

Summary of PAMS responses

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a good level of engagement from the last online only PAMS consultation, we decided to continue this for the second meeting of 2020. We will look to set up a virtual event for the first meeting of PAMS in 2021 to ensure that people have the chance to speak directly to NRS, regardless of the situation with COVID-19.

This document outlines the responses we had from PAMS members, and a response from NRS.

Overall, there was feedback from 27 organisations to the survey.

Statistics Engagement and Promotion update - Paper 9 PAMS (20)

9 users gave feedback

The common themes were that users liked the 'How to bring your data to life' videos and found them useful. User suggested a short video with the infographics produced for Scotland's Population that could be shared on social media accounts. Many users appreciative of the meaningful information of COVID-19.

On COVID-19:

- One user noted it would be useful to have further analysis of the impact on Scotland's population including pre and post vaccination data for next year's report.
- Users found the dashboard to be a useful tool. Users suggested local authority data and a summary the effects of COVID-19 in Scotland would be a useful addition.

On the website:

- One user liked the "At a Glance" feature, but suggested it should be somewhere other than "Identity".
- User agreed that a review of the statistics section could make it easier to navigate
- Being able to access secure extracts of census data for data linkage research projects will be invaluable for so many projects.

On Scotland's Population publication:

- Used to inform how council/health board areas compare. Useful both as a reference document for Scotland as a whole.
- The use of infographics and other illustrative media is good alternative option to a paragraph of text.
- One user found the headline messages and links to specific chapters really useful for quick overview and further information respectively.

Response from NRS:

We're grateful for the feedback, and will look to it when reviewing the statistics section of the website and when looking into next years "Scotland's population" publication. The website work will hopefully improve the user experience for everyone, and the views of PAMS members are important in understanding how key users interact with our site.

Suggestions on the COVID-19 work have been passed onto the relevant teams.

Population and Migration Statistics update - Paper 10 PAMS (20)

8 users gave feedback

Common themes are that this is a very useful update, strong appreciation for the work put into data production during the busy time.

On travel statistics:

- One user questioned the benefits behind using passenger data from flights to look into international migration. They suggest that this data will only cover people making essential journeys and won't accurately reflect international migration.
- One user asks about considering a change of mode of travel to ferries during the early part of the lockdown from air travel for people arriving from and going to Europe.
- It was pointed out that the percentage of immigration out of the country via aviation would be small compared to the percentage of people returning to their home countries because of the pandemic by one user.

On sub-council Area Population Projections

- Proved very useful
- Suggestion that there is still a need for sub-national (council level) 2020-based projections, as these figure highly in a number of strategic documents and council plans and programmes.
- One user wasn't aware the sub-council population projects for areas within each council had been published. Suggests this needs to be advertised.

Other comments:

- One user said it was good to know about potential migration issues.
- One user would like to see the paper on the methodology for the North Lanarkshire Council boundary change.
- User accepts the plan to estimate international migration but would like an explanation accompanying the figures.

Response from NRS:

Thank you, we really appreciate all your comments. You have made some good points about the travel/migration statistics, and we do take account of the strengths and weaknesses of the different data sources we use/investigate. We also try to make this as clear as possible in our publications.

A decision on the timing of future population projections will be taken jointly with other parts of the UK. We have included the views of users in Scotland, and we will let you know when a decision is made.

We have forwarded the paper about the boundary change to the person who asked for it, and forwarded the helpful feedback on how sub-council area projections are used, to the Improvement Service.

Vital Events Statistics Update - Paper 11 PAMS (20)

4 users gave feedback

Summary of comments:

- All feedback mentioned how useful this update was.
- The analysis on deaths from COVID-19, Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy data continue to be useful

Response from NRS:

NRS Vital Events Statistics branch are grateful for the feedback on the usefulness of the publications that have went out in recent months, and will continue to update PAMS on future developments.

Scotland's Census 2022 update - Paper 13 PAMS (20)

15 users gave feedback

Common themes were that many users found this update very useful. Users felt disappointed in the delay of census but understand why it has happened. Users are looking forward to the new website and anticipate that the new tools included in this will be very useful. Users also expressed that the stakeholder webinars were really useful and worked well.

Questions relating future content:

- User looking for an update on the new data zones for the Census and asking whether they will be available before the release of Census data.
- User wanted any further information from the stakeholder events to be published online.
- Looking for an update on the comments submitted regarding Census 2022 geographies.
- More info and timetable for the 'UK dataset' and cross border harmonisation approaches would be helpful.
- User interested in an update regarding a gridded population product for 2021 Census outputs.
- A user asks whether the CAR improvements work and if any new records identified could be incorporated back into AddressBase and Core.

General comments:

- One user notes that the comparability of decennial data is crucial to Gaelic - the divergence from this for the unavoidable 11 year gap would only be compounded by a following 9 year gap
- One user is hopeful that the Scottish Census will be more robust and representative than its other counterparts due to the extra time and planning.
- One user pointed out how important the differences (even small ones) between census data and mid-year population estimates data would be for rural areas.

Response from NRS:

We are grateful for this feedback, and are pleased to hear that users are looking forward to the new website and that the stakeholder webinars were useful and worked well.

Feedback from users highlights the importance than we continue to work with our colleagues in ONS and NISRA to identify appropriate alternative data sources for any work that was planning to use 2021 census outputs.

We will continue to engage with users through this PAMS group and our Stakeholder events as we move forward in planning outputs.

If you are interested in attending stakeholder events on the Census programme please sign up by sending your name and email address to scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk