

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

The Scottish Informatics and Linkage Collaboration (SILC)

Introduction

1. This paper provides a high level introduction to SILC, the collaborators involved in SILC and the shared services used by SILC.

Vision for SILC

2. SILC is a collaboration between many academic and public bodies to ensure that Scotland realises the benefits that can be derived from legal, ethical and carefully controlled use of administrative, survey and other types of data. SILC has been created to ensure that there is strategic coherence across initiatives which require the secure processing of individual level data and/or data linkage. SILC is an overarching structure that enables provision of a national research data service for Scotland.
3. SILC and its partners are committed to ensuring that citizens' privacy is maintained whilst simultaneously ensuring that research which is in the public interest is supported, allowing for the benefits of multidisciplinary and multi institutional work to be realised (both within public policy and economic development) through the provision of effective and efficient infrastructural provision.
4. SILC operates in-line with the Guiding Principles for Data Linkage.

SILC Governance

5. The strategic direction for SILC is set by the SILC Strategic Management Board (SMB), which is co-chaired by Tim Ellis and Harry Burns. The SMB reports to the Data Management Board.
6. The SILC Operations Group is responsible for ensuring that SILC operates in line with the priorities of the partner organisations and that the shared services are delivered in an efficient and effective way. The Operations Group reports to the SMB.
7. Some functions of the Operations Group are taken forward by a number of short life working groups (e.g. communication and engagement) and these groups report to the Operations Group and in some cases directly to the SMB.

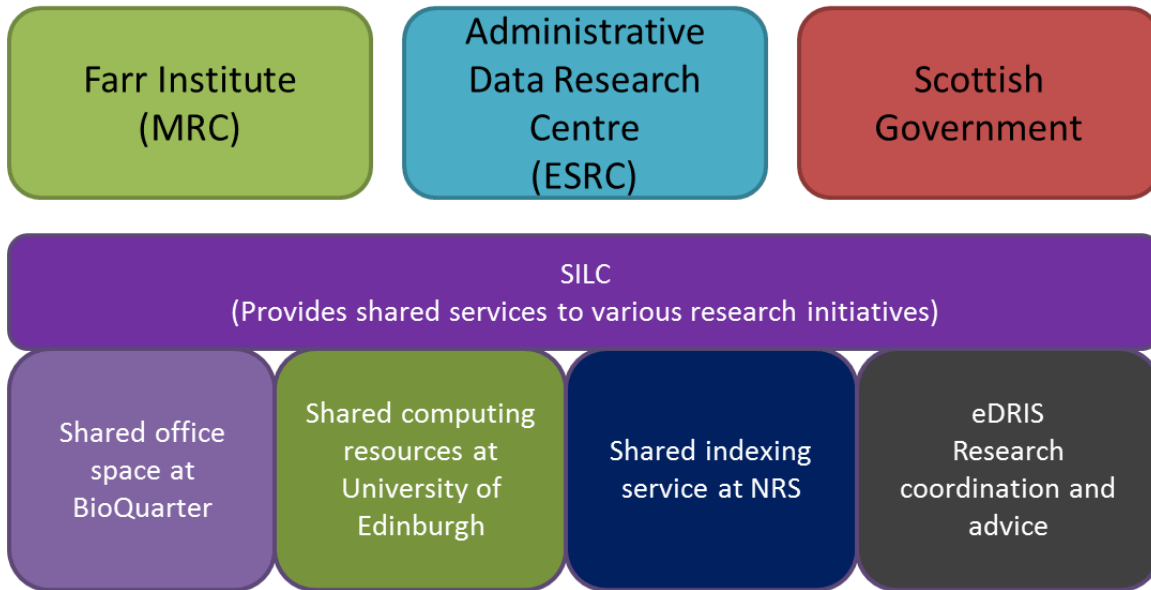
SILC Collaborators

8. SILC was established in March 2014, bringing together the Farr Institute@ Scotland, the Administrative Data Research Centre (Scotland) and Scottish Government investment. Other collaborators are anticipated to join SILC.

9. SILC collaborators can access the following shared services, which will be governed by a series of Service Level Agreements (SLAs):

- Shared office space at No.9 BioQuarter
- Shared computing resource at the University of Edinburgh
- Shared indexing service at National Records of Scotland (NRS)
- eDRIS research co-ordination and advice

The diagram below illustrates the bodies involved in SILC.



Farr Institute

10. The Farr Institute @ Scotland is a collaboration between six Scottish Universities and NHS National Services Scotland. It is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and data linkage projects for the purposes of medical research come in through this route. The Farr Institute reports to the MRC.

Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC)

11. The ADRC is a partnership between universities, government departments and agencies, national statistics authorities, the third sector, funders and researchers. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and data linkage projects from academics for the purposes of socio-economic research come in through this route. The ADRC reports to the ESRC.

Scottish Government (SG)

12. SG has committed funding to SILC to support 30 SG data linkage projects. This work is being co-ordinated by the Office of the Chief Statistician. SG report to Scottish Ministers.

NRS: Data Resources
28/04/2015