

National Records of Scotland Demography Division Statistics Plan 2011-12

Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Priorities	3
2.1 Contribution to the Scottish Government National Performance Framework	3
2.2 Contributions to Single Outcome Agreements	3
2.3 Other user needs.....	4
2.4 Consultation	5
3. National Records of Scotland (NRS) Demography Division Publications (2011-12)	6
4. Continuous Improvement Activities	8
ANNEX A - NRS Demography Division Resources (2011-12 approved budget*)	10
ANNEX B - NRS Demography Division Business Objectives (2011-12)	11
ANNEX C - progress against Business Objectives in previous year (2010-11)	13

1. Introduction

From 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) merged with the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The GROS and NAS websites will both remain active until they are replaced in due course by a new website for NRS.

The Demography Division of the NRS publishes a wealth of statistical information about the people of Scotland.

This plan sets out our statistical work planned for 2011-12, and includes information on: priorities; resources ([Annex A](#)); statistical publications; and improvement activities.

More detailed information on the business objectives for 2011-12 is given in [Annex B](#), and progress against business objectives for last financial year (2010-11) is reported in [Annex C](#).

Our statistical planning is a continuous process, and we place strong emphasis on taking into account the views of the people who use our data. A draft of this plan has been discussed with some representatives of users of our statistics at the [Population and Migration Statistics Committee](#) meeting on 25 May 2011 and sent to those who replied to our recent consultation on our work programme. This final version has been circulated to members of the [ScotStat Register](#) who have indicated an interest in Demography.

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Further information on the strategic objectives of NRS as a whole (including the work of Registration, Census and Corporate Services divisions), can be found in the [NRS Corporate Plan 2009 to 2012](#).

2. Priorities

2.1 Contribution to the Scottish Government National Performance Framework

Like other Scottish public bodies, NRS operates within the [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF) set by Scottish Ministers.

The National Performance Framework supports delivery of the Scottish Government's Purpose which is: 'To create a more successful country where all of Scotland can flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth'.

NRS Demography Division provides a range of information used to measure performance in the NPF. The [Technical Notes for the 2007 Spending Review](#) show how the Government's 7 Purpose Targets and 45 National Indicators will be measured.

NRS population estimates and data on birth and death registrations are a key part of measuring performance against Purpose Target 4 - Population Growth and Healthy Life Expectancy.

NRS data are also used in the measurement of some of the National Indicators, which the Scottish Government uses to track progress towards the achievement of its National Outcomes. For example, NRS provides the relevant population data where indicators are measured per head of population, or as a fraction of the total population.

NRS data contribute to the measurement of indicators on:

- Business
 - Indicator 2 - start-ups per 10,000 population
- Poverty
 - Indicator 14 - proportion of individuals living in poverty
- Health
 - Indicator 21 - healthy life expectancy in deprived areas
 - Indicator 25 - emergency admissions to hospital of people aged 65 and over
 - Indicator 26 - mortality rate of people under 75 from coronary heart disease in deprived areas

Where survey data has been used (for example, Scottish Household Survey data on the percentage of adults who smoke – Indicator 22), aspects of the sample of the population surveyed (for example, age and sex) are typically compared to the NRS population estimates. Where necessary, the raw survey data are adjusted to ensure the results are representative of the actual population.

2.2 Contributions to Single Outcome Agreements

In 2007, representatives of the Scottish Government and Scottish local government signed a concordat. This concordat committed both to moving towards Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) for all 32 of Scotland's councils.

SOAs are agreements between the Scottish Government and each council which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people, in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

This has increased the need for data which can be used to measure progress against appropriate local indicators.

2.2.1 Data at sub-Scotland geographies

To address this need, we are working to:

- make information more accessible by:
 - Maintaining a table of [sub-Scotland data sources](#) on our website which gives a detailed breakdown of all NRS data available at sub-Scotland geography levels (for example, council area or NHS Board).
 - Revamping the Geography section of our website to make it easier to navigate.
- make more information available by:
 - producing communal establishment counts at datazone level;
 - responding to requests for ad-hoc breakdowns of vital events statistics for parts of Scotland, provided that this involves little risk of disclosing information about identifiable people and that the work can be done within the available staff time;
 - consulting NHS Boards from time to time about possible improvements to the datasets on births, stillbirths and deaths which they receive from NRS each week
 - publishing population estimates for special areas such as population by Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation decile and by the Scottish Government Urban Rural Index at the same time as our Small Area Population Estimates.
 - Publishing an additional 5 variant projections for the first time for Council areas as well as the principal and high and low migration variants.

2.2.2 Professional statistical advice on suitability of NRS data for local indicators

In addition to making sub-Scotland level data more accessible, and adding additional data, a key function of the NRS Demography division is to provide advice on the use and understanding of its statistics. In addition to providing relevant information within statistics publications, ongoing work includes:

- Working with the Improvement Service, and others, on improving the Improvement Service menu of local indicators. For example, by working with the Scottish Government and COSLA suitable population indicators which have been added to the [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) website.

2.3 Other user needs

In addition to taking into account requirements for the National Performance Framework and SOAs, we consider the needs of a wide range of demographic statistics users when planning our work.

Ways in which we engage with our users to establish their requirements are:

- [Consultation groups](#)
 - Population and Migration Statistics Committee (main ScotStat group)
 - Small Area Population Estimates Working Group
 - Household Analysis Review Group

- [Events and seminars](#)
 - PAMS Conference, held every 18 months – next conference will be held on 26 October 2011.
 - Seminars held on a range of topics, such as National Forum on Ageing, Using and Improving Population, and Household Statistics conferences
 - Visits to local authorities (for example, [Finding the Population Statistics You Need](#) event)
- Emailing links to any consultations we hold using the [ScotStat Register](#).
- Other meetings and communications - for example, with Scottish Government (SG) policy and analytical staff, the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS, National Services Scotland, academics, COSLA, the Office for National Statistics (ONS); and by involvement with groups such as the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths and the Scottish Suicide Information Database Steering Group.

2.4 Consultation

Extra demographic work is required in 2011/12 as a result of the census, for example in quality assuring the census, producing revisions of previous population estimates, preparing for 2011 based population projections etc. This extra work plus the budget reductions announced as part of the 2010 Spending Review mean that GROS have to consider where savings and efficiencies can be found. A consultation with users and stakeholders on the GROS Demography Statistical Work Programme was carried out between December 2010 and February 2011. A summary of the results can be found on our website at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/user-consultation-groups-seminars/consultations.html>. The consultation was intended to provide the basis for informing the planning of demography statistical work and outputs over the next few years. It sought views on two main areas.

- What GROS demography statistical outputs are used and how they are used.
- The impact on users of possible reductions in various areas of GROS demography statistical work.

Having considered the findings from the consultation we have decided to do the following to save resource for other priorities.

- Combine the two life expectancy publications (administrative areas and special areas).
- Postpone publication of ethnic estimates.
- Postpone publication of marital status estimates.
- Combine the data from the local area migration reports into one spreadsheet and produce one national report.

We also considered our users views when re-structuring the Statistics section of our website, helping to make it easier for them to find the statistics and relevant information that they need. We requested feedback from our users on the re-structured website, including suggestions for any future improvements. These will be considered as part of the on-going programme of improvements for the website.

3. NRS Demography Division Publications (2011-12)

Demography Division [statistics](#) are published on this website. A list of our planned publications for 2011-12 is below.

Mid-2010 Population Estimates Scotland	April 2011
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2010	May 2011
Quarterly update to Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	May 2011
Quarterly update to migration between Scotland and the rest of UK	May 2011
Births, Deaths, and Other Vital Events: 1 st Quarter 2011	June 2011
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 1 st Quarter 2011	June 2011
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 1 st Quarter 2011	June 2011
Migration Tables update for mid-2010	July 2011
Scotland's Population 2010: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends	August 2011
Vital Events Reference Tables 2010	August 2011
Web sections on deaths from particular causes	August 2011
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2010	August 2011
Quarterly update to Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	August 2011
Quarterly update to migration between Scotland and the rest of UK	August 2011
New Local Area Migration Spreadsheet (to replace the 9 Local Area Migration reports)	August 2011
2010 Small Area Population Estimates and Special Area Population Estimates	August 2011
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 2 nd Quarter 2011	September 2011
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 2 nd Quarter 2011	September 2011
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 2 nd Quarter 2011	September 2011
Centenarians in Scotland, 2002 – 2010	September 2011
Increased Winter Mortality, 2010/11	October 2011
National Projections Scotland, 2010-based	October 2011

Life Expectancy in Administrative & Special Areas in Scotland, 2008-2010	November 2011
Quarterly update to Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	November 2011
Quarterly update to migration between Scotland and the rest of UK	November 2011
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 3 rd Quarter 2011	December 2011
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 3 rd Quarter 2011	December 2011
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 3 rd Quarter 2011	December 2011
Babies' First Names – 2011	December 2011
Electoral Statistics, Scotland 2011	February 2012
Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas, 2010-based (including all variants)	February 2012
Quarterly update to Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	February 2012
Quarterly update to migration between Scotland and the rest of UK	February 2012
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 2011 (Preliminary)	March 2012
Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events: 4 th Quarter 2011	March 2012
Monthly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland – 4 th Quarter 2011	March 2012
Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland – 4 th Quarter 2011	March 2012
Mid-2010 Settlement and Locality Population Estimates	March 2012

Additional information, including specific dates for publication where known, is also provided on the website.

[Statistics at a Glance](#) provides information on key statistical trends, including

- [High Level Summary of Statistics](#) - overview of each of our main areas of activity
- [Council Area Profiles](#) - overview of each of the 32 council areas in Scotland

We have also added additional information about our publications and methodologies onto our website in the past year, including 'About This Publication' documents for each of our main publications.

The [About Our Statistics](#) section of the website also provides more information about the background to official statistics and the policies and practices used to produce them.

4. Continuous Improvement Activities

Continuous improvement is an integral part of the National Performance Framework and the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and we are always trying to improve the quality of statistics we produce.

[National Outcome 15: “Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs”].

Improvement work planned for Demography Division in 2011-12 includes.

- Investigating new sources of administrative data to contribute to the improvement in quality of population and household statistics - for example, using Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data.
- Developing a new Vital Events Information Technology (IT) system to improve data processing and provide scope for additional data validation.
- Expanding the Vital Events statistical databases to include the new standard codes for occupations and various types of geographical area.
- Improving the accuracy of the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) by adding additional reference fields.
- Investigating the potential of a range of sources of administrative data to contribute to the development of more efficient systems for population statistics.
- Working with Scottish Court Service, NRS Registration Division and Scottish Government Civil Justice Statistics to complete the implementation of the electronic supply of statistical data on divorces and dissolutions of civil partnerships, in order to improve the quality of the statistics and reduce the cost of producing them.
- Combining Life Expectancy Statistics into one publication.
- Publishing all variant population projections for Council and NHS Boards with the main release, instead of several months later due to improved IT systems.
- Develop methods for revising population estimates for Council, NHS Boards and datazones for use after the results of the 2011 Census are known.
- Improve the methodology for mid-year estimates (e.g. estimation of the number of Armed Forces and investigation of improved sources of internal, cross-border and international migration).
- Contribute to the quality assurance of the 2011 Census and continue to develop methods for future quality indicators for population estimates.
- Implementing improvements to the Geography section of our website, including incorporating 2011 Census geography information.
- Continue collaborative work with the Centre for Population Change. This is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project involving a consortium of Scottish universities and Southampton University.
- Contributing to UK wide projects on: improving migration statistics; and options for future Censuses after 2011.
- Continuous development of the Scottish Longitudinal Survey, incorporating data from the School Census and building plans for including data from the 2011 Census.
- Ensuring statistical staff continue to develop their skills and competencies through a continuous development programme.
- Continue working with the Boundary Commission for Scotland to provide improved quality assurance for the annual Electoral Statistics publication.

- Continue to work with the Scottish Assessors Association Electoral Registration Committee to improve the exchange of information.

Draft

ANNEX A - NRS Demography Division Resources (2011-12 approved budget*)

We can't update this at the moment because budgets haven't been finalised.

Grade	Discipline
Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis	
1 x B3	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
1 x B1	Administration
2 x A4	Administration
Household Estimates & Projections	
C1	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
2 x B1	Statistics
2.33 x A3	Student (temporary)
Population & Migration Statistics	
1 x C1	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
3 x B1 (one SNS funded)	Statistics
0.6 x A3	Administration
Alternative Sources	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B3	Statistics
4 x B2	Statistics
Vital Events	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
1 x B2	Statistics
0.7 x B1	Administration
3 x A4 (by the end of the year, following staff changes)	Administration
3.3 x A3 (by the end of the year, following changes)	Administration
Statistical IT** (shared with Census Division)	
1 x B3	IT
2.8 x B2	IT
5.6 x B1	IT
NHS Central Register	
0.6 x B3	Administration
1 x B2	Administration
2 x B1	Administration
1.33 x A4	Administration
15.6 x A3	Administration

Total Demography Staff Costs	£1.99m
Total Non-staff Costs	£0.09m
Total Income	+£1.02m
Total Resourcing**	£1.06m

*Note – actual staffing level may vary from approved budget (for example, where posts are shared or vacant)

**Note – if shared IT staff resource is excluded, Total Resourcing = £0.64m

ANNEX B - NRS Demography Division Business Objectives (2011-12)

Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis
<p>Statistics Customer Services information requests [DD1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all customer requests for demographic data within published timescale (within 5 working days for almost all requests), providing appropriate advice and analysis as required.
<p>Publication of Registrar General's Annual Review and other statistical publications; ongoing improvement of the NRS website [DD2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate via the web and other means, agreed statistical outputs, including the Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Statistics 2008; to make improvements to the NRS website to ensure it continues to meet the needs of users. • Contribute to production of new NRS website and the transfer of data from the current GROS and NAS website over to the new website.
<p>Business Continuity – Demography Division [DD3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other divisions to ensure that there are arrangements for appropriate business continuity for each significant service or product, allowing us to continue to operate selected services during and following a disruption.
Household Estimates & Projections
<p>Household estimates and projections [DD4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the methodology for producing forward household projections, and the quality / coverage of the small area household estimates. Publish new projections, estimates of the number of households in each council for small areas, and dwelling counts for small areas.
<p>Development of new household statistics [DD5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of potential replacement sources of statistics on households and dwellings, and how to improve the scope and accuracy of what we currently publish. Develop our expertise in matching address information from different sources, as part of work to investigate and develop alternatives to the census.
Population & Migration Statistics
<p>Publish population, migration and life expectancy statistics [DD6]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the following key publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mid-year Population estimates for 2010 (April 2011) ○ Migration tables update for 2010 (July 2011) ○ Three chapters for the RGAR (August 2011) ○ Small Area Population estimates for 2010 & for Special Areas (August 2011) ○ New migration spreadsheet to replace the 9 Local Area Migration reports (August 2011) ○ Centenarians estimates for 2010 (September 2011) ○ National Population Projections, 2010 based (October 2011) ○ New combined Life Expectancy publication 2008-2010 (November 2011) ○ Sub-National Population Projections, 2010 based (February 2012) ○ Settlement & Locality Population estimates (March 2012) ○ Quarterly updates of Annual Population Survey based population by country of birth ○ Quarterly updates of NHSCR migration data
<p>Improve the methodology and dissemination of our outputs and develop methods of revising our estimates after the 2011 Census [DD7]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement the 5 UKSA requirements by August 2011 ○ Develop revision methodologies for mid-year estimates and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) September 2011 ○ Review the methodologies to produce mid-year estimates and SAPE September 2011 ○ Assess the use of the NHSCR Extract for internal migration estimates at NHS Board, Council and datazone level working with Alternative Sources as necessary. ○ Work with Alternative Sources to use new improved sources in the production and quality assurance of population and migration estimates e.g. linkage work for distribution of international migration data. <p>Quality Assurance of the 2011 Census.</p>
<p>Demographic policy support and analysis [DD8]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide informed advice and analysis to support users of demographic statistics, through liaison with key users, user groups, publications in journals and presentations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contributing to the British-Irish council workstream on demography ○ Fully participate in the Scottish Government's Demographic Analysis Working Group ○ Visit 3 local authorities as part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement. ○ Work with Scottish Government policy teams (Fresh talent, Strategy Unit and Economic

<p>Strategy Unit) to support the Population Purpose Target and any new policies from a new administration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with other users (e.g. academics, Centre for Population Change, Scottish Public Health Observatory (SPHO), COSLA etc).
Alternative Sources
<p>Beyond 2011 [DD9]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the SG and ONS to carry out an assessment of the feasibility of replacing traditional census enumeration in Scotland with a more efficient system for producing population statistics based on administrative data (December 2014)
<p>Alternative sources of demographic statistics [DDX]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide support to other census and demography branches in broadening their use of administrative data and applying record linkage methodology.
<p>Management of research using the Census linked to other records [DD10]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage work on research projects linking Census with other data in compliance with current legislation, the GSS Code of Practice and ensure lessons are learned.
<p>Electoral statistics [DD11]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collate and publish electoral statistics (February 2012). Contribute to Electoral Commission assessment of completeness and accuracy of Electoral Register (December 2013).
Vital Events
<p>Process and output preliminary Vital Events data every week and every quarter [DD12]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed records passed to NHS Boards etc within 3 weeks of initial receipt by NRS (NB: this includes the time allowed for Informants and, perhaps, NRS's Examiners to check the details) • "Births, Deaths and other Vital Events" published (with the "weekly" and "monthly" Web tables): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Q1 - 9 June 2011 o Q2 - 8 September 2011 o Q3 - 8 December 2011 o Q4 - 8 March 2012 • Quarterly data distributed to customers within a week of the publication of the quarterly figures..
<p>Disseminate Vital Events data for a year [DD13]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised annual datasets sent to users by no later than a week after the Annual Report publication date (expected to be 5 August 2011) • Other annual datasets (e.g. for Neighbourhood Statistics) produced within required timescales • VE Reference Tables published no later than the date of publication of the Annual Report • 4 Web sections on deaths from particular causes updated when the Reference Tables are published • All VE High Level Summary pages updated in the month that the Reference Tables are published • "Drug-related Deaths" published in August 2011 • "Increased Winter Mortality" (for Winter 2010/2011) published in October 2011 • "Babies' First Names" (for the first 11 months of 2011) published in December 2011 • Preliminary figures for 2011 as a whole published on 8 March 2012 • High Level Summary "Births" and "Deaths" "headline" pages updated to 2011 in March 2012.
Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)
<p>Vital Events IS Support [DD15]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued redevelopment of VE Systems, including installation of a production server environment and deployment of the celebrants application. • Improvements to data extraction and dissemination functions, including use of Output Delivery System to produce all 'single year' reference tables, and automation of production of a range of other outputs (e.g. for SNS). <p>General Demography IS Support [DD16]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS support for Demography projects and business functions, including re-write of migration processing system (NRSMIG) to use data from NHSCR extract, roll out of new version of SuperSTAR software, ongoing support for NHSCR Extract, SLS and CHD study, as required and within agreed timescales, and scoping of requirements for re-write of mid-year estimates system.
NHS Central Register
<p>Running the NHS Central Register [DD_ GBO_1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the NHSCR records on behalf of the NHS in Scotland, in a way that is consistent with best practice in the collection, storage and archiving of information. Maintain all health service, medical research and Improvement Service updates.
<p>Extension of uses for NHSCR data [DD14]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act to comply with the recommendations of the Fraser Report to expand the uses of the high quality NHSCR data.

ANNEX C - progress against Business Objectives in previous year (2010-11)

Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis
<p>Statistics Customer Services information requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All requests met within agreed timescales.
<p>Publication of Registrar General's Annual Review and other statistical publications, and ongoing improvement of Statistics section of the NRS website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All publications were released on schedule, including the RG's Annual Review. ○ Council Area Profiles spreadsheet was added to the website to allow users quick and easy access to high level statistics for each of the 32 Scottish council areas.. ○ The Statistics section of the website was restructured to be more user friendly, taking into account comments from stakeholders. There were also a number of additions to the website, including a section on revisions and corrections, and information on requirements of the UK Statistics Authority. ○ The Geography section of the website will be restructured next year to take account of the geographies used in the 2011 Census. ○ Work has begun on producing an online-dissemination tool for the 2011 Census outputs. The tool will be more interactive than the current census website, SCROL. Work on this will continue into next year.
<p>Business Continuity – Demography Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Critical Function maps have been kept up-to-date and a walk-through exercise has been carried out to test our Business Continuity Management Plan.
Household Estimates & Projections
<p>Household estimates and projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We successfully published estimates of households and dwellings, and household projections in May 2010. Work is progressing well on producing this year's household estimates and dwelling counts which are due to be published by the end of May. ○ We have also been working to develop variant households projections and consider incorporating recent survey data into our projections. This work was presented at the last meeting of the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG). This received positive feedback and a number of suggestions for further investigation..
<p>Development of new household statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We continue to follow developments in this area, in particular monitoring the political and economic landscape and considering its impact on possible sources of household data. ○ We have also liaised with colleagues in NRS alternative sources branch and SG housing statistics branches to ensure a joined up approach to future work on unit level housing data.
Population & Migration Statistics
<p>Production of population, migration and life expectancy statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mostly Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All publications were published on time including new variant projections for Strategic Development Plan Areas and National Parks in July and additional variant projections for Council areas in January 2011. Two planned publications did not happen due to lack of resource over the summer of 2010 (Marital Status Estimates and Ethnic Population Estimates).
<p>Improve methodology and review systems for producing population statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A research report and user guidance for the POPGROUP software package was published with Professor Ludi Simpson from Manchester University to help Councils and others produce small area projections for areas below Council area. ○ An investigation into short-term migrants and the implications for the 2011 census population base was presented to PAMS. ○ Our outputs were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and several areas of good practice were highlighted. Five requirements need to be implemented by August 2011.
<p>Demographic policy support and analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A range of dissemination and support for policy was successfully carried out over the year. Notable examples are the meetings of the British Irish Council workstream on demography,

<p>visits to local authorities , the addition of population indicators to the SNS website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o New methodology papers for mid-year estimates, projections, life expectancy and marital status estimates were published on our website as was a new section on uses and limitations of projections.
<p>Alternative Sources</p>
<p>Alternative sources of demographic statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We have continued to investigate new, previously unutilised, administrative sources of data and to support research and development in other GROS business areas, such as population estimates and Census. We achieved access for Scotland to data from HESA student record and the Migrant Worker Scan under the 2007 SRSA . Ensuring adequate data sharing for population statistics continues to be a challenge and requires further effort in future years. Securing appropriate ICT tools is another challenging objective which will continue to be pursued.
<p>Management of research using the Census linked to other records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SHELS and the SLS have been supported in accordance with the NS Code of Practice and legal requirements.
<p>Electoral statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Electoral Register statistics were published as planned. Together with the Electoral Commission we have started planning for the use of data from the 2011 Census to inform electoral reform.
<p>Vital Events</p>
<p>To ensure that information on all vital events registered in the calendar year is processed, and preliminary figures are disseminated, in line with performance targets and publication deadlines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved • The statistical data for 2010 were processed, and the Quarterly and Preliminary Annual figures were published, in line with the performance targets and publication deadlines. Editions of "Births, Marriages & Deaths" (recently renamed as "Births, Deaths and other Vital Events", in response to a UK Statistics Authority requirement) were published on time on 10 June 2010, 9 September 2010, 9 December 2010 and 10 March 2011, each accompanied (on the Web site) by updated versions of the "weekly" and "monthly" tables. • Regarding the "business improvements": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the electronic supply of data on divorces - this went "live" in September 2010. Data are now being received on a weekly basis; o making more information about the basis of our statistics available to users - a lot of additional documentation was made available on the Web site in November 2010 (see - e.g. - http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/general-bckgr-info/index.html and http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/deaths/bckgr-info/index.html) o continuing the annual consultation with Health Boards regarding the content of the datasets which we send to them each week, quarter and year - due in November, this has been postponed for several months because NHSCR has started to add the Community Health Index / Unique Personal Identifier number to the "deaths" records that are sent to Boards each week, and we want this change to have "bedded down" before we ask Boards if they would like other data.
<p>To ensure that the finalised Vital Events statistics for a full year are disseminated in line with published timetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: • Finalised annual datasets were sent to users on 6 August 2010, when the final figures for 2009 were published in "Scotland's Population: the Registrar General's Annual Review ...". • Vital Events Reference Tables were published, and the High Level Summary pages and the four Web sections on deaths from particular causes were all updated, on 6 August 2010 • "Drug-related Deaths" was published on 17 August 2010. • "Increased Winter Mortality" was published on 27 October 2010. • "Babies' First Names" was published on 21 December 2010. • Regarding the "business improvements": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o "Reference and Time-Series Tables to be expanded further, to make more information available" - nine new tables were added, and some Reference tables were expanded o "following consultation with the National Forum about the standard basis of our statistics for drugs involved, we will change our database and procedures, amend our data back to 2008,

- and add new and revised tables to "Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2009" - we:
 - split the information that we get from the new version of the forms (introduced in 2008) into "drugs implicated" and "drugs present but not implicated";
 - revised our drug-related deaths database and tables on drugs, to make this distinction and to take account of our new standard basis for figures about drugs; and
 - added explanatory material and four new tables to "Drug-related Deaths", and made other improvements.
- if/when user demand is identified, add more Web sections on (e.g.) deaths from particular causes - no such needs were identified, other than for the additional material on the basis of our statistics.

Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)

Vital Events and NHS Central Register (NHSCR) Extract Systems

Vital Events Rewrite

- **Achieved:**
 - Celebrant prototyping completed and final application built & tested and is ready to be deployed into live environment before the end of this financial year.
 - Scope of Vital Events project extended to include provision of data loading and validation modules and these modules and functionality have subsequently been successfully deployed into the live environment.
- **Partly Achieved:**
 - Development of the marriages and civil partnership modules complete but still undergoing final testing. While development of the births, deaths and other modules has not yet started. In both cases these delays have been as a result of the development resources being reallocated to the more business critical development of the systems and services required to support the 2011 Scottish census.
- **Not Achieved:**
 - Due to redeployment of development resources for a period of one year onto 2011 census development work. Resource will be reallocated to this area in early 2011 and the projects plans and system completion dates re-planned for a projected delivery in the first half of 2012.

NHSCR Extract

- In the early part of the year the project was significantly behind its target date, largely as a result of the failure of Atos origin to deliver a functioning monthly update mechanism. Protracted discussion took place between NRS, Atos and the NHS contract management team to try to achieve progress and deliver a successful outcome. Detailed analysis by NRS of Atos' technical design showed it to be based on a flawed understanding of NHSCR data and data management procedures. Consequently, it could not be relied upon to deliver accurate monthly updates. At this point it was agreed Atos should carry out no further work on this phase of the project, and a simpler monthly update procedure – based on a resupply of the full NHSCR extract – was put in place.
- The NHSCR Extract is now fully in place; update and data transfer procedures are working properly.
- The extract database has been amended to include the 'phase II' variables..

NHS Central Register

Running the NHS Central Register

- **Achieved**
 - We exceeded our 95% turn round time - processing 100% of our work within the five week time frame. We have improved security between NHSCR and IS - data will now be passed via N3. We have also reviewed our archives procedures this year, saving on costs.

Extension of uses for NHSCR data

- We continue to work with IS to develop more streamline systems for handling the two-way flow of data.