

HOUSEHOLD ANALYSIS REVIEW GROUP:

Minutes for the meeting of 31 March 2008
Room 1/G/8, Ladywell House, 2 - 4pm

Present:

Esther Roughsedge (Chair)	GROS: Household Estimates and Projections Branch
Tammy Brown	Clackmannanshire Council
Alison Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Alistair Harvey	City of Edinburgh Council
Liz Hawkins	SG Housing and Planning Research
Nicola Hay	SG Planning
Anneli Lyon	GROS: Household Estimates and Projections Branch
Martin Macfie	GROS: Household Estimates and Projections Branch
Paul McNamara	Stirling Council
Tom Snowling	Aberdeen City Council
Kirsty MacLachlan	GROS: Head of Demography Division
Adele Trainer	North Lanarkshire Council
Andrew White	GROS: Population and Migration Statistics Branch

Apologies:

Derek Bearhop	SG Housing Policy
Claire Boag	SG Housing Statistics
Jonathan Davidson	SG Statistical Support for Local Government
Duncan Gray	SG Communities Analytical Services
Sarah Longley	North Lanarkshire Council
Celia MacIntyre	GROS: Population and Migration Statistics Branch
Karen Trouten	Homes for Scotland

Agenda item 1: Introductions

1. Esther Roughsedge thanked everyone for attending the meeting, noted the apologies received and welcomed new members to the group.

Agenda item 2: Minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting in March 2007 were briefly mentioned and Esther asked if there were any comments or questions.

Agenda item 3: Household Projections

3. Anneli Lyon gave a presentation on the 2006-based household projections summarising HARG papers 1, 2 and 3. The main points were:

3.1 There have been two changes in the methodology.

1) Previously the private household population had been calculated using 2001 Census communal establishment figures. This year 2006 communal establishment figures have been used which have been collected from various sources. Analysis shows that using the 2006 figures produces slightly higher household projections for Scotland.

2) The projection period has been extended from 20 years to 25 years.

HARG members approved the use of the 2006 communal establishment figures and agreed that a 25 year projection period would be preferable.

Tom queried whether it should be the proportion or the actual numbers of people living in communal establishments which should be kept constant over the projection period. Currently proportions are used. Anneli said that she had looked at this for armed forces data and it had not made a great difference.

3.2 Provisional results of the 2006-based projections were presented to the group. Comparisons between the 2004-based and 2006-based projections at Scotland and local authority level were provided.

HARG members were satisfied with the provisional results and approved them for publication.

3.3 Variant projections.

Anneli proposed that the 2006-based household projections publication should include a high migration variant household projection at sub-national level, since this had been included for the first time in the latest population projections at sub-national level. She presented analysis comparing the principal and high migration variant projections.

HARG members agreed that the high migration variant projection should be included in the publication. They suggested that it should have the same prominence as the variant projection in the population projections and that full details could be given to users on demand. **ACTION - Anneli**

Further discussion raised the following points:

3.4 Jan asked if the 2006 projections before constraining had been compared to the 2006 household estimates. This should give an indication whether the rate of household formation had increased or slowed down in 2001-2006, compared with the 1991 to 2001 period.

Anneli said that she had the figures and would look at them further. **ACTION – Anneli**

3.5 HARG members commented that the projections up to 5 years ahead was their main interest.

3.6 The projections tend to be higher in the earlier years and then tail off as a result of the population migration assumptions decreasing over time and the damping effect on the projection of the headship rates. Jan wondered if this should be highlighted in the publication, maybe by looking at the change in two phases. Anneli agreed to include this in the publication. **ACTION - Anneli**

3.7 Esther informed HARG members that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) are reviewing the methodology used for the household projections for England and Wales and also who produces them. HARG members will be informed of any changes that GROS become aware of.

3.8 Ashley McCormick is looking at improving household projections for Scotland through dynamic micro-simulation for his PhD at Liverpool University. He is partly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Scottish Government (SG) and spends one month per year (September) working alongside members of the household estimates and projections branch. It may be possible for Ashley to describe his research at a future HARG meeting.

Agenda item 4: 2007 Household Estimates and Dwelling Counts

4. Esther gave a presentation summarising the main points from HARG 2008(4). The main points were:

4.1 Esther explained that this year she was intending to produce a combined publication for local authority household estimates, small area dwelling counts and small area household estimates.

HARG members approved the combined publication.

4.2 Example of the proposed tables, maps and charts for the publication were presented to the group. Esther was particularly keen to know whether they thought that the boxplots were suitable for demonstrating the distribution across datazones.

The group thought that it would be necessary to explain what boxplots are and include an example. They also said that maps were a useful way of presenting the data. **ACTION - Esther**

Adele thought that although the boxplots indicate the distribution there is no way of knowing where the datazones are between for example the 75th percentile and 95th percentile boundaries. They could all be grouped near the 75th percentile or spread evenly between the two points.

Esther agreed but said that producing a histogram for every category and local authority would lead to a huge number of charts in the publication.

Nicola suggested that maybe histograms could be produced for just the distinct cases. Paul added that it would be helpful to say why certain cases are distinct e.g. if they are university cities. **ACTION - Esther**

4.3 Esther asked if the group were happy with percentages being used in the tables for publication and on the SNS website.

HARG members approved the use of percentages.

4.4 Jan Freeke asked if :

- any of Esther's analysis would be included in the GROS Registrar General's Annual Report.
- whether this analysis had been linked to the small area population statistics, since a combined publication would be useful.
- comparisons to the 2001 Census household estimates had been made in order to compare population change and household change since 2001 at datazone level.

Esther said that it may be possible to add some of this analysis to the summary household projections that are already in the annual report. **ACTION - Esther**

She confirmed that some analysis of the ratio of households to population at datazone level had been done and that this would maybe be presented in a paper at the next HARG meeting. **ACTION – Martin/Esther**

Esther said that adding population figures to some of the tables in the publication would be considered but if this was not possible this year, further analysis would be carried out for future publications and discussed at the next HARG meeting.

ACTION – Esther/Andrew

Esther said that comparisons with 2001 Census data had not be done but would be considered for the future. **ACTION – Martin/Esther.** Some other comparisons have been carried out, such as comparisons between household estimates, dwelling counts and small area population estimates.

4.5 Publication dates

Household Estimates, Small area household estimates and dwelling counts will be published on Friday 2nd May when SNS is updated.

The household projections will be published on Thursday 8th May.

HARG members said they were happy with these dates.

Agenda item 5: Council Tax Replacement Statistics

5. Martin Macfie gave a presentation on Council Tax replacement statistics summarising the main points from HARG 2008(5). The main points were:

5.1 If Council Tax is abolished the household estimates and projections branch will lose most of the household data.

5.2 Various sources of housing and population data are being investigated to see if they are of sufficient quality to replace council tax data.

5.3 Martin presented some charts of initial analysis comparing households from the Electoral Register to Council Tax household estimates. He highlighted one data zone where there was not a good match and looked at possible reasons for this.

5.4 Paul asked how the Local Income Tax would be administered. He wondered if there would be a separate register for people in Scotland or whether it would be bolted on to the existing PAYE system.

Esther thought that the tax may be collected through the PAYE system but this would need to be approved by both Holyrood and Westminster. She added that second homes and vacant properties would still be subject to a tax equivalent to the amount currently paid under Council Tax.

5.5 Jan asked if it would be useful to look at housing stock by tenure, as Councils/Housing Associations will be able to provide data on the number of vacant properties for their dwellings.

Esther said that Claire Boag and Duncan Gray were looking into social rented sector and private rented housing.

5.6 It was suggested that the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) could be compared to Council Tax based household estimates.

Esther said that the date for the new CAG has been postponed. At some point, a flag for residential properties should be added. Martin will present any findings on this at the next HARG meeting if new CAG has been made available. **ACTION - Martin**

Agenda item 6: Population and Migrations Statistics update

6. Andrew White provided an update, the main points included:

6.1 The sub-national population projections were published in January.

6.2 Katya Lisenkova is doing some work for the PMS branch. She is preparing input files for principal and variant projections that local authorities can use with POPGROUP. She is also working on a zero migration variant population projection at the sub-national level that may be published later in the year.

6.3 The demographic assumptions for National Parks population projections are being derived.

6.4 There will be a PPWG meeting in April / May where there will be a paper presented explaining the derivation of the migration assumptions that were used in the last set of projections.

6.5 The mid 2007 population estimates will be published on the 20th May. These will incorporate the new ONS methodology for international migration.

6.6 Life expectancy for special areas was published last week.

6.7 Settlement and locality populations for 2006 are being produced and should be published by June.

6.8 There will be a PAMS meeting in early June.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Business

7.1 Kirsty MacLachlan asked whether the group were aware of any additional sources of data for communal establishments such as hotels and hostels.

Sources suggested by the group were:

- Local authority business registers
- Tourist boards (although it is not compulsory to register)
- Planning permission for establishments with a large number of rooms.
- Social care lists for those living in hotels and B&Bs from Local Authorities and Shelter.
- CHI

7.2 Kirsty also asked about the frequency of the projections publications and wondered if there was any demand for annual publications.

The group did not think that the benefits of annual publication of projections outweighed the extra workload for GROS.

Agenda item 8: Date of next meeting

8. The next meeting will be held in September 2008. This meeting will focus on developmental work such as Ashley McCormick's PhD on improving the household projections using dynamic microsimulation, replacement statistics for Council Tax data and household projections for National Parks and "City Regions".