

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Vital Events Statistics Update

1. Introduction

This paper summarises the recent developments and improvements in vital events.

2. Timing of Vital Events Publications

Following a consultation in late 2017, we stopped publication of the preliminary annual results (usually published in March) and brought forward the publication of the vital events reference tables from August to June. The 2017 reference tables and associated deaths from selected causes web sections will be published on 27 June. Drug-related deaths will follow in early July.

The consultation response summary document is available here:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/user-consultations-groups-and-seminars/consultations>

3. Monthly and Weekly births and deaths

In response to user demand, we have expanded our monthly deaths publication to include a breakdown by high-level cause of death. This change was implemented in April 2018.

4. Alcohol deaths

We have adopted the new National Statistics definition of alcohol specific deaths following ONS' consultation last year. We will maintain the time series on the old alcohol related deaths definition for a few years for continuity.

5. Dementia and Alzheimer's deaths

We will be adding a new web section on deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease when we publish the 2017 figures on 27 June.

6. Life Expectancy

Responsibility for life expectancy statistics for Scotland has now moved from Population and Migration statistics to Vital Events. Following the publication of ONS' response to the consultation on Healthy Life Expectancy, we are working with colleagues to determine what changes we should make to Scottish estimates of healthy life expectancy (which are not currently published by NRS) in response to the changes being made by ONS.

NRS: Vital Events Statistics branch
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