

MEETING OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 3 APRIL 2003

Present:

David Orr	GROS, Chair	Ian White	ONS
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council	Catriona Hayes	Scottish Executive
Jackie Livingston	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Lisa Bird	Scottish Executive
Stephen Fraser	North Ayrshire Council	Duncan Gray	Scottish Executive
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council	Garnett Compton	GROS
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council	Alan MacGill	GROS, Secretary

0. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

(a) Apologies

0.1 Apologies were received from Marion Lacey, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, Paul Boyle, St Andrews University, and Frank Thomas, GROS.

(b) New Members

0.2 Jenny Boag advised at the Local Authority representatives meeting held earlier in the day they had decided Laura MacDonald, East Dunbartonshire Council, would replace Norman Jamieson. David Orr welcomed the appointment and formally recorded the committee's thanks to Norman for all his work in the group over many years. David also welcomed Lisa Bird, Scottish Executive who he invited to the meeting, as the author of paper 12 on the agenda, with a view to Lisa joining the group.

1. MINUTES OF PAMS MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2002 – PAMS (02) 17

1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING - PAMS (02) 18

2.1 All action points from the previous meeting had been completed were on going or covered by items on the agenda.

3. SCOTSTAT

(a) Board meetings update (2nd meeting 26 June 2002 3rd meeting 3 February 2003) - PAMS (03) 01

3.1 Jenny Boag introduced this item reporting on the proceedings of the second and third meetings highlighting that there were no substantive issues for the group. She advised that papers and minutes were now on the SCOTSTAT website.

(b) SCOTSTAT Board Request for information about Key Statistics and Committee Work Plans - PAMS (03) 02

3.2 David Orr advised that each committee of Scotstat was required to submit details of Key Statistics by end of April. The draft attached to the paper was a first attempt at completing this. Members agreed to add working age population as it is a sustainable development indicator. Members were also asked to consider Committee Work Plan, which should be completed and sent to Scotstat by end of May. [Secretary's note: This was done.] Members should distinguish between what this group does and what GROS is already doing. In considering this members were advised they may wish to refer to PAMS paper (03) 03 which is the next item on the agenda. Some possible suggestions for possible entries in the work plan were:

Review of whether we are going to have another Census.

Working group on small area statistics.

Standard Mortality rates. - standard and consistent calculation required

International Migration

(c) Scottish Statistical Plan - Population and Migration section - PAMS (03) 03

3.3 David Orr introduced the paper, the current draft of the Scottish Statistical Plan, which was primarily for information. In response to a question about the new style Annual Report, David explained the current plan was not to repeat in the exact style of last year but to major on Fertility. It was likely there would be a slimmer overview, a chapter on Fertility and the possibility of an invited paper on the same topic.

(d) Demographic Trends in Scotland - research review by SE Central Research Unit PAMS (03) 12

3.4 Lisa Bird introduced the paper, which was an initial stab at some of the information available at the moment picking out the main figures coming out of Census. There were many issues in particular, fertility and migration, both of which are considerably different from the rest of the UK. David Orr indicated that it was a legitimate role for this committee to suggest to ScotStat that more analysis on this subject needs to be done and recommend Scotstat commission such work. David added that the GROS role was to stimulate debate and not to drive policy. GROS do not have vehicle for such research at moment. Jan Freeke suggested that ethnicity was an important issue that was missing from the paper. Lisa stressed the paper was not completely comprehensive any additional amendments would be welcomed.

Action: Members to provide any additional comments.

(e) Neighbourhood Statistics

3.5 David Orr provided a very brief update advising that we have been feeding population and vital events data into Neighbourhood Statistics. This information will be included when it goes live.

4 CENSUS**(a) Progress on delivering output. – PAMS (03) 04**

4.1 Garnett Compton introduced the paper highlighting the publication of the last two planned printed reports Scotland's Census 2001 - Reference Volume and Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities which were published on 25 March. The first stage of the SCROL website had also gone live on the same day although this was limited to scrolbrowser. Work on analyser was at the testing stage. Once we were happy with this we would commence phase 2 of User Acceptance Testing. [Secretary's note: Content extensively increased in April.] Garnett also advised that CDs 1 and 3 were available and it was expected that bulk delivery would be available week commencing 7 April. Members raised some concern about digitised boundaries, which passed through houses, and there was also a problem with high flats. They were advised to write to Frank Thomas with any concerns they may have. Generally people were reasonably happy with what they had seen of SCROL so far. Garnett briefly outlined plans for a training seminar for users using SuperTable on SCROL. This would likely last a day with hands on training with people at a PC. There was a brief discussion regarding release of ethnicity and religion results.

(b) UK Advisory Papers and round up. - PAMS (03) 05

4.2 David Orr advised the paper was for information. But that members had been advised if they wished to have discussion on any topic they were to alert the secretary before the meeting. Jan Freeke had raised some questions to which GROS had responded. Basically the only topic report planned by GROS was on Gaelic Language. The lead on all other topic reports was with ONS. Some Scottish data would be included in People and Places and Housing and Households reports. ONS were planning around 13 topic reports commencing from late this year through to well into 2004.

4.3 In response to a question about Samples of Anonymised Records (SARS) David Orr advised that there had been no responses to Census Update No. 5 and there was no change from the line contained in the update. Jan Freeke advised he had supplied comments on Update No. 5. David Orr indicated that GROS would need convincing that there was a need for the number and detail of SARS that had been suggested since many needs could be met by commissioned tables, although no decision had yet been made. Jan was advised to submit clear proposals of requirements to Frank Thomas.

Action: Jan Freeke

(c) Future of Census Options. - PAMS (03) 06

4.4 David Orr advised the paper was for information providing details of the work ongoing, to look at alternatives that might better meet needs for information and how to interact with other work going on in Government Departments. It was agreed that there would be a need for further discussion of this matter in the future work programme.

5 Non-CENSUS ISSUES

(a) Household Estimates and Projections – PAMS (03) 07

5.1 Duncan Gray introduced the paper updating PAMS members. The next meeting of the Household Analyses Review Group (HARG) was being held on 17 April. Stephen Fraser advised that the action point from the previous meeting of PAMS had resulted in Institutional Population Estimates being added to the agenda. Garnett Compton added that it would be useful if GROS could be involved.

(b) Population Estimates , Projections update – PAMS (03) 08

5.2 Garnett Compton asked members to note the paper for information highlighting one or two items, the production of 2002 Mid-Year Estimates which it was hoped would be available in May [**Secretary's note: Delayed to June pending further quality checks.**]; GROS decision to stop the production of estimates and projections for old district levels. Garnett also highlighted GROS were planning to undertake revisions to the migration series for 1982-2000; this work was presently planned for completion by the end of September; and in addition was also planning the revision of marital status estimates, which was provisionally planned for completion by the end of this year.

(c) Correspondence about Glasgow's 2001 mid year population estimates - PAMS (03) 09

5.3 David Orr introduced this item advising there had been an exchange of correspondence regarding this subject. David advised that GROS were ready to begin dialogue after Easter and he would arrange for Ian Mate to contact Jan Freeke to arrange a meeting.

Action: Ian Mate and Jan Freeke

(d) Mid-2002 Migration Methodology – PAMS (03) 10

5.4 Garnett Compton presented the paper advising members of the work already completed and the recommendations put forward which SAPE (Small Area Population Estimates) group has already agreed. He was now seeking endorsement from PAMS. Members were quite happy and agreed the recommendations contained within the paper.

(e) Small Area Population Estimates Progress – PAMS (03) 011

5.5 Garnett Compton introduced the paper reporting on recent progress and outlining plans for the coming months.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 There was some discussion by members regarding the completion of the tenure question for people who live rent-free. It was thought some people ticked rent free who are on benefit, however they are not really living rent free as the local authority are paying the rent. David Orr agreed to take this up with Frank Thomas.

Action: David Orr

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.1 It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting should be held in late November early December. The secretary will consult members in due course.