in this publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Six out of seven were satisfied that they met their needs (and no one was dissatisfied); 6 out of 7 were satisfied that they were accurate (and no one was dissatisfied); 6 out of 7 were satisfied that they are timely (but 1 was dissatisfied); 5 out of 7 were satisfied that they were clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 5 out of 7 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 1 was dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for monitoring and formulating policy (5 respondents), research (5), incorporating into other statistics (4), resource allocation (1), teaching/education projects (1) and personal interest (1).

Just over a quarter (2 out of 7) of the respondents who use Scottish National Life Tables said they were very important to them, around half (4 out of 7) said they were fairly important and one said they were of minor importance.

All seven respondents gave their view of the impact of discontinuing this publication: four said 'high', one said 'medium' and two said 'low'.

- 4.9.2 Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland was used by 14 respondents. They were generally satisfied by the statistics published in this publication but a few were dissatisfied by some aspects. Twelve out of fourteen were satisfied that they met their needs (and no one was dissatisfied); 10 out of 13 were satisfied that they are accurate (and no one was dissatisfied); 7 out of 13 were satisfied that they are timely (but 2 were dissatisfied); 9 out of 13 were satisfied that they are clearly presented (and no one was dissatisfied); and 8 out of 13 were satisfied that they were easy to find (but 2 were dissatisfied).

The statistics were said to be used for research (12 respondents), monitoring and formulating policy (11), incorporating into other statistics (8), service planning (5), resource allocation (3), preparing legislation (1), teaching/education projects (1), media use (1) and personal interest (1).

Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland was said to be very important to 11 out of 14 respondents who use it for their work and fairly important to 3 out of 14.

All the 14 respondents gave their view on the impact of discontinuing this publication: seven said 'high', four said 'medium' and three said 'low'.

5. How NRS Demographic Statistics communicates with users

5.1 ScotStat emails and general correspondence

- 5.1.1 ScotStat is a network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics. It aims to improve communication amongst those interested in particular statistics and facilitate the setting up of working groups on specific statistical issues.
- 5.1.2 ScotStat is used by National Records of Scotland (NRS) to promote Demographic Statistics to the user base. A ScotStat email is sent out on the day of every new NRS statistical publication.
- 5.1.3 Respondents were asked if they currently receive ScotStat emails. Seventeen out of twenty-five respondents replied ‘yes’. Respondents were then asked if they would like to see more regular ScotStat emails, possibly monthly updates. Only 4 out of 14 respondents wanted to see more regular updates.
- 5.1.4 Several respondents indicated that no further ScotStat emails were required while one stated having a monthly update would be beneficial. Two respondents also requested a more unique or tailored ScotStat subject title. Detailed comments on this question are provided in [Annex F](#).
- 5.1.5 Respondents were also asked if there was a requirement to contact users in ways other than ScotStat, user groups and Twitter. Only one respondent replied ‘yes’, with eight replying ‘no’.
- 5.1.6 One respondent suggested WebEx as a good way to contact users. Detailed comments on this question are provided in [Annex F](#).

5.2 ‘About this Publication’ document

- 5.2.1 NRS publishes an ‘About this Publication’ document for most of its statistical publications. It contains details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy, etc. It is published alongside its corresponding publication on the NRS website.
- 5.2.2 Respondents to the survey were asked if they found this document useful. Fifteen respondents agreed it was useful, while two replied ‘no’. Eight were undecided.
- 5.2.3 One respondent indicated that the ‘About this Publication’ document was vital for training new staff. Another respondent suggested having a date for the next update to a publication to be included. Detailed comments on this question are provided in [Annex F](#).

6. Summary of responses for suggestions for specific changes to publications

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Respondents were asked if there were specific changes they thought we should make in the statistics outputs within Demographic Statistics in terms of content, timing, methods, coverage and any other suggestions.
- 6.1.2 Forty-eight comments were received across all the outputs consulted on. The following sections will summarise these comments. Detailed comments are available in [Annex B](#).

6.2 Electoral Statistics

- 6.2.1 There were no suggestions for specific changes to the Electoral Statistics publication.

6.3 Vital Events Statistics

- 6.3.1 There were only a few suggestions from respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Three were for publications and/or data to be released earlier, in two cases saying even if it was just provisional / draft material, to be finalised later. Another comment was that having consistent time series is very important.

6.4 Household Statistics

- 6.4.1 Several respondents asked if the household projections could be published earlier, and one asked if they could be published annually. Some users asked for projections for different geographies, e.g., sub-council level, and for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. With regard to the Small Area Household Estimates, one user asked if it would be possible to publish counts as well as / instead of percentages (e.g. percentage of dwellings which second homes etc). One user said that any improvement on the way that migration is calculated would be very welcome, because their planning assumptions have to be based on projections which they felt do not currently accurately reflect the movements to and from rural areas.

6.5 Population, Migration and Life Expectancy

- 6.5.1 There were a few suggestions regarding population estimates on specific changes to the publications. Respondents requested for publications to be released earlier, closer to the date they refer to. Another comment referred to possibility of publishing Small Area Population Estimates by single year of age and sex rather than supplying them upon request. Also regarding Small Area Population Estimates there was a suggestion to produce annual updates at both the new and old geographies for easier quantification of changes between the geographies. Another comment suggested further

breakdown of categories within the Population by Country of Birth and Nationality would make them more useful.

- 6.5.2 Specific changes suggested on Migration estimates include improved reliability of overseas figures and use of changes to Community Health Index (CHI) registrations in the migration estimates calculations. Other respondents require more detailed information on migration statistics for example date of entry into the UK (excluding visitors), date of naturalisation and information on whether an immigrant was ever an asylum seeker. Another comment noted that having small area migration estimates would be more useful compared to limiting them to council area estimates.
- 6.5.3 There were a few suggestions on the Population Projections theme. Respondents preferred a short time lag between the date of the base year and the publication of data. Also related to timeliness was a request to reduce the time lag between publishing projections after a new census which was thought to be too long at the moment. A number of respondents noted that they would benefit from an annual publication of Population Projections. Another comment was that having Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) population projections would be very useful.
- 6.5.4 There were very few suggestions which respondents agreed to be made public for the Life Expectancy publications. One suggestion was for more frequent releases at sub-national level and another which requested both publications to be easier to find and interpret.

7. Summary of responses for impact of discontinuing outputs

7.1 Introduction

Respondents were asked the impact on their work should the statistical products they use be discontinued. A summary of the comments are provided in the rest of this section. Full lists of all comments on this question are provided in [Annex C](#).

7.2 Electoral Statistics

One respondent described the consequences of discontinuing Electoral Statistics to their work, “We would need to source the data from elsewhere as we use them for planning the running of elections and boundary reviews. It would be harder to access data for other areas for comparative purposes.”

7.3 Vital Events Statistics

- 7.3.1 Respondents described various adverse consequences of discontinuing outputs.
- 7.3.2 Two comments pointed out that comparisons across the UK would not be possible.
- 7.3.3 Three referred to the outputs’ importance for public health work (e.g. as key outcome measures for policies and programmes at the sub-Scotland level), three others to their use for planning (“core to our planning of services and quoted in most strategic documents”), for monitoring plans (“either the actions / outcomes being monitored could not be measured or alternative indicators would have to be found” and “key dataset used in number of our local data/reporting for monitoring/service improvement”) and another to the impact on service delivery.
- 7.3.4 Several comments referred to the need for figures for deaths from particular causes. “C.Diff/MRSA are required as part of overall service monitoring ... more regular updating useful to check locally derived data”; “the Council does a lot of work on drug and alcohol users and this data is important monitoring information for that work”; “the publications ... useful reference documents when attending meetings and external events, this is especially so for the drug-related deaths publication, which is frequently used in this manner”. One respondent stated that drug-related death data “are key to my work for the [REDACTED] and my own research agenda”.
- 7.3.5 Two respondents referred to their use of the quarterly birth data: “these figures give us early warning of the trends in young children for our school rolls”; and “a specific input into our school roll forecasting model; the fact that it is quarterly means that we can use it to construct approximate figures for both the school year and the school entry year (01/03 -28/02)”.
- 7.3.6 There were two other comments on the use of the data for in-house demographic work, with one respondent explaining that the council uses “other birth data, such as births by country of birth of mother, to help understand migration patterns and changing ethnicity and social patterns within the council area and death data as useful background to its age

profile. It's important to us that this information is available at subnational level".

- 7.3.7 One respondent was a regular user of the Reference Tables, and two comments referred to the need for the data for research: "research using these statistics has been carried out ... using the raw data ... very important to [our] work"; and "without these statistics there would be a lack of primary and comparative data for research".

7.4 Household Statistics

- 7.4.1 Most respondents described how important these statistics are for Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDA) (they are an essential input into the [REDACTED] toolkit). This provides an evidence base for Strategic and Local Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies which are all statutory requirements. The HNDA helps to identify long-term housing requirements, the availability of land for housing development and ultimately this evidence has a significant impact upon decisions on planning applications. They are also used for understanding the economy, and for service planning, e.g. planning support for older people living alone and single parent families.

7.5 Population, Migration and Life Expectancy

- 7.5.1 Respondents described a range of adverse effects of discontinuing publications.
- 7.5.2 There were several comments relating to use of Population Estimates to calculate rates, using them as a denominator and input in resource allocation calculations. For example "we use the population estimates regularly for calculating rates (council area, health board and small area)"; "MYEs and SAPEs are used for monitoring progress towards our SOA outcomes and for both service and policy purposes. The SAPEs are also used to aggregate up to larger areas for community profiling, the creation of bespoke geographies..."; another respondent explained their use in resource allocation "The sub-national and small area mid-year population estimates are an essential input to the National Resource Allocation Committee formula, which is used to inform the allocation of £8.3 billion (in 2014-15) of resources amongst the territorial NHS Boards.".
- 7.5.3 There were a few comments relating to use of Migration statistics with one respondent explaining how they use them for planning purposes "Outwith the Census these are our main source of information about migration and it's difficult to see how we could replace the information. Statistics about migration are another important source for the planning process as well as for social service provision.>"; and another referred to its use for research purposes "Migration and particularly migrant health and health equality is a developing area for important research that [REDACTED] is involved with through partners in the academic and [REDACTED]."
- 7.5.4 There were several uses for Population Projections which would be adversely affected by their discontinuation. They are mainly used for

planning purposes and local projections for example the following two comments “Useful in estimating population growth and where growth should be accommodated in the city region.” and “Used to project possible future health need”. Other respondents used them within their own publications with one comment stating “We require population projections data for [REDACTED] publications and outputs to provide denominator data. This is vital for us to provide rate calculations, especially for target allocation of [REDACTED] [REDACTED].”

- 7.5.5 Life Expectancy statistics are especially useful for comparison purposes both within Scotland and internationally with the following comments describing these uses: “We use them for monitoring purposes and we would lose that particular comparison” and “This is one of the few indicators that allows us to give international context to the health challenges we face in Scotland”.

8. Summary of general comments for specific publications

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Respondents were asked to provide any other comments on the outputs they use or provide further details to their previous answers. A summary of the comments are provided in the rest of this section. Full lists of all comments on this question are provided in [Annex D](#).

8.2 Electoral Statistics

- 8.2.1 There was a single response on Electoral Statistics with the respondent stating the use they make of the publication: “Reflects social history trends”.

8.3 Vital Events Statistics

- 8.3.1 One respondent described an organisation’s use of National Records of Scotland (NRS) data: “For health equality/inequality, life expectancy, populations and deaths by protected characteristics, population by other vulnerable groups are needed. In equalities intelligence we use the deaths data, and plan to exploit the developing ethnicity data now collected at death registration. We link the mortality data from NRS to health data to carry out health equality and inequality analyses. We also plan to use life expectancy data in health inequalities analysis more than we do now.”
- 8.3.2 Some respondents expressed their appreciation of what NRS does: “... the very helpful role of NRS staff in providing customised ‘one off’ outputs”; “... the NRS products are created to a very high standard ...”; “generally we find the statistics provided by NRS to be key in informing our work and publications. Extremely essential source of data”; and “carry on the good work with the Drugs & Alcohol deaths statistics!”

8.4 Population, Migration and Life Expectancy

- 8.4.1 There were few comments under the Population and Migration theme with none for Population Projections and Life Expectancy.
- 8.4.2 One respondent described the mismatch of data zones to the physical geography in their area and the limited use of Settlement estimates as they relate to minimum population of 500: “Small Area Population Estimates are extremely valuable, but data zones do not match well to the physical geography of our area. Therefore, we do not have good population information about our individual islands. Additional information about these would be helpful. Settlement estimates, using a minimum population of 500, limits their usefulness in our area as many of our settlements are smaller than this.”; and another appreciated age profiling of settlement and locality populations saying “The age profiling of settlement and locality populations is very welcome and I hope will be continued.”

9. Summary of general comments about NRS work

- 9.1 Respondents were asked to provide further comments regarding any other aspects of National Records of Scotland (NRS) work “In terms of the quality, we have found the demographic statistics to be of good quality. The only small problem is sometimes it can be tricky to find some of the tables. - In summary the reductions that are proposed in the consultation document should not have a big impact on the work of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]”
- 9.2 Other respondents were appreciative of the work of NRS with three comments on this theme: “We have always found NRS to be open and helpful and appreciate this relationship”, “Keep up the good work!” and “You provide a great service, easily accessible and world class. Thank you!”. A list of all the comments on this question are available in [Annex E](#).

10. Next steps in the consultation process

- 10.1 Publication of this summary analysis for the consultation responses concludes the formal consultation on Demographic Statistics products. However, our usual consultation with stakeholders will be on-going especially with ScotStat network and Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS). National Records of Scotland (NRS) will consider the responses submitted to this consultation to inform decisions on improving outputs and making changes to outputs as required.
- 10.2 NRS would welcome any user reaction to the content of this consultation analysis, either from those who submitted responses (to correct any misreading of their comments or to provide further feedback in light of comments made by others) or from anyone else.

Annex A List of consultation respondents happy to have their name made available

Organisation	Respondent Type
NHS Lothian	NHS
NHS NSS ISD	NHS
Argyll and Bute Council	Local Government
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	Other
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Government Agency
Scottish Government	Central Government Department
Office for National Statistics	Government Agency
SESpian	Local Government
Aberdeenshire Council	Local Government
City of Edinburgh Council	Local Government
NHS Highland	NHS
East Dunbartonshire Council	Local Government
Clydeplan	Local Government
NHS Western Isles	NHS
University of Glasgow	Higher/further education
Falkirk Council	Local Government
Aberdeen City Council	Local Government
PHE – University of Hertfordshire	Higher/further education
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	NHS
NHS Health Scotland	NHS

Annex B Detailed comments on responses for suggestions to specific changes

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

Statistics on Same Sex Marriage

Please provide details of any changes or additions you would like to see to these tables to provide information on same sex marriage. For example, would you like to see the existing tables expanded to include all marriages without being able to separately identify same sex marriages? Or would you like to see separate breakdowns provided for same sex and opposite sex couples? Are you interested in statistics on civil partnership conversions?

- With regard to statistics on marriages to same sex couples, the information we would require for our reference tables to provide a UK total would be the number of same sex marriages for F/F and M/M. We would also need the number of civil partnership conversions to same sex marriages.
We'd essentially like to be able to have as fine a breakdown of the data as possible (subject to disclosure policies, of course)
- Same sex marriages have not been extended to [REDACTED] and so for comparative purposes [REDACTED] could like separate breakdowns for same sex and opposite sex couples to be presented. Statistics on civil partnership conversions would be useful from a policy perspective for [REDACTED]
- I think we would want to be able to identify same sex marriages separately. Civil partnership conversions would also be of interest
- Separate breakdowns provided for same sex and opposite sex couples and statistics on civil partnership conversions
- A breakdown of marriage/civil partnership with the ability to identify same sex couples (and the sex they are) for each would be useful from the equalities perspective perhaps as a way of updating census estimates between censuses.

Are there any specific changes you think we should make to these publications (in terms of content, timing, methods, coverage etc)? Please specify the publication(s) to which the response refers to.

Vital Events – Deaths from particular causes

- It would be helpful to have more timely release of annual data even if provisional release and later validated.
- Timing is key - would be useful if these publications were available earlier - even if it was in draft format
- No we are highly appreciative of the content as it stands
- Indirect standardised rates would be useful for comparative purposes or release by age/sex breakdown to allow local standardisation where numbers allow.

Vital Events – Other publications

- Improving timeliness is always good
- For most VE, having consistent time series is very important.
- Tables relating to Births and Deaths can be found either in General Publications or under their own headings in Vital Events. I feel it would be useful if all birth data were in one place (and death data etc.)
- We provide statistics on divorces and CP dissolutions within our reference tables, so eventually a same sex marriage resulting in a divorce will need to be published in the reference tables also. Hopefully this is on your radar too!

Household Statistics

- If there were any way of bringing the household projections forward that would be helpful. There is a long time delay between the date the statistics relate to and the date of publication. With regard to the Small Area Household Estimates, publishing counts as well as / instead of percentages (e.g. % second homes etc) would be helpful.
- It would be useful to be able to access these statistics at [REDACTED] also.
- The closer they are produced to the time period they describe the better. It would also be useful if they were published for sub-council areas.
- Population and Household Projections by LA and SDPA - although we appreciate there is a resource constraint on their annual production by LA, we would benefit greatly from their annual publication. The household projections are one of the main inputs into the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and annual projections would offer more flexibility around the publication of Strategic and Local Development Plans (5 yearly reviews) which accord with Scottish Planning Policy and the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.
- It would be helpful if they could be produced as closely as possible to the base date
- Any improvement on the way that migration is calculated would be very welcome, because our planning assumptions have to be based on projections which do not currently accurately reflect the movements to and from rural areas.

Population Estimates

- Reducing the time lag between the date to which statistics apply and the date of the publications would be helpful. Given the need for quality assurance, I'm not sure how easy this would be to do, but demand from managers suggests that greater currency of statistics would be appreciated. The routine publication of Small Area Population Estimates by single year of age and sex, rather than having them supplied in response to ad hoc requests, would be helpful.
- When new small area (Data Zone and Intermediate) geographies are released following a census (as has recently occurred), it would be useful if the next one (or two) annual updates to the small area population estimates could be published on the basis of both the old and new geographies. In the absence of such an overlap, we are unable to quantify the effect that the change in small area geographies has, through the population distribution, on the National Resource Allocation Committee formula.
- Population by country of birth and by nationality - these tables could be much more useful if the information was not aggregated to such high levels. UK/non UK British/non British are too broad.

- We do use Mid-Year Estimates, at small areas, frequently and the sooner they are available, the better. I would like to raise the issue of the [REDACTED] population in [REDACTED]. This population [REDACTED] and this can have a large effect on [REDACTED] population figures. It would be helpful to be able to dissociate this population from the rest of the population in [REDACTED].
I don't recall if those 90+ are published for local authority areas. I'd perhaps use this.

Migration

- Increased reliability of overseas migration figures.
- I would like to see more use of the changes to CHI registrations in the migration calculations; this has been discussed for some time.
- Better migration statistics, e.g. date of entry to the UK (except holidays) and date of naturalisation or getting British citizenship in health records, also whether ever an asylum seeker in health records. If NRS could improve our knowledge of numbers of migrants in LAs in Scotland, which could easily be linked to area and individual deprivation measures and health measure, that would be very helpful. Simply adding the CHI number to every person's NRS record (both for migrants and non-migrants) would allow much faster and simpler data linkage, which would allow much better use to be made of the NRS data.
- Although migration statistics are useful, their publication at the council area geography is limiting. Population trends vary within our council area; more information to support the monitoring of this variation (as well as supporting the production of small area population projections) would be valuable.
- We would welcome a more accurate measure of migration in and out of the rural areas, as the population estimates do not reflect what the census tells us. We have to use a reputable population estimate for planning purposes but the estimates/projections assume a falling population for our region which does not chime with the census. It is particularly divergent for the working age population.

Population Projections

- As with household projections, if the publication / production date could be brought forward, to reduce the time lag between the date of the base year and the publication, that would be helpful.
- It would be useful to have projections available for the [REDACTED] region.
- Both of these comments relate to the national and sub-national projection products:
 - 1) In terms of our comment on the accuracy and timeliness of these statistics, these responses were limited by the fact that rebasing only occurs every second year. For example, there are 2010-based and 2012-based projections, but not 2011-based ones. It would represent a substantial improvement from our perspective if a new set of projections could be published each year.
 - 2) The gap in the publication of population projection data that occurs when each new census is released presents a challenge for us in our use of this data. If it would be possible to amend the publication time-scale such that there was not such a gap following the census (i.e. continue to publish a further years' worth of projections based on the previous census), then this would represent an improvement from our perspective.
- Population and Household Projections by LA and SDPA - although we appreciate there is a resource constraint on their annual production by LA, we would benefit greatly from

their annual publication. The household projections are one of the main inputs into the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (and these go hand in hand with population projections) and annual projections would offer more flexibility around the publication of Strategic and Local Development Plans (5 yearly reviews) which accord with Scottish Planning Policy and the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

- Incorporation of SAPE population projections

Life Expectancy

- More frequent releases at sub-national level
- We always merge this work with the wider UK local authority figures. These could be published all together.
- Make both these publications easier to find and interpret.

Annex C Detailed comments on responses for impact of discontinuing outputs

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

If you answered that it would have a 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please explain the value you place on these statistics, and particularly any decisions that would be affected.

Registrar General's Annual Review

- While I have enjoyed reading the RG's annual report in the past, much of the material is published elsewhere. This is a nice 'extra' to have, but it is not of as high priority as other NRS outputs.
- We essentially pull out a selection of figures for imputing into the Vital Statistics:
[REDACTED]

Marital Status Population Estimates

- Generally this information is used to create a profile of the area.
- Equalities impact assessments need access to a wide range of statistics based on the population subgroups covered by the protected characteristics. Withdrawing these could have an impact on Health Inequalities Impact Assessments (HIIAs) as Marriage/civil partnership is a legally protected characteristic. The estimates available from the Scottish Household Survey will be less precise which would especially affect the usefulness of HIIAs on the characteristics at sub-national geographies – eg NHS Boards, CHPs, CPPs.

Electoral Statistics

- We would need to source the data from elsewhere as we use them for planning the running of elections and boundary reviews. It would be harder to access data for other areas for comparative purposes.

Vital Events – Deaths from particular causes

- I don't regularly report these data but believe that they are useful to the organisation.
- If any of these products were discontinued, comparisons across the UK would not be possible.
- A number of these are key outcomes measures for public health population policies and interventions while C.Diff/MRSA are required as part of overall service monitoring where again more regular updating useful to check locally derived data.
- The Council does a lot of work on drug and alcohol users and this data is important monitoring information for that work
- These statistics are used in key publication that impact on service delivery
- Drug-related data are key to my work for the [REDACTED] and my own research agenda
- These stats underpin some of the core work in public health.

- Research using these statistics has been carried out by [REDACTED] using the raw data, not from any publication. Therefore, the data itself are very important to the work of [REDACTED] while the publications less so. The publications, however, do provide a useful reference document when attending meetings and external events, this is especially so for the drug-related deaths publication, which is frequently used in this manner.
- Without these statistics there would be a lack of primary and comparative data for research.
- These statistics/publications cover priority areas of public health in Scotland and provide a quick insight into these, especially for drug-related harm/mortality. Their absence would create a gap in easily accessible the information on these priority topics.

Vital Events – Other publications

- Some of the vital events data are used to monitor plans. If the data were not available, either the actions / outcomes being monitored could not be measured or alternative indicators would have to be found. Some VE data also feeds into demographic work carried out in-house.
- Quarterly birth data is a specific input into our school roll forecasting model; the fact that it is quarterly means that we can use it to construct approximate figures for both the school year and the school entry year (01/03 -28/02). We also use other birth data, such as births by country of birth of mother, to help understand migration patterns and changing ethnicity and social patterns within the council area and death data as useful background to its age profile. It's important to us that this information is available at subnational level.
- I do use the VE reference table regularly.
- Comparisons across the UK would not be possible
- Age-specific death rates key population health measure and wouldn't allow us to compare overall measure of public health programmes at sub-national level. Weekly vital events data key dataset used in number of our local data/reporting for monitoring/service improvement.
- With a growing child population, these figures give us early warning of the trends in young children for our school rolls.
- The vital events stats are core to our planning of services and quoted in most strategic documents.

Household Statistics

- Household projections for Scotland and for council areas are used to monitor and inform policy. The projections are also one of the inputs into the [REDACTED]. Dwelling counts, allied to types of attachment, have proved to be a valuable resource in the past.
- As the [REDACTED] development agency for the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] purpose is to generate sustainable economic growth in every part of the region. [REDACTED] approach is to target the resources in accordance with particular local need. [REDACTED] utilises a wide range of national statistics (many from NRS) to help understand the workings of the regional economy and its constituent local economies to inform resource prioritisation. Robust, timely, accessible local level data is required to allow us to analyse wide variations in socio-economic performance between different sub-regions.

- Strategic Development Plan Area statistics is useful to anticipate future housing trends and how much growth will be required within the city region.
- All these publications, particularly at Council level, are highly important in both the preparation and the monitoring of the local development plan and the structural development plan. They are also used as direct inputs into Housing Need and Development Analysis.
- These form part of a profile of [REDACTED].
- Population and Household Projections by LA and SDPA - Annual production, particularly of household projections, would mean we could use the most up-to-date and accurate projections available for the five-yearly review of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment. This provides an evidence base for Strategic and Local Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies which are all statutory requirements. The HNDA helps to identify long-term housing requirements, the availability of land for housing development and ultimately this evidence has a significant impact upon decisions on planning applications.
- These statistics are vital for our planning and housing strategies as well as for service planning
- These statistics are key in assessing and understanding our households
- Households work is slightly less well used than individual population pieces, however the data that is particularly useful for service planning is the households of older adults living alone and single parent families.

Population Estimates

- Population Estimates – we use the population estimates regularly for calculating rates (council area, health board and small area). In addition we would use population estimates for estimating coverage, for example, of child health reviews and sense checking - are we getting the number of people we would expect?
- MYEs and SAPEs are used for monitoring progress towards our SOA outcomes and for both service and policy planning purposes. The SAPEs are also used to aggregate up to larger areas for community profiling, the creation of bespoke geographies, and input into the [REDACTED]
- We require populations data for many [REDACTED] and outputs to provide denominator data. This is vital for us to provide rate calculations
- As previously indicated, [REDACTED] purpose is to generate sustainable economic growth in every part of the region. [REDACTED] approach is to target the resources in accordance with particular local need. The availability of NRS statistics, in particular small area statistics using data zones helps [REDACTED] to understand the workings of local economies to track changes over time and inform resource prioritisation.

The introduction of data zones has improved greatly the availability and comparability of local area statistics. Data zones are used extensively by [REDACTED] to compile data for relevant geographies below the Scotland geography. This occurs at several levels - at the [REDACTED] as a whole; at [REDACTED] area office level; and at individual community level. Data is collated to examine socio-economic trends across these geographies, with a focus on demographics, economic activity, employment rates and unemployment.

[REDACTED] use Mid-year and small area population statistics on a daily basis, to inform research and for collating and disseminating economic intelligence, and the production of factsheets, area profiles etc which we share internally and externally to improve

understanding of socio-economic conditions across the region, an example of which can be found on the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. We also

regularly use NRS Population projections figures and those for settlements and localities

- The sub-national and small area mid-year population estimates are an essential input to the National Resource Allocation Committee formula, which is used to inform the allocation of £ 8.3 bn (in 2014-15) of resources amongst the territorial NHS Boards. Were such population estimates to not be available, it would not be possible to have a weighted-capitation resource allocation formula that is reflective of variations in need at the local scale. Such a change would have a first order impact on the degree of equity, objectivity and responsiveness present in how public resources are allocated.
- Population estimates and projections are highly important to the planning process and to the preparation and monitoring of local development and structural development plans. They are also a direct input into Housing Need and Demand Analysis.
- Mid-year estimates and at small areas underpin many of the statistics I present.
- We would be unable to accurately fulfil the requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006, Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Need and Demand Assessment if accurate and regular council and lower level population information was not made available.
- Crucial in many local statistics for calculating various population rates
- We make extensive use of the mid-year estimates and small area population estimates in all aspects of our work
- Reputable population information is absolutely crucial.
- Mid-year population estimates are crucial to the work of [REDACTED] as they provide the denominators required to calculate and standardise rates across a wide range of health-related indicators such as those in the [REDACTED]. These profiles are highly valued by our local partners and stakeholders.
- Please can we also raise awareness of how useful and crucial to planning the population estimates for small areas and settlements are? Particularly as we move towards integration of health and social care which is going to be governed at a smaller locality level in the future.

Migration

- Migration is an extremely important factor in demographic change within our area and we need to monitor it, along with other drivers of change.
- Outwith the Census these are our main source of information about migration and it's difficult to see how we could replace the information. Statistics about migration are another important source for the planning process as well as for social service provision.
- Accurate migration information is critical to Strategic Development Planning Authority's (SDPAs) and Housing Need and Demand Assessments to allow planning for the future.
- We use this information for monitoring purposes and may use them in future for our own population projections
- The products themselves are slightly less vital than the population estimates, but as this work feeds into the population assumptions, it is also crucial.
- Migration and particularly migrant health and health equality is a developing area for important research that [REDACTED] is involved with through partners in the academic and [REDACTED].

Population Projections

- Population Projections – these would be used for things like cancer incidence projections
- Population change is of major concern in our area, and any / all information that helps us monitor trends is of great value.
- We require population projections data for [REDACTED] and outputs to provide denominator data. This is vital for us to provide rate calculations, especially for target allocation of [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] monitor population projections for both Scotland and the Local Authority areas within the [REDACTED] area, this allows us to monitor potential changes to the region's population, highlighting areas which may require additional attention and resource.
- The sub-national [REDACTED] population projections are used to estimate the future population distribution within the NRAC formula that is used to inform the allocation of resources between [REDACTED]. Were these projections to not be available, the resource allocation formula would have to use the historic (estimated) population distribution relative to the year for which the allocations are being informed. Such a change would have a substantial impact on the degree of responsiveness in terms of how public resources are allocated.
- Useful in estimating population growth and where growth should be accommodated in the city region.
- Used to project possible future health need
- Population and Household Projections by LA and SDPA - Annual production, particularly of household projections, would mean we could use the most up-to-date and accurate projections available for the five-yearly review of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment. This provides an evidence base for Strategic and Local Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies which are all statutory requirements. The HNDA helps to identify long-term housing requirements, the availability of land for housing development and ultimately this evidence has a significant impact upon decisions on planning applications.
- Similar to estimates the projections are crucial in forecasting service needs and profiling populations needs
- We would have to carry out our own projections which would be very time consuming and would probably be less accurate than the NRS ones
- Helpful information for service planning and research.
- These are crucial for underpinning planning assumptions
- [REDACTED] uses the national population projections when reporting per adult alcohol consumption as part of the [REDACTED]. We perform the analysis before the mid-year population estimates for the most recent year are published so they are very important to us.
Data are used in the informing investment to reduce health inequalities (III) in Scotland project of [REDACTED] to model future projections in reductions in mortality. The absence of these statistics would have a huge impact on this work, as the national data would not be available on which to model.

Life Expectancy

- Life tables used to understand health and for comparative health
- Key public health outcome measure and for variations in population.
- We use them for monitoring purposes and we would lose that particular comparison

- This is one of the few indicators that allows us to give international context to the health challenges we face in Scotland.

Annex D General Comments on specific publications

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

Finally, would you like to provide any other comments on these statistics, or provide further details to explain any of your previous answers?

Registrar General's Annual Review

- It's always interesting to read and I value the fact that so much information is brought together in one place. I know that I can access the information in it through other NRS sources but wonder how aware a non-specialist would be of this?
- This is always very good quality and useful for teaching people about population health, however the nature of the data is that the changes from year to year are modest so we do not revisit it every year unless there is a specific need.
- Little to no use is made of this report by the organisation. The information that it covers which is of interest to the organisation is accessed from other reports and the original data.
If all the statistics are to be preserved, but just not part of a report (i.e. just spreadsheets), then this proposal is fine. If this proposed change, however, involves a reduction in the data being made available this might be more important to us and have an impact on many projects and aspects of our work including the [REDACTED].
Note, at an individual personal level this review was identified as useful to gain a quick idea of trends and as an aspect of broadening knowledge.

Marital Status Population Estimates

- The response would have been different had this data been available at sub-national level as this is an important social indicator

Electoral Statistics

- Reflects social history trends

Vital Events – Deaths from particular causes

- The main value in my research, which evaluates policy, is the very helpful role of NRS staff in providing customised 'one off' outputs rather than the output of routine regular reports. Such outputs may be of trends over several years or decades, not just an annual figure
- Generally we find the statistics provided by NRS to be key in informing our work and publications. Extremely essential source of data.
- Carry on the good work with the Drugs & Alcohol deaths statistics!
- This is a much broader question than the rest, providing a comprehensive answer would be large evaluation project.

For health equality/inequality, life expectancy, populations and deaths by protected characteristics, population by other vulnerable groups are needed.

In equalities intelligence we use the deaths data, and plan to exploit the developing ethnicity data now collected at death registration. We link the mortality data from NRS to health data to carry out health equality and inequality analyses. We also plan to use life expectancy data in health inequalities analysis more than we do now. The NRS products are created to a very high standard.

- Note, that as an organisation [REDACTED] tends to more often use the raw data or spreadsheets with the data tabulated rather than using other formatted outputs.

Vital Events – Other publications

- As long as we [REDACTED] are able to get the data we need from elsewhere - which it seems we should be able to - then there aren't really any issues

Household Statistics

- Although part of [REDACTED] lies within our council area, I seldom make use of the national park statistics as the bulk of the park lies outwith [REDACTED]. Statistics that cover the whole of [REDACTED] are more useful.

Population Estimates

- Small Area Population Estimates are extremely valuable, but datazones do not match well to the physical geography of our area. Therefore we do not have good population information about our [REDACTED]. Additional information about these would be helpful. Settlement estimates, using a minimum population of 500, limits their usefulness in our area as many of our settlements are smaller than this.
- Teams in [REDACTED] require '2001 Data zone' population estimates for on-going [REDACTED] work. We have already raised this issue with NRS.
- The age profiling of settlement and locality populations is very welcome and I hope will be continued.
- We understand the difficulties that migration stats pose but the funding of health services in rural areas is directly linked to the population estimates as these feed through into [REDACTED].

Migration

- I have assumed that the Local Area Migration Report is the Local Area Migration spreadsheet? Which I appreciate for the way it brings so much information together in one place.

Population Projections

- No comments

Life Expectancy

- No comment

Annex E General Comments about NRS work

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

If you have further comments regarding any other aspects of our work in NRS, please provide details below.

- In terms of the quality, we have found the demographic statistics to be of good quality. The only small problem is sometimes it can be tricky to find some of the tables. - In summary the reductions that are proposed in the consultation document should not have a big impact on the work of the population health team.
- We have always found NRS to be open and helpful and appreciate this relationship.
- Keep up the good work!
- You provide a great service, easily accessible and world class. Thank you!
- While as an organisation we make use of many of the statistics covered in this consultation, [REDACTED] tends to use the raw datasets for our work rather than going to the publications for the statistics. This has influenced our consultation response.

The publication reports, however, are seen to have utility as a resource where all the information is pulled together in one place and so are still of use to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Annex F Comments about NRS communication

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

If you answered that you receive ScotStat emails, would you like more regular ScotStat updates? We currently send one for every publication, but would you like more regular updates in order to understand our work better? For example what we are doing on a month to month basis?

- No. Updates are fine at present. However, an improvement to the mailings would be if they had more tailored subject lines. I receive alerts on a range of topics, and they are all headed 'Latest News from ScotStat', which isn't informative.
- Happy with the existing updates although an unique subject for each email would be very useful if it was easy to implement
- [REDACTED] are always interested in the work of ScotStat and would value regular updates on the work being undertaken.
- A monthly update could be useful and would allow us to answer colleagues questions about when information will be available more fully. An indication of information that is available on request, e.g. other geographies, disaggregation would also be useful.
- The current emails are helpful and alert me to publications.
- I am very interested in your work but I am not sure whether it would be a good use of your resources to send out more updates
- No, just the new releases is fine.
- No. Currently ScotStat sends out many emails, which are very informative. However, more would likely be too many for easy management and absorption of information.

We currently engage with our users via ScotStat, various user committees for example Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) and Twitter. We also run an biennial user conference. Are there other methods or events you would like us to embrace to better engage with you?

- I am satisfied with the level of engagement
- WebEx sessions
- No - email most effective.

Is there additional information we could include in the 'About this publication' to benefit you?

- We may not regularly access these, but they are vital for training new staff and to double check nuances in methodology when there are queries.
- Apologies if it does include this but it is always good to know when an item has been published and also when the next update is due.