



Demography Division Statistics Plan 2013-14

Published October 2013

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1. Introduction

The Demography Division of the National Records of Scotland publishes a wealth of statistical information about the people of Scotland.

This plan sets out our statistical work planned for 2013-14 and includes information on: priorities; resources ([Annex A](#)); statistical publications; and improvement activities.

More detailed information on the business objectives for 2013-14 is given in [Annex B](#), and progress against business objectives for last financial year (2012-13) is reported in [Annex C](#).

Our statistical planning is a continuous process, and we place strong emphasis on taking into account the views of the people who use our data. A draft of this plan will be discussed with some representatives of users of our statistics from the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS). Further information about the committee can be found within the [User consultations, groups and seminars](#) section of the NRS website). The final version will be circulated to members of the [ScotStat Register](#) (available on the Scottish Government website) who have indicated an interest in Demography.

If you wish to comment on this plan, please contact:

Kirsty MacLachlan,
Head of Demography Division,
National Records of Scotland,
Room 1/2/3, Ladywell House,
Ladywell Road,
Edinburgh,
EH12 7TF.
Telephone: (0131) 314 4242
E-mail: kirsty.maclachlan@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

2. Priorities

2.1 Contribution to the Scottish Government (SG) National Performance Framework

The Government in Scotland set out their priorities within the [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF) available on the SG website. The NPF supports delivery of the Scottish Government's Purpose which is: 'To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth'. Progress towards the Purpose is tracked by 7 Purpose Targets and it is supported by 16 National Outcomes - describing the kind of Scotland we want to be - and 50 National Indicators, covering key areas of health, justice, environment, economy, and education.

Like other Scottish public bodies, National Records of Scotland Demography Division provides a range of information used to measure performance in the NPF. The Scottish Government's [Criteria for Assessing Performance](#) which is available on their website, gives guiding principles and methodology for assessing and reporting progress on these measures.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) population estimates and data on birth and death registrations are a key part of measuring performance against Purpose Target Population – Increase population growth and healthy life expectancy.

NRS data is also used in the measurement of some of the National Indicators, which the Scottish Government uses to track progress towards the achievement of its National Outcomes. For example, they provide the relevant population data where indicators are measured per head of population, or as a fraction of the total population.

NRS data contribute to the measurement of indicators on:

- increasing the number of businesses;
- reducing the proportion of individuals living in poverty;
- reducing premature mortality;
- reducing emergency admissions to hospital; and
- increasing the number of new homes.

Where survey data has been used (for example, Scottish Household Survey data on the 'percentage of adults who smoke' indicator), aspects of the sample of the population surveyed (for example, age and sex) are typically compared to the NRS population estimates. Where necessary, the raw survey data are adjusted to ensure the results are representative of the actual population.

2.2 Contributions to Single Outcome Agreements

In 2007, representatives of the Scottish Government and Scottish local government signed a concordat. This concordat committed both to moving towards Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) for all 32 of Scotland's councils.

SOAs are agreements between the Scottish Government and the 32 Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people, in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities. The process to establish new SOAs is currently underway.

This has increased the need for data which can be used to measure progress against appropriate local indicators.

Data at sub-Scotland geographies

To address this need, we are working to:

- make information more accessible by:
 - Maintaining, and improving a table of [sub-Scotland data sources](#) on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website which gives a detailed breakdown of all NRS data available at sub-Scotland geography levels (for example, council area or NHS Board area).
 - Maintaining and improving the [Council Area Factsheets](#) that are available on the NRS website.
 - Completing a revamp of the [Geography](#) section of our website to make it easier to navigate.
 - Creating a new [NRS corporate website](#), that is due to be completed this reporting year.
 - Working closely with Census Division in order to maximise the benefits of the new Census Outputs Dissemination Website.

- make more information available by:
 - Responding to requests for ad-hoc breakdowns of vital events statistics and other statistics for parts of Scotland, provided that this involves little risk of disclosing information about identifiable people and that the work can be done within the available staff time.
 - Consulting NHS Boards from time to time about possible improvements to the datasets on births, stillbirths and deaths which they receive from NRS each week.
 - Making more Geography data available on the website.
 - Increasing the quantity of data available through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS).

Professional statistical advice on suitability of NRS data for local indicators

- To make sub-Scotland level data more accessible, and adding additional data, a key function of the NRS Demography Division is to provide advice on the use and understanding of its statistics. A user group for POPGROUP software continues to meet to improve the information and guidance available for users to produce their own small area projections.

2.3 Meeting user's needs

In addition to taking into account requirements for the National Performance Framework and SOAs, we consider the needs of a wide range of demographic statistics users when planning our work.

Ways in which National Records of Scotland (NRS) engage with their users to establish their requirements are:

Consultation groups

Information available on the NRS website.

- [Population and Migration Statistics \(PAMS\) Committee](#) (main ScotStat group)
- [Small Area Population Estimates \(SAPE\) Working Group](#)
- [Household Analysis Review Group \(HARG\)](#)
- [National Population Projections Migration Assumptions Methodology Review Project](#) (available on the Office for National Statistics website)

Events and seminars

Papers available on the NRS website.

- PAMS Conference -26 October 2011:
[Scotland's People - Past, Present & Future](#)

Note: these conferences are held every 2 years – (Next conference is scheduled for 28 November 2013).

- Beyond 2011 - [User Events](#)

Liaising with Stakeholders

- Giving a talk on developments in Scottish household projections - Household projections 25 June 2013, organised by the Housing Statistics Network.
- One of the organisers for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Science Event on data linkage and data sharing.
- Taking part in the annual British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conference.
- Taking part in the annual Scottish Local Area Research & Intelligence Association (LARIA) conference.

We also meet regularly and communicate with the following organisations:

- Scottish Government (SG) policy and analytical staff
- Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland
- Academics
- COSLA
- Office for National Statistics (ONS), Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
- Involvement with groups such as the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths and the Scottish Suicide Information Database Steering Group.

2.4 Formal Consultations

The National Records of Scotland recently consulted on its quarterly outputs for estimates of [Population by Country of Birth and Nationality](#) for Scottish areas and [Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK](#) (both available on the NRS website) to ensure they meet user requirements. The consultation closed on 13th September 2012 and only received a couple of responses neither of which raised objections to our proposals. Therefore both publications will be published on an annual basis in future.

In Spring 2012, NRS consulted interested parties about the proposed collection, from every mother, when a birth or a stillbirth is registered, of information which is at present obtained only from married couples. The additional data could inform projections of the population and research into fertility and other topics. A report on the results of this consultation is available on the [NRS website](#). Following the Population (Statistics) Act 1938 Modifications (Scotland) Order 2012 being made by the Scottish Parliament, the additional data have been collected since the start of January 2013.

More detail on the Beyond 2011 consultation and the Data Sharing and Linkage Service consultations is given below.

2.5 Beyond 2011: 'The Future of Census Statistics' and Data Linking

The system for providing population and socio-demographic statistics for the UK has, like many other countries, been built around a census of the whole population.

The census has long been the only way of producing small area population and socio-demographic information for the whole population. However, the traditional 10-year census cycle, coupled with an increasingly mobile population means this information can quickly become out-of-date. The Beyond 2011 programme in Scotland was formally established in September 2011 to research and propose suitable methods for producing population and socio-demographic information. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency are doing similar research and the National Records of Scotland (NRS) will be working closely with these agencies throughout the programme.

We are currently undertaking a programme of research and consultation with users, and aim to deliver an evidence-based report and recommendations for providing timely and efficient population and socio-demographic statistics fit for the 21st century that meet user needs.

The evidence based options paper will take account of a range of factors including user requirements, benefits, data quality, cost and public acceptability. In order to ensure that the evidence based on user requirements and public acceptability is robust, it is vital that a range of stakeholders are consulted throughout the duration of the programme.

One of the major bodies of work around Beyond 2011 is determining what type of data users need, the detail/granularity required, the minimum quality threshold, and the frequency of updates to the data.

A [formal consultation](#) (details available on the NRS website) on the topic of user requirements was held between 18 March 2013 and 10 June 2013 and the results will be published online in Autumn 2013. Following on from the consultation there will be a series of engagement events to publicise the results but also to gather more detailed evidence on the justification of small area statistics.

[‘Joined-up Data for Better Decisions: A strategy for improving data access and analysis’](#) (Available on the Scottish Government’s website) describes the framework and national strategy for improving data access and analysis to answer important questions for Scotland through legal, ethical and efficient data linkage.

The Data Sharing and Linkage Service is one of five related elements in the Framework alongside the already established National Steering Group and Guiding Principles and a national Privacy Advisory and Ethics Committee and an Information Gateway to support users through the process. These are in development alongside the Service and there will be further consultation on the emerging details of these.

A consultation on the [Data Sharing and Linkage Service](#) structure ran from March to 29th May 2013 on the Information Services Division (ISD) website.

2.6 Census 2011: Quality Assurance and Output Production

Continuing on our involvement last year, we are working closely with colleagues in Census Division in contributing to Quality Assurance and Output Production processes.

Quality Assurance – We will continue to provide resource and advice in relation to the quality assurance of low level Census data. This will include supplying comparison data and experienced staff to help quality assure and understand results for certain areas and topics, e.g. Data zone population and household estimates.

Output Production and Releases – We will be helping Census colleagues produce and check the planned Census releases, this will also include helping compile historical Census data for the reports and test the Census Outputs Dissemination website. We will also provide post-release customer support and enquiries.

2.7 Geography

With Census involvement winding up, NRS Geography team moved from Census Division to Demography Division on 1st April 2013. Geography branch provides geographic data and services that support the production of high quality statistics. This move will allow Geography branch to develop stronger links within Demography and ultimately improve the usability and quality of Demographic statistics produced.

3. National Records of Scotland (NRS) Demography Division Publications (2013-14)

Demography Division statistics are published on our website. A list of our planned publications (including Census) for 2013-14 is below.

Confirmed Releases for 2013-14	
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 1 st Quarter 2013	13 June 2013
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 1 st Quarter 2013	13 June 2013
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 1 st Quarter 2013	13 June 2013
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2012	27 June 2013
2011 Census Reconciliation Report – Households	27 June 2013
2011 Census: First Results on Population Estimates for Scotland - Release 1C – Part 1	23 July 2013
Mid- 2011 and Mid-2012 Population Estimates Scotland.	8 August 2013
2011 Census Reconciliation Report – Population	8 August 2013
2011 Census: First Results on Population Estimates for Scotland - Release 1C – Part 2	15 August 2013
2011 Census: Geography Census Products including Output Area Boundaries and Census Look-ups	15 August 2013
Deaths from various causes (several web sections - updated to 2012)	27 August 2013
Vital Events Reference Tables 2012	27 August 2013
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2012	27 August 2013
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	29 August 2013
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 2 nd Quarter 2013	12 September 2013
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 2 nd Quarter 2013	12 September 2013
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 2 nd Quarter 2013	12 September 2013
Total Migration To or From an Area, mid-2012 update	25 September 2013
2011 Census: Release 2A – Key Statistics, Quick Statistics and Census Profiles	26 September 2013
Scotland's Population 2012: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends	17 October 2013

Winter Mortality in Scotland, 2012/13	23 October 2013
Beyond 2011 User Requirements Consultation Results	Autumn 2013
Projected Population of Scotland (2012-based)	6 November 2013
2011 Census: Release 2B – Key Statistics, Quick Statistics and Census Profiles	14 November 2013
Projected Population of Scotland (2012-based). Variants - National population projections by sex and age, with UK and European comparisons	10 December 2013
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 3 rd Quarter 2013	12 December 2013
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 3 rd Quarter 2013	12 December 2013
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 3 rd Quarter 2013	12 December 2013
2011 and 2012 Small Area Population Estimates and Population Estimates for various Special Areas	December 2013
2011 Census: Release 2C – Key Statistics, Quick Statistics and Census Profiles	December 2013
Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates 2002-2010, Scotland and administrative areas.	December 2013
Revised birth, marriage and death rates for 2002 to 2011, calculated using the rebased mid-year population estimates	December 2013
Babies' First Names – 2013	19 December 2013
Local Area Migration	February 2014
Life Expectancy – Council Area and Health Boards - 2010-12	February 2014
Interim Life tables for Scotland 2010 -2012, including revised back series	February 2014
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 2013 (Preliminary)	13 March 2014
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 4 th Quarter 2013	13 March 2014
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 4 th Quarter 2013	13 March 2014
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 4 th Quarter 2013	13 March 2014
Babies' First Names – 2013 (full lists of all babies' names)	13 March 2014
2012-based Sub-National Population Projections for Council and NHS Board areas	March / April 2014
Mid-2012 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland	Spring 2014

2011 Census: Release 3 – Local Characteristics and Local Themes	From early 2014
2011 Census: Release 4 – Detailed Characteristics and Themes	From early 2014

Additional information available on the NRS website, include:

- Specific dates for [future publications](#) where known
- [Statistics at a Glance](#) which provides information on key statistical trends including;
- [High Level Summary of Statistics](#) - overview of each of our main areas of activity
- [Council Area Profiles](#) - overview of each of the 32 council areas in Scotland

The [About Our Statistics](#) section of the NRS website provides more information about the background to official statistics and the policies and practices used to produce them.

4. Continuous Improvement Activities

Continuous improvement is an integral part of the National Performance Framework and the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and we are always trying to improve the quality of statistics we produce.

[National Outcome 15: 'Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs'].

Improvement work planned for Demography Division in 2013-14 includes:

- Investigating new sources of administrative data to contribute to the improvement in quality of population and household statistics - for example, using Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data.
- Developing a new Vital Events information technology (IT) system to improve data processing, take account of the forthcoming changes to the arrangements for the certification of death, save staff time and provide scope for improving data quality.
- If/when required, expanding the Vital Events statistical databases to include the new standard codes for various types of geographical area and the new data zones.
- Consulting the Pathologists sub-group of the National Forum on Drug-related Deaths about possible improvements to the form which collects additional information about drug-related deaths, and agree and introduce a revised form.
- Once the relevant cases can be identified reliably, resume asking certifying doctors for the additional information about deaths that they can provide for use for statistical purposes only.
- Publishing a paper incorporating the results of a micro-simulation model of Scotland's household composition, and comparing it to the 2010-based household projections.
- Improving the accuracy of the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) by adding additional reference fields.
- Investigating the potential of a range of sources of administrative data to contribute to the development of more efficient systems for population statistics.
- Consider the use of the NHSCR as the basis for creating a population spine for use by the Data Sharing and Linkage Service and Beyond 2011.
- Making further improvements to the vital events statistical outputs, for example, by expanding the material that is available on the NRS website.
- Developing methods for revising population estimates for Councils, NHS Boards and data zones for use after the results of the 2011 Census are known.
- Developing methods for revising the household estimates and projections for use after the results of the 2011 Census are known.
- Before the end of 2013, after the mid-year population estimates for 2002 onwards have been rebased, publishing revised versions of those of the latest Vital Events Reference Tables, Time-Series Tables, Quarterly and Preliminary Annual tables, Web sections and High Level Summary pages which have birth and death rates, plus some new Time-Series Tables giving some of the 'main' rates for 2002 onwards. These outputs will provide revised rates which will be calculated from the rebased population estimates for 2002 onwards.

- Within a timescale to be decided in the light of users' views (as expressed by members of the Population and Migration Statistics Committee and in response to a consultation run by ONS on behalf of the Government Statistical Service), publish age-standardised death rates calculated using the new European Standard Population.
- Improving the methodology for mid-year estimates (e.g. estimation of the number of Armed Forces and investigation of improved sources of internal, cross-border and international migration).
- Contributing to the quality assurance of the 2011 Census and continue to develop methods for future quality indicators for population estimates.
- Implementing improvements to the Geography section of our website, including incorporating 2011 Census geography information.
- Continue working collaboratively with the Centre for Population Change. This is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project involving a consortium of Scottish universities and Southampton University.
- Contributing to UK wide projects on: improving migration statistics, population estimates and population projections; and options for future Censuses after 2011.
- Continuing to develop the Scottish Longitudinal Study, linking the data from the 2011 Census and the 1947 Scottish Mental Survey.
- Ensuring statistical staff continue to develop their skills and competencies through a continuous development programme.
- Continuing work with the Boundary Commission for Scotland to provide improved quality assurance for the annual Electoral Statistics publication.
- Continuing work with the Scottish Assessors' Association Electoral Registration Committee to improve the exchange of information.
- Continuing to work with the Data Linkage Framework to improve the data sharing landscape.
- Continue to engage with Stakeholders and the general public regarding the Beyond 2011 project.
- Publish the outcomes of the Beyond 2011 stakeholder engagement sessions on the Beyond 2011 section of the website.
- Publish the outcomes of the Beyond 2011 consultation on the website.
- Review the methods and systems used to produce sub-national population projections, taking into account changes made in the national methodology made by Office for National Statistics.
- Continue work to produce an address spine in order to support Census and Data Linking.

If resources are available, we will also aim to

- Take forward the remaining work from the [Population Projections Working Group work plan](#) (PDF document), which is available in the Consultation Groups section of the NRS website.

Annex A: NRS Demography Division Resources (2013-14 Interim Budget Allocations)

Grade	Discipline	
Statistical Information Services		
1 x B3	Statistics	
1 x B2	Administration	
2 x B1	Administration	
3 x A4	Administration	
Household Estimates & Projections		
0.8 x C1	Statistics	
1.6 x B2	Statistics	
1 x B1	Statistics	
2 x A3 (Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) funded)	Student (temporary)	
Population & Migration Statistics		
1 x C1	Statistics	
2 x B2	Statistics	
4 x B1 (one SNS funded)	Statistics	
0.9 x A3	Administration	
Data Access & Communications		
1.3 x C1	1 Policy / 1 Solicitor	
3 x B3	Statistics/Policy	
2 x B2	Statistics/Policy	
3 x B1	Statistics/Policy	
Alternative Sources		
1 x C1	Statistics	
3 x B3	2 Statistics/ 1 IT	
2.7 x B2	Statistics	
1 x B1	Statistics	
Vital Events		
1 x C1	Statistics	
2 x B2	1 Administration / 1 Statistics	
0.64 x B1	Administration	
1 x A4	Administration	
5.3 x A3	Administration	
Statistical IT² (shared with Census Division)		
1 x B3	IT	
3 x B2	IT	
3 x B1	IT	
NHS Central Register		
0.6 x B3	Administration/Data Analyst	
1 x B2	Administration/Data Analyst	
2 x B1	Administration/Data Analyst	
3 x A4	Administration/Data Analyst	
11 x A3	Administration/Data Analyst	
Geography		
1 x B3	Administration/GIS Technician	
1 x B2	Administration/GIS Technician	
1 x B1	Administration/GIS Technician	
4 x A4	Administration/GIS Technician	
1 x A3	Administration/GIS Technician	
Total Demography Staff Costs		£2.84m
Total Non-staff Costs		£0.46m
Total Income		+£1.03m
Total Resourcing		£2.26m

Footnotes

- 1) Actual staffing level may vary from approved budget (for example, where posts are shared or vacant).
- 2) If shared Information Technology (IT) staff resource is excluded, Total Resourcing = £1.83m.
- 3) Costs also include addition of Geography into Demography.

Annex B: NRS Demography Division Business Objectives (2013-14)

Statistical Information Services
<p>Meet all customer requests for demographic data within published timescale (within 5 working days for almost all requests), providing appropriate advice and analysis as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to all ad hoc requests within the appropriate timescale.
<p>Disseminate via the web and other means, agreed statistical outputs and make improvements to the website to ensure it continues to meet the needs of users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the revamp the Geography section of the website. • Enhance and update the Beyond 2011 section of the website. • Plain English and load all Demographic publications on time. • Contribute to the planning and construction of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website.
<p>Set up arrangements for appropriate business continuity for each significant service or product, allowing us to continue to operate selected services during and following a disruption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the business continuity plans for Demography division.
<p>Co-ordinate cross-divisional activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate work that crosses more than one branch in the division, collating a joint Demography division response. This includes NRS communication and marketing strategies. • Work towards the roll-out of ITSOL (IT Solutions – A project aiming to amalgamate NRS into one IT system) and minimise the risk to work schedules
<p>Liaise with Centre for Population Change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure administration for Centre for Population Change is in place, e.g. disclosure checks have been completed.
<p>Publish the Registrar General's Annual Review (RGAR) of Demographic Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Demography colleagues in order to prepare and write the RGAR • Publish the RGAR on the website and Disseminate.
<p>Census Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to and quality Assure the Household Composition Algorithm • Contribute to and implement Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) plans to Census data for scheduled releases and commissioned output • Provide guidance and support for Census statistical releases in terms of QA and web dissemination • Provide post Census release user support through the Customer Services team
Household Estimates & Projections
<p>Produce and publish household estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and publish household estimates for each council, and small areas. • Collect and publish dwelling counts for small areas. • Carry out review work, in consultation with our stakeholders, to decide how best to incorporate the 2011 Census data into the household estimates • Publish a reconciliation report, comparing the 2011 Census results to our household estimates and projections, and, where possible, explaining the differences.
<p>Produce and publish household projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out review work, in consultation with our stakeholders, to decide how best to incorporate the 2011 Census data into the household projections, and what other improvements we can make to them. • Carry out a literature review of household projections in different countries, to identify ways in which we can improve our household projections. • Carry out an analysis of the microsimulation model of Scotland's household composition which we funded. Publish a paper incorporating the results of the microsimulation model, and comparing it to the results of our household projections. Work out how best we can use the model • Collect data on Communal Establishments, for inclusion in the 2012-based household projections
<p>Working with other colleagues and stakeholders to find additional ways to meet their needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the census Quality Assessment (QA) process. • As required, contribute to the assessment of Housing Need and Demand Assessments, and Development Plans. Assess the way in which these plans determine future housing need and their planned housing allocations. • Contribute to cross-cutting work within NRS, including Beyond 2011. • Contribute to the RG's Annual Report. • Work with our key stakeholders in the Scottish Government (SG) and external organisations such as local authorities, academics and other Government Departments. • Carry out other work to meet our customers' needs, as appropriate, including answering all

Parliamentary Questions (PQs), Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and ad-hoc requests for data or information, within the agreed timescale.

- Contribute to cross-office activity in the SG and NRS.

Population & Migration Statistics

Publish population, migration and life expectancy statistics

- Publish the following key publications.
 - Mid - 2011 and Mid-2012 Population Estimates Scotland
 - Reconciliation Report: differences between mid-year population estimates and the 2011 Census
 - Population Projections for Scotland (2012-based)
 - Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates 2002 - 2010, Council and NHS Board Areas
 - Local Area Migration - 2012 TBC
 - Total Migration To Or From An Area (mid 2012 update)
 - 3 Chapters for Scotland's People RGAR
 - Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas
 - Life Expectancy for Council and NHS Board Areas 2010-2012
 - Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) 2011 and 2012 including special area population estimates (old data zones)
 - Centenarians 2002-2012
 - Mid-2012 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland
 - Rebased SAPE 2002 - 2010 (old data zone zones)
 - Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2012-based)
 - Mid-2011 and Mid-2012 SAPE (new data zones).

Improve the methodology and dissemination of our outputs and develop methods of revising our estimates after the 2011 Census.

- Develop revision methodologies for mid-year estimates and SAPE.
- Review the methodologies to produce mid-year estimates and SAPE.
- Assess the use of the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) Extract for internal migration estimates at NHS Board, Council and datazone level working with Alternative Sources as necessary.
- Review the methods used to produce sub-national population projections due to changes being made to the national methods.
- Work with Alternative Sources to use new improved sources in the production and quality assurance of population and migration estimates e.g. linkage work for distribution of international migration data.

Demographic policy support and analysis.

- To provide informed advice and analysis to support users of demographic statistics, through liaison with key users, user groups, publications in journals and presentations including:
 - Fully participate in the Scottish Government's Demographic Analysis Working Group.
 - Visit 1 or 2 local authorities as part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement.
 - Work with SG policy teams to support the population Purpose Target including any issues which arise from rebasing the mid-year estimates after the 2011 Census.
 - Work with other users (e.g. academics, Centre for Population Change, COSLA etc).

2011 Census Quality Assurance.

- With Census investigate the quality of Armed Forces data recorded in the Census and implications for the Mid Year Estimates (MYE)
- Work with the Census Down Stream Processing team on quality assurance and implications of the mid-year estimates.
- Contribute to Census publications as required.

Participate in Cross Office Work with the Stats group

- Contribute to various cross-office groups.

Alternative Sources

Management of research using the Census linked to other records.

- Provide ongoing support for Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study.
- Provide ongoing support for Scottish Longitudinal Study.
- Implement Scottish Longitudinal Study linkage to 1947 Mental Survey.
- Carry out linkage between Electoral Register and Census in support of Electoral Commissions assessment of the accuracy and completeness of the register.

Electoral statistics.

- To collate and publish electoral statistics (May 2014).

Statistical options work stream on Beyond 2011 project.

- Continue to develop coverage adjustment methodologies to allow the production of population and household estimates from administrative data sources. Use the Census results to simulate population estimates from administrative sources as at Census day 2011. Evaluate the suitability

<p>of both the Integrated Census and Office for National Statistics' approaches to coverage adjustment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ISD to develop an activity flag to help exclude those no longer in Scotland from administrative datasets for Beyond 2011 purposes. • Consider how population and household attribute data may be produced from both administrative and survey data sources. • Support the evaluation of Census 2011 and develop statistical methodologies for any future Census. • Develop methodologies for counting 'special populations'. • Work with the Office for National Statistics and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to ensure cross-administration learning and efficiencies are realised.
<p>Provide support to division on use of NHSCR demographic extract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing secretarial support for NHSCR Extract Working Group. • Maintain demographic NHSCR extract and metadata.
<p>Support operations work stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide statistical advice on surveys/questionnaire design to operations work stream. • Liaise with Scottish Government survey managers and investigate potential of surveys for collecting attribute data. • Investigate sample size requirements for various levels of accuracy/geography.
<p>Data Sharing and Linkage Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the indexing element of the service. In particular provide data matching training to the new indexing team and help ensure the new indexing process can be successfully implemented.
<p>Population Estimates Comparison Project (PECP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the PECP, ensuring objectives of the project are met and the any lessons learned helps inform the Beyond 2011 Programme.
<p>Data Access and Communications</p>
<p>Secure access to external data sources required by the Alternative Sources branch including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey data (e.g. Scottish Household Survey). • Locally held data (e.g. School Census data). • Liaise with Alternative Sources around the management of the Population Estimates Comparisons Project. • Develop legislative strategy. • Undertake Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA), including a generic PIA for the B2011 programme. • Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment for the B2011 programme. • Undertake Data Access Agreements and Privacy Compliance Checks where necessary. • Work with the Data Linkage Framework (DLF) including being part of the working group on the DLF- Privacy Access Committee. • Manage the legal secondees to help facilitate quicker access to data sources.
<p>Carry out stakeholder engagement activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce stakeholder engagement strategy. • Re-launch website and regularly update. • Raise awareness of Beyond 2011 programme to stakeholders. • Consult with users on their population and socio-demographic statistical requirements. • Conduct consultation on options and outputs. • Identify and manage privacy concerns. • Help set up the Data Sharing and Linkage Service.
<p>Contribute to Ministerial advice on alternatives to the census.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and document costs and benefits associated with each alternative census option. • Draft business case, including cost benefit analysis results. • Produce a method to 'score' each alternative census option.
<p>Vital Events</p>
<p>Process and output preliminary Vital Events data every week and every quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed records passed to NHS Boards etc within 3 weeks of initial receipt by NRS. (NB: this includes the time allowed for Informants and, perhaps, NRS's Examiners to check the details). • 'Births, Deaths and other Vital Events' published (with the weekly and monthly web tables): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q1 - 13 June 2013 ○ Q2 - 12 September 2013 ○ Q3 - 12 December 2013 ○ Q4 - 13 March 2014 • Quarterly data distributed to customers within a week of the publication of the quarterly figures.
<p>Disseminate Vital Events data for a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised annual datasets for 2012 sent to users in August 2013. • Other annual datasets (e.g. for Neighbourhood Statistics) produced within required timescales.

- Vital Events Reference Tables and Time-Series Tables published in August 2013.
- 7 Web sections on deaths from particular causes and age-standardised mortality rates updated in August 2013.
- All Vital Events High Level Summary pages updated in August 2013.
- 'Drug-related Deaths' published in August 2013.
- 'Winter Mortality' (for Winter 2012/2013) published in October 2013.
- 'Babies' First Names' (for the first 11 months of 2013) published in December 2013.
- Preliminary figures for 2013 as a whole, and full list of babies' first forenames for 2013, published on 13 March 2014.
- High Level Summary 'Births' and 'Deaths' headline pages updated in March 2014.

Produce and publish revised birth and death rates for 2002 to 2011, following the forthcoming rebasing of the mid-year population estimates for those years, by the end of 2013:

- publish revised versions of those of the Vital Events Reference Tables for 2012 which have birth and/or death rates for 2002 onwards, with revised rates calculated from the rebased population estimates for those years
- similarly, update those Time-Series Tables, Quarterly and Preliminary Annual tables, Web sections and High Level Summary pages which have birth and/or death rates for 2002 onwards
- Within a timescale to be decided in the light of users' views, produce revised versions of the age-standardised death rates, calculated using the new European Standard Population

Improve aspects of the collection and processing of Vital Events data.

- resume issuing Medical Enquiry letters requesting additional information about deaths for use for statistical purposes only
- consult the Pathologists sub-group of the National Forum on Drug-related Deaths about possible improvements to the form which collects additional information about drug-deaths, and agree and introduce a revised form.
- Vital Events Rewrite: new modules for data on Marriages and Deaths developed by IT colleagues; user acceptance testing by branch; implementation by IT colleagues.

Improve aspects of the coding of the Vital Events data.

- Allocate SOC2010 Occupation codes retrospectively to the data for events registered in 2011
- if/when required, add to VE database the new standard codes for various types of geographical area, and for the new data zones

Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)

Vital Events Information Systems (IS) Support.

- The continued redevelopment of Vital Events Systems, including installation of a production server environment and deployment of the celebrants application.
- Improvements to data extraction and dissemination functions, including automation of production of a range of outputs (e.g. the larger 'single year' reference tables for Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics).

General Demography IS Support .

- IS support for Demography projects and business functions, including re-write of migration processing system (NRSMIG) to use data from NHSCR extract, roll out of new version of SuperSTAR software, ongoing support for use of the NHSCR Extract and safe setting facility for the Scottish Longitudinal Study and Scottish Health and Ethnicity Longitudinal Study, as required and within agreed timescales, and implementing the re-write of mid-year estimates system to improve the processing of Community Health Index (CHI) data.

Alternative Sources.

- Expand the Downstream Processing Survey to allow the creation of an environment accredited to Business Impact Level 4 to support the Alternative Sources Team's work on data-matching and alternatives to the Census.

Geography.

- Provide ongoing GIS IT support to the Geography team.

NHS Central Register (NHSCR)

- To maintain our role as Custodian of NHSCR data we rigorously enforce and implement robust protocols and governance procedures.
- On behalf of the Scottish Government Health Department, to maintain and improve the excellent standards of accuracy and probity by continuing the rigorous regime of ongoing examination of data, by devising and issuing a comprehensive handbook of instructions covering all NHSCR processes and procedures.
- Act as advisor to influence and produce solutions for the provision of Medical Research data to assist academic findings.
- To influence, advise and manage the provision of NHSCR data updates for the Improvement Service and NRS.
- To maintain and develop verification systems that meet the data-sharing provisions contained in

the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (LEARS) Act.

- To continually manage and develop our experienced properly trained staff to deliver excellent data linkage and quality outcomes.
- To explore widening our customer base and increase income for NHSCR.

Geography

Maintain the NRS Postcode Geography db

- Keep the postcode geography database up to date with new postcode information received from Royal Mail
- Align live postcodes to OS BoundaryLine
- Keep the various map layers in the postcode geography database up to date and add new geographies as they become available.
- Maintain the various agreements that are in place with the data suppliers.
- Move team over to new postcode production system

Maintain the NRS Address databases - address db, street db, alternative OSG address db

- Keep the address database up to date with new address information received from Royal Mail and OSG.
- Continue development of NRS Address database in line with user requirements: Improve classification of address, flag CE records, Continue to add UPRN, Match non matched address records to street, Maintain historical db
- Continue to add UPRN to 2011 census address db
- Switch input file form PAF to OS Addressbase
- Investigate other sources of address information and keep abreast of developments elsewhere

Produce NRS Customer Extracts for customers

- Produce and disseminate Address Extracts
- Produce and disseminate Postcode Extracts
- Implement a series of efficiency and quality improvements to postcode Extracts

Run NRS Geography customer services function

- Produce and disseminate Postcode Extracts
- Process requests for geographic information from customers, provide support and ensure NRS business areas have access to the relevant geographic information
- Improve Geography web page in conjunction with web team and make more information available
- Ensure geography metadata meets Inspire and improve guidance and supporting information for users
- Linking vital events back in time – pilot
- Support users in address work
- Identify new areas in NRS that require Geography support/input
- Develop Geography strategy for NRS

Support 2011 Census and B2011

- Create 2011 output areas and outputs db
- Provide geographic material to support census results
- Complete evaluation of the 2011 address base and provide an assessment of coverage of NRS address db
- Complete evaluation of the 2011 Communal Establishment Register
- Support B2011 - various activities

Annex C: Progress against Business Objectives in previous year (2012-13)

Statistical Information Services

- Ad hoc requests, production of the Registrar General's Annual Report and the web dissemination of publications was all successfully achieved this year.
- Website improvements on Beyond 2011 and Geography sections was started and on track to be completed within agreed timescales.
- Our contribution to a new NRS website has been delayed throughout the year, but a clear plan has now been agreed to get a new basic website up by the end of May 2013. Work can then commence on migrating content over.
- Work on producing table build plans for the 2011 Census outputs has been continuing throughout the year. As of November 2012, a new Outputs Production branch was created to move this work forward with support when required from the SIS team.
- The branch has been working with Census to help deliver the 2011 results. The team has been involved in helping quality assure outputs 1A and 1B and also to provide customer service support.
- The branch continued to provide cross-divisional support, including work on Records Management policies, Web Dissemination, Stationary budgets and other activities. Work on Business Continuity has been progressing in 2012-13 with a clear project now in full flow.
- All administration/security tasks required by the CPC were carried out by the branch e.g. disclosure checks

Household Estimates & Projections

- Our household estimates and projections publications, and small area statistics, were published in June.
- We published household projections for Strategic Development Plan areas and December, and received good media coverage.
- We have made a number of improvements to our publications, which have been welcomed by our stakeholders, including improving the quality of our communal establishment statistics, and including additional variants in our household projections publication. We have done some detailed analytical work to investigate the feasibility of incorporating survey results into our household projections to update the trends. We published a paper on this, which describes the analysis and results. Following discussion with our key stakeholder group, we concluded that this approach does not offer a substantial improvement over our current projections methodology.
- We have sponsored a PhD student to produce a microsimulation model of Scotland's population and households. He has now been awarded his PhD. In the next few months, we will be meeting with his supervisor to handover the model itself, along with documentation and a summary which we can publish. We will then produce an analysis paper comparing microsimulation results with the standard household projections.
- We are supporting the census quality assurance process.
- We have carried out a range of other ad-hoc analysis, for our customers.
- The SG is changing the way that long-term empty properties are taxed under the Council Tax system. This could have an impact on our statistics, as they are based on Council Tax information on dwellings which are occupied or vacant. Therefore, we are monitoring this, and discussing the possible impacts with colleagues working in SG housing policy teams, SG local government finance statistics, and local authorities.

Population & Migration Statistics

- All 12 publications were published on time. The following improvements were made: a new booklet and commentary was produced for Settlements and Localities and Shape files were published for the first time. Improvements were made in the presentation and tables for the sub-national projections and also the SDP and NP area projections..
- A lot of the development work we had planned did not take place because we lost key staff to work on the 2011 Census. We also lost experienced staff in internal moves to the Scottish Government resulting in an almost completely new team in October 2012.
- We contributed to the quality assurance of the 2011 Census by helping with the quality assurance of council and data zone population estimates. We also contributed to the Census publications and dissemination process.

Alternative Sources

- There has been significant progress made on the Beyond 2011 Programme. Work was commissioned from London School of Economics looking at using aggregate administrative data to model small area population estimates. This initial assessment suggested this method was feasible and the branch is taking this work forward. The branch has also started to look at record-level administrative data models and are looking at coverage adjustment methodologies. The work suggests that under-coverage (people in Scotland but not in the administrative data) can be dealt with relatively easily through a coverage survey but that over-coverage (people in the administrative data but no longer in Scotland) is the major challenge to an administrative data model working.
- The branch developed an automated process to allow the Census 2011 returns to be linked to the NHS Central Register – the largest linkage project undertaken by NRS. This link was successful with almost 95% of the Census records matched to the NHSCR. This link will allow us to further explore the under and over-coverage of the NHSCR relative to the Census and will allow us to simulate coverage surveys to inform Beyond 2011 methodological design.
- The linking of Census 2011 into the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) was completed and will increase the usefulness of the SLS for research. The Census Non-Response Linkage Study for the Integrated Household Survey was also completed and will allow the Office for National Statistics to better understand the bias in their survey estimates caused by non-response. The branch continued to support the Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study which is coming to the end of Phase 3. Phase 4 will start in July and will look at difference across ethnic groups for all causes of death. The branch is supporting the establishment of the Data Sharing and Linkage Service and is helping shape the indexing element of that service.
- Electoral Statistics were successfully published in February.

Data Access and Communication

- There has been progress with data access for the Beyond 2011 programme and we expect to have access to HESA data soon.
- The PIA for the administrative data use within Beyond 2011 has been shared with selected external organisations to further develop the PIA.
- Formal consultation received 125 responses and the profile of Beyond2011 has been raised across Scotland.
- Results from the informal engagement events have been published on our website, including the results from our equalities specific events.
- Further developed the website and now have a presence on the Knowledge Hub.

Vital Events

- We processed the Vital Events statistical data for 2012, distributed and published all the final statistics for 2011 and the quarterly and preliminary annual figures for 2012, and responded to 244 ad-hoc requests for information and 160 bulk particulars searches, within the required timescales.
- We also made several improvements. We increased the range of Vital Events Statistics information available on the website, including adding a new section on accidental deaths, ten new tables/charts in existing outputs and some new pages of information about our statistics. We also expanded several of our existing tables to provide additional categories or more years' data. Further information about the [2012 improvements to Vital Events statistics](#) is available on the NRS website.
- We reported on the results of the consultation about the proposed amendment of the 1938 Population Statistics Act to collect from all mothers, when births are registered, their numbers of previous live births and stillbirths. The Scottish Parliament subsequently approved an Order (under the 2006 Family Law Act) to amend the 1938 Act. We have collected the information with effect from the start of January 2013.
- We started to use SOC2010 occupation codes in our data for 2012 onwards.
- IT staff shortages meant that little progress was made on the Vital Events rewrite.

Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)

Vital Events Information Systems (IS) Support.

- The Vital Events rewrite is currently on hold as resources that were allocated to the project have been reassigned to work on Census projects. However a number of improvements have been made to data extraction and dissemination functions, with a number of outputs now being automated. Further improvements will be made once the Vital Events rewrite is underway again,

General Demography IS Support.

- A new version of SuperSTAR software has been rolled out to staff, NHSCR extracts were provided on time, and hardware and software for the safe setting facility for the Scottish Longitudinal Study and the Scottish Health and Ethnicity Longitudinal Study was upgraded and support was provided as and when required.

NHS Central Register (NHSCR)

All objectives have been achieved and in some cases the timing specification has been exceeded.

- Managed the NHSCR records 90% within 5 working days, 95% within 10 working days and 100% within 15 working days of NHSCR being notified of the event.
- Managed the Medical research and Improvement Service Updates.
- Allowed Scottish Government departments and others an identification verification source.
- Managed Scottish Government Health Department Service Level Agreement requirements.
- Managed our Atos (IT) requirements for the Contract Management Team (CMT).
- Managed and developed our staff and processes.
- Managed data linkage and quality.