

Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) (Scotland)
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**Minutes of the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland):
10 April 2012**
Present

Jenny Boag
Alison Burlison
Rachel Forrest
Jan Freeke
Hervey Gibson
Alistair Harvey
Norman Jamieson
Allan Lambie
Ken MacKinnon
Konrad Zdeb
Esta Clark

Jules Goodlet-Rowley
Valerie Hale
Kylie Hill (minutes)
Celia MacIntyre
Hugh Mackenzie
Kirsty MacLachlan (chair)
John Mooney
Penni Rocks
Esther Roughsedge
Alan Sloan
Alex Stannard
Sandy Taylor
Tom Wallace
Amy Wilson

Organisation

Falkirk Council
NHS Information Services Division (ISD)
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Glasgow City council
Cogent Strategies International
City of Edinburgh Council
Church of Scotland
South Lanarkshire Council
Bord na Gàidhlig
Improvement Service
National Records of Scotland (NRS)
Population and Migration Statistics
NRS Data Access and Communications
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Population and Migration Statistics
NRS Census QA
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Demography
NRS Census IT
NRS Census
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Statistical Information Services
NRS Alternative Sources
NRS Census Outputs
NRS Census
NRS Census

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed the group. There were apologies from Frank Dixon, Chris Carr, Ian White and Kateryna MacKinnon.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (PAMS (12) 18)

- 2.1 The minutes were approved. It was noted that care should be taken to distinguish between attendees with the same first name.

3. Update on action points (PAMS (13) 01)

- 3.1 **Action 2011.01** has now concluded with results on small area income statistics for 2008-09 published on 28 March. The full report is available from the Improvement Service website and the data are also available through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics. The project involves the use of modelled data from the Family Resources Survey and other surveys. Further information available at www.improvementservice.org.uk

- 3.2 **Action 2011.10** is closed. Aggregate data as at census day was received from councils and is currently being used by census division in datazone level Quality Assurance work.
- 3.3 It was noted that there had been some confusion over councils being asked for both aggregate extracts (for census QA) and record level extracts (for the Beyond 2011 project). The record level extracts were not collected by NRS at the time due to data sharing concerns in some councils. Jenny Boag and Alistair Harvey made the point that while councils had taken the record level extracts at the time, these have not since been asked for and it is likely that they are no longer held by councils.
- 3.4 **Action 2013.01**- Kirsty to write to councils to clarify the situation and find out whether data extracts were taken and if they are still held.
- 3.5 **Action 2012.07** is closed
- 3.6 **Action 2012.08** is closed.
- 3.7 **Action 2012.09** is ongoing. Divorce statistics were published by SG Justice Analytical Services in December 2012 on a calendar year basis only. Kirsty to follow up and ensure that financial year series is also made available to users.
- 3.8 **Action 2012.05** is closed. Council and PAMS representatives were invited to the November Census meeting shortly after the last PAMS meeting. Jenny noted that she had written to the acting Registrar General (Audrey Robertson) regarding census representation and was impressed with the swift response and subsequent meeting.
- 4. Census Progress and plans for future releases**
- 4.1 Amy presented slides on census progress and options for the future, noting the content, public response and media coverage of the first two releases.
- 4.2 The December release 1a was very high level and came out of the findings at the November Census meeting that initial results were wanted by users as soon as possible. The March release included 5 year age band breakdowns for councils and household counts and was accompanied by visualisation tools. Some attendees had looked at the visualisations. Although not widely used, there was positive feeling about this method of dissemination.
- 4.3 Rachel Forrest gave feedback that currently each table has to be downloaded separately from the census website. Other users agreed that having an 'all tables' spreadsheet would be an improvement.
- 4.4 **Action 2013.X**: Amy and Penni to ensure that Excel workbooks containing all tables / figures are added to the census website, so users don't have to download each table individually.
- 4.5 Hervey asked if UK publications had been released for high level census results. Post meeting note: These are available at: www.ons.gov.uk.
- 4.6 Amy showed the stages of the census process and discussed the current situation. The outputs prospectus will shortly be updated to say release 1c will now be released in June/July.

- 4.7 Ken made the point that his interest (and that of other users) is not purely population counts but information on identity, religion and language. This will be part of release 2 and later releases. Amy and Penni stated that there is not yet a fixed date for release 2 but it will likely be August or September 2013.
- 4.8 The census team propose to release Key and Quick statistics (release 2) for high level geographies (Scotland, Council areas) first, and for output areas second, with intermediate geographies following. The attendees were supportive with Norman and Jenny agreeing that output areas are most useful to create a range of local groupings.
- 4.9 The original plan was to release Local Characteristics (release 3) and then Detailed Characteristics (release 4). However, ONS have now switched the order of these releases in England and Wales. Attendees were in agreement that they would prefer to keep the original ordering and receive small area information in Local Characteristics first. It is hoped that all tables in both of these releases will be published by the end of 2013.
- 4.10 Alistair asked about the release of origin-destination/travel to work tables. These are to be released after release 4; the exact order and timing of release of these later products has still to be confirmed.
- 4.11 Jan asked about the next meeting of the Census External Quality Assurance panel. This will take place before release 1c and dates in May/June are currently being considered. Celia is to confirm dates and arrange.

5. Census Outputs Dissemination system

- 5.1 John Mooney demonstrated the outputs dissemination system for later census releases. This is currently a work under development. It will be part of the Scotlanscensus website and be updated with ongoing releases.
- 5.2 The site will have different sections aimed at different types of user.
- Area Profile: pick area on map or list – get key stats for different topics
 - Data Visualisations: pick topic, pick map or chart style
 - Standard Outputs: pick topic, table, area – see as table or chart
 - Flexible Table building: Add rows and columns to build up user defined table
 - Data Warehouse: download all data on a particular topic
- 5.3 Rachel Forrest asked about availability of 2001 data and ability for comparisons between the two points in time. John confirmed that 2001 data will be added to the same site (after 2011 data) but that there are not initially plans to allow comparisons due to differences in geographies.
- 5.4 There was much discussion about the possibility of adding user-defined geographies to the outputs dissemination system. Norman needs statistics for Church of Scotland parishes and presbyteries, while Local Authorities also have a range of local geographies such as school catchment areas. Alistair said it is essential for heavy users to be able to at least save their own user-defined geographies. It was suggested that it would be useful if user-defined geographies could be added to the system so that they could be selected by other users. Penni

stated that the system is flexible enough to do this in theory. Amy emphasised that she would be very happy to discuss options so that the outputs dissemination system could be of maximum benefit to users. However, she noted that it may be necessary to limit additional geographies to those with a wide usage.

- 5.5 **Action 2013.02** Amy and Penni to consider the potential for adding user-defined geographies to the outputs dissemination system

6. **Beyond 2011 - Stakeholder Engagement (Paper 3 PAMS (13) 03)**

- 6.1 Jules gave an overview of the consultation and user engagement events which her branch have been carrying out over the last few months. These involve meetings with genealogists, academics, health boards and equality groups and aim to find out the main uses and requirements of data which is currently provided by the census. Reports will be uploaded to the Beyond 2011 website section. A newsletter will also be going online in the next couple of weeks.
- 6.2 Formal online consultation exercise is currently underway (closing date 10 June). There have been 31 completed responses so far, mainly from individuals. Many more people have clicked through to the survey but not yet completed; Jules will follow up with individuals who provided contact details before the closing date.
- 6.3 **Action 2013.03** All PAMS committee members are encouraged to provide a response to the Beyond 2011 Consultation by 10 June on behalf of their organisations. The questionnaire can be found within the [Beyond 2011 Consultations](#) section on the NRS website.
- 6.4 Next series of user engagement events will be around privacy concerns and the team will be carrying out a Privacy Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment.

7. **Beyond 2011 - Statistical Options (Paper 4 PAMS (13) 04)**

- 7.1 Alex spoke about recent data linkage work matching NHS Central Register (NHSCR) to the 2011 census. 93% of census returns have been matched to a record on the NHSCR. There will be further ongoing work to understand the groups who are present in one source and not the other. If an administrative model is used, rather than dealing with non-response, a large portion of work will be removing non-residents from the base dataset.
- 7.2 Alistair commented that this was an impressive matching rate which he found surprising given assumed low quality of NHSCR data for migration. One aspect to explore is the quality of address information on the NHSCR i.e. people present but not registered at the address they were enumerated at in the census.
- 7.3 Alternative Sources branch have also been considering possible statistical designs for future censuses including a rolling census model, as used in France, and internet capture only.
- 7.4 Ken commented that alternative census models are not thought to capture more subjective information on language, faith etc. well and that these aspects need to be considered as well as the accuracy of the population base. He voiced support for a traditional census model.

8. **International Migration Distribution Methodology (Paper 05 PAMS (13) 05)**

- 8.1 Kylie talked through background and main points from the paper. It is proposed that we continue using NHS Central Register (NHSCR)/Community Health Index (CHI) flows to distribute flows of migrants geographically and by age and sex but amend the assumptions we make in this process regarding out-migrants for whom direct data is poor.
- 8.2 A sex-ratio adjustment will be introduced to both in-migrant and out-migrant flows to reduce the perceived male undercount at young adult ages and bring them closer to the sex ratio seen in the Long Term International Migration series.
- 8.3 It was discussed whether other sources could potentially replace the NHSCR, for example, council tax records or National Insurance Number (NI no) allocations. The main issues are that other administrative sources also suffer from a lack of data on out-migrants, and generally do not cover all groups of migrant (e.g. children). Another issue is accessing new administrative sources at the required level of detail and understanding their limitations. Population and Migration branch will continue to work with alternative sources to consider whether other datasets would be of use in estimating migration in the future.
- 8.4 It was agreed that the amendments to the current methodology would be used in the 2011 and 2012 mid-year estimates and in the rebasing work. If these had been used throughout the last decade the mid-year estimates would have been closer to the census population in the male age profile and in NHS Board areas.
- 8.5 **Action 2013.04** Any PAMS committee members wishing to provide more input into the proposed revisions to the international migrant distribution methodology to contact Kylie by 16 April.

9. Branch updates

Household estimates and projections (Paper 6 PAMS (13) 06)

- 9.1 Esther went through the upcoming work of the branch. They will be publishing 2012 household estimates in June/July and producing a reconciliation paper comparing their household estimates and projections to the results of the census and explaining differences.
- 9.2 The SCOTSIM project handover has now been delayed and will not be happening this month. Work is ongoing to fix issues with the data.
- 9.3 Household projections based on the 2011 Census will be published in Summer 2014, around two months behind usual schedule. Changes to the methodology based on census findings in headship rates etc. are under discussion.
- 9.4 The Household Analytical Review Group (HARG) will be having its next meeting on 25 April 2013 where this work will be discussed in more detail.

Population and migration (Paper 7 PAMS (13) 07)

- 9.5 Esta presented the main points from the branch update paper. In light of census publication schedules, the 2011 and 2012 mid-year estimates are likely to be published in early August rather than June/July as previously announced.
- 9.6 It was agreed that the mid-year estimates will be accompanied by one publication which will focus commentary largely on the changes between census day and mid-

2012. A paper on reconciliation between the census and previous rolled-forward estimates will also be published at this time.

- 9.7 Work has begun looking at assumption setting for the National Population Projections with Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the UK experts meeting is taking place on 19 April. A Scottish experts meeting will then be organised in June/July. (Post meeting note: the Scottish Expert Meeting will take place on 25 June). Work has also started on looking at the Sub-National Population Projection methods and system to see what changes may need to be made to reflect the new national methodology being implemented by ONS.

Statistical Information Services (Paper 8 PAMS (13) 08)

- 9.8 The paper provided details recent and upcoming publications across the division. The new divisional statistics plan for demography is currently being drafted and will be shared with the group.
- 9.9 **Action 2013.05** Alan to circulate Demography Statistics plan to PAMS members.

10. ScotStat Board update

- 10.1 Jenny outlined the key points from the meeting on the 8th April.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 Rachel asked about recent boundary changes and whether data from the 2001 and 2011 censuses would be available for both old and new datazones. There are issues about what can be provided on both bases due to issues with disclosure from both slivers (small areas identifiable by differencing the two geographies). We are looking at producing the rebased series of Small Area Population Estimates for old and new geographies with priority being given to producing estimates for the new data zone geography.
- 11.2 Norman asked whether there were plans for census roadshows similar to in 2001. These are a possibility. Following the main release schedule, census plan to seek views on the best events to run to publicise results and engage users.
- 11.3 Ken asked whether 'Topic Monitors' on special interest issues would be produced as in 2001, for example on Gaelic ability. Amy confirmed that topic based analysis would be produced after the main planned releases. Census would welcome input from users on topics on which detailed analysis would be of interest and would like to work in partnership with interested organisations and experts in the areas to produce detailed outputs.

Post meeting note: 2001 Census reports are available in the following sections on the NRS website.

- 11.4 [2001 Census Reports and Data](#) and [2001 Census Occasional Papers](#) .

Action 2013.06 All to get in touch with Tom Wallace about potential topics for special reports from 2011 Census data and any interest in contributing to these.

- 11.5 Jan asked whether there was a PAMS conference planned for this year. Kirsty and Esta stated that this had been budgeted for and was likely to be towards the end of the year, perhaps November. This will be arranged nearer to the time.

- 11.6 Members are reminded of the additional paper sent out with the agenda. This is an initial technical consultation from the new NRS Data Sharing and Linkage Service and they would welcome input from members of PAMS interested in using data linkage.
- 11.7 **Action 2013.08** Interested PAMS committee members are encouraged to provide a response to the NRS Data Sharing and Linkage Service consultation or to get in touch with Ewan Mathieson directly.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 It was agreed that the next regular PAMS committee meeting should take place in Autumn 2013.