

**MEETING OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE
(SCOTLAND): 19 NOVEMBER 2003**

Present:

David Orr	GROS, Chair	Ian White	ONS
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council	Katriona Carmichael	Scottish Executive
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council	Cecilia Macintyre	Scottish Executive
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council	Jan Young	Scottish Executive
Laura MacDonald	East Dunbartonshire Council	Frank Thomas	GROS
Paul Boyle	St Andrews University	Ian Máté	GROS
Tim Riley	Edinburgh University	Alan MacGill	GROS, Secretary

0. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

(a) Apologies

0.1 Apologies were received from Marion Lacey, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, Robert Murdoch Information Statistics Division, Jackie Livingstone Dumfries and Galloway Council, and Catriona Hayes Scottish Executive.

(b) New Members

0.2 David Orr welcomed Tim Riley who had replaced James Reid and Laura MacDonald to their first meeting. Jenny Boag advised that at the Local Authority meeting held earlier in the day they had decided Ruth Thorndyke Clackmannanshire Council would replace Stephen Fraser. David Orr welcomed the appointment.

1. MINUTES OF PAMS MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2003 – PAMS (03) 13

1.1 Jan Freeke suggested there was an omission from the minutes at paragraph 4.1. There should be a sentence which should read "GROS were asked to consider re-doing 1991 Special Migration Statistics and Special Workplace Statistics level 1 for the current local authority boundaries which would be useful for comparisons with 2001 SMS and SWS". Alan MacGill would amend the minutes accordingly.

2. UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING - PAMS (03) 14

2.1 Action point 3.4. Members to provide any additional comments on the paper to Lisa Bird, Scottish Executive. Katriona Carmichael advised that Lisa Bird had received comments on the paper, which had now been reviewed. Scottish Executive (SE) were producing papers which would look at what future work was necessary and that consideration was being given to the possibility of a conference early in the New Year. David Orr suggested that it would be useful if the papers were made widely available.

2.2 Action point 6.1. David Orr to take up with Frank Thomas the completion of the tenure question for people living rent free. This action point was completed, however Cecilia Macintyre, SE Housing Statistics, advised that SE were in the process of generating some adjusted tables at Parliamentary Constituency and Council Area. SE would announce their availability via SCOTSTAT mailing list.

2.3 Other action points from the previous meeting had been completed or covered by items on the agenda.

3. SCOTSTAT

(a) Board meeting update (4th meeting 20 June 2003) - PAMS (03) 22

3.1 Jenny Boag introduced this item reporting on the proceedings of the fourth meeting highlighting that there was nothing in particular relevant to PAMS Group other than that in Paper (03) 23.

(b) SCOTSTAT Board Request for information - PAMS (03) 23

3.2 Jenny Boag advised that after each SCOTSTAT Board meeting Jill Alexander circulates to each SCOTSTAT Committee Chairperson request for updated information on their committee. The Secretary had produced a draft, which was a first attempt for members to consider. It was agreed that some of the items in the Planned activities/outputs/outcomes for 2003/04 section could be expanded. David Orr re-emphasised that this should include the work of PAMS and not what GROS is already doing. It was the view of the committee that the matrix of key statistics/targets was complete although there could be a link to the work and papers being produced by Scottish Executive mentioned earlier at paragraph 2.1. This will be pursued once the SE papers have been produced. On membership the committee agreed that we had suitable representation from the academic community. Our problem with membership was getting people to come to the meetings. Jenny Boag agreed to provide the secretary with some additional input to the draft version.

Action Jenny Boag and Alan MacGill

3.3 There was also discussion about Standardised Mortality Rates (SMR's). David Orr explained that the work was planned but not being taken forward at this moment in time. He advised that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) was trying to standardise and he agreed to aim to pursue work to agree recommendations for appropriate use of SMRs.

Action David Orr

(c) Neighbourhood Statistics -PAMS (03) 19

3.4 David Orr introduced the paper, which provided an update on progress of GRO contribution to the Neighbourhood Statistics project. There was some discussion about the quality of the output of the work being undertaken by St Andrews University. Jenny Boag advised that more than half of the council representatives (12 out of 20) at the morning meeting had expressed concern about the quality of the output of 2001 datazones. Their view was that they did not reflect Neighbourhood Statistics, because they did not relate to communities on the ground. David Orr advised that the main responsibility does not lie with this committee, but with Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Management Board. Criticism of St Andrew's University was, however, not appropriate if their work fulfilled the remit given to them by SE on behalf of the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics project. David agreed to write to Peter Whitehouse, Scottish Executive expressing the concerns raised at this meeting but noting that where councils had been able to offer constructive suggestions St Andrew's had generally incorporated these.

Action David Orr

4 CENSUS**(a) Progress on delivering output. – PAMS (03) 20**

4.1 Frank Thomas introduced the paper highlighting plans for future release of data. He advised that work on migration was more or less complete and was expected to be available by the end of the month. Distance travelled data was being recalculated, this was expected to be completed within the next week or so. On Workplace data Frank advised we were still waiting to see the outcome of the review at ONS. All being well this could be available by Christmas. Availability of all of the above would be announced via census updates. There was some discussion regarding the plans for the SCROL CD's and DVD. The plan to produce a complete set of tables on a DVD was welcomed. However, users intimated they were expecting a complete re-issue of all of the CD's. This would include data that was missing from the original supply and also data corrections on CD and not a just a CD containing the missing data and corrected tables. David Orr agreed that GROS would consider the position.

Action GROS (Frank Thomas)

4.2 Frank informed the group on progress being made on Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs) including discussion on the correspondence with Jan Freeke. Members were encouraged to pass on any views or comments to Frank that they may have regarding the specification for the 5% Small Area Microdata. There was also the question of whether or not to add an area measure of deprivation to SAR records and, if so, which one. Frank agreed to write to members.

Action Members and Frank Thomas

4.3 Members were advised that Scottish Executive were planning to release a Statistical Bulletin on the Census Vacant Follow Up Survey. GRO agreed to pursue with Scottish Executive details and practicalities of what data should be released.

Action Frank Thomas

(b) Future Census Options. - PAMS (03) 17 (Revised)

4.4 Ian Máte outlined paper identifying the options and invited members to provide him with any views and information on any of the options. David Orr advised members that GROS were presently undertaking a dual strategy – planning for a 2011 Census and separately planning for alternative sources to replace a Census. This was similar to the ONS Strategy but ONS are more committed to a 2011 Census as part of the wider strategy than GROS are.

Action Members

5 Non-CENSUS ISSUES**(a) Household Estimates and Projections. - PAMS (03) 24 & PAMS (03) 25**

5.1 Cecilia Macintyre introduced the papers outlining work currently being undertaken and planned in the forthcoming months. Cecilia advised that it was planned to consult local authorities through the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) to agree a future methodology for updating the mid year household estimates. On projections Cecilia informed the group that Scottish Executive plans to produce the 2002 based household projections using the current methodology, incorporating headship information from the 2001 Census; and to consider options for developing the methodology prior to production of the 2004 based estimates. Following on from the previous meeting of PAMS where it was indicated that it would be useful if GROS could be involved in HARG the question of whether Cecilia Macintyre would continue as a member of HARG when she takes up her post in GROS was raised. David Orr suggested there was a need to do more to encourage links between groups and the position would be reviewed.

Action David Orr

(b) Population Statistics - Update – PAMS (03) 16

5.2 David Orr introduced the paper asking members to note the content for information. He advised that this was a report on what GROS have been doing in this area recently. Pointing out that the current priorities were to deliver 2002 Population Projections, Small Area Population Estimates and 2003 mid year Estimates.

(c) Population Projections - 2002 and beyond. - PAMS (03) 21

5.3 David Orr presented the paper, which provided members with update on 2002 based national and sub-national population projections. The paper also summarised responses to the Population Projections - Scoping Methodological Work paper (PAMS (03) 15 which had been issued to members on 1 September and which suggested the setting up of a new PAMS working group to take this forward. Members were asked to note the paper. The following members volunteered to be part of the new working group, Jan Freeke, Richard Belding, Ruth Thorndyke, Alistair Harvey and Alan Lambie and Katriona Carmichael. There was some discussion regarding GROS continuing to produce data at old district council level, this request was turned down. There was a general interest in population change at small area levels however the group recognised the danger in placing too much emphasis on Projections, since they are only as good as the underlying assumptions.

(d) Population Statistics - Where do we go from here. – PAMS (03) 18

5.4 David Orr introduced the paper, which referred to two reports produced by the Office for National Statistics. A National Statistics Quality Review of International Migration and A demographic statistics service for 21st century. On the Review of International Migration David stressed that GROS have argued for some time that the International Passenger Survey is a less than ideal source of international migration data for Scotland. PAMS members agreed and welcomed the summary of recommendations as far as they go and requested GROS continue to press for longer term improvement in the measurement of emigration.

Action David Orr

5.5 Members also discussed the report on demographic statistics. One of the points raised was consideration of the appropriate counting base for population statistics. Is the current usual residence basis insufficient and if so do we think it is sufficiently important to do so. David Orr advised that Cecilia Macintyre in her new role at GROS would produce a paper setting out the England and Wales position and suggesting a Scottish line to take for group members to provide their views and comments.

Action Cecilia Macintyre

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 There was no other business.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.1 It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting should be held in May 2004. The secretary will consult members in due course.