

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Household estimates and projections branch update

1. Staff changes

Sandy Taylor formally took over from Esther Roughsedge as head of the Household estimates and projections branch with effect from January. Esther will be a very hard act to follow, but happily she continues to work in NRS on statistical promotion and analysis, including on infographics and data visualisations, and so her extensive expertise and knowledge of household statistics remains available for the branch to call on.

2. Household estimates

We published the 2017 [estimates of households and dwellings](#) on 22 May. As with the previous year's publication, these include the latest statistics on occupied and vacant dwellings, second homes, dwelling characteristics (council tax band, type of property and number of rooms) and trends in household types. The publication also includes analysis using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and the latest (2016) Scottish Government Urban Rural classification. An [infographic](#) illustrate its key findings and there is an updated version of the [interactive data visualisation](#), which allows you to view several key charts for the council area and years you are interested in.

The small area (data zone) household and dwelling estimates data for 2017 have also been added to the NRS website and to statistics.gov.scot.

3. Household projections

The 2016-based household projections are due to be published on 11 July. No major changes to the methodology are currently planned, though we have asked members of the Household Analysis Review Group for any comments they may have on this, and always welcome suggestions on what we do.

Currently the NRS population and household projections are produced for council areas, National Parks and Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas. The Scottish Government is carrying out a [Planning Review](#). This may affect the geographies that we produce projections for in future, but at this stage we do not have details of any changes to geographies. We can decide whether to produce supplementary projections for any different planning areas once the geographies for these have been decided on.

4. Future work

While the branch has been fully occupied for the first half of the year in getting up to speed with the detail of our work and preparing our two main publications, we hope to spend more time later in the year getting to know our data providers and users better. This will help us better understand our primary data sources and the data quality issues involved with these, and also to better appreciate the context and uses to which our statistics are put.

As part of this user engagement we would like to take this opportunity to refresh the membership of the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG). Given recent retirements and other people moving on, **we would in particular be grateful for any volunteers from local authorities to join the HARG.**

Sandy Taylor
NRS: Household estimates and projections branch

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