

MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 14 November 2007

Present:

Celia Macintyre (Chair)	GROS
Andy Bates	ONS
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Alistair Harvey	City of Edinburgh Council
Cheryl Heeley	ISD
Sheena Stevely	Renfrewshire Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Duncan Gray	Scottish Government
Alan Fleming	GROS
Anneli Lyon	GROS
Martin MacFie	GROS
Peter Scrimgeour	GROS
Bryan Cunningham	GROS
Kirsty MacLachlan	GROS
Andrew White (minutes)	GROS

1. Introductions and membership

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Paul Boyle (St Andrew's University), Ross Brown (Scottish Government), Janette Purbrick (Scottish Government), Luke Cavanagh (Scottish Government) and Esther Roughsedge (GROS).
- 1.2 Cecelia Macintyre welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted the apologies received and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the PAMS meeting held on 26 June 2007 – PAMS (07) 09

- 2.1 An update was requested on the research being undertaken by Scottish Enterprise on A8 migration into Scotland. GROS will contact Ross Brown and circulate an update.

Action: Celia Macintyre / Andrew White

- 2.2 The minutes were approved by group members.

3. Update on action points from Previous Meeting - PAMS (07) 10

- 3.1 Most of the action points had been completed and a number were reported on throughout the meeting.
- 3.2 Action Point 7.17 - Jenny Boag had investigated the source which she mentioned at the previous meeting – that 16 per cent of new housing stock is for second homes. She had been unable to find the source and thought it was unlikely she would be able to do so. The action point is now closed.

4. SCOTSTAT (Oral update)

- 4.1 The ScotStat board met on 22 August 2007. A paper was presented on statistics reform, particularly about the new statistics board. The board will be accountable to the Scottish Parliament on devolved issues and there will be a Scottish board member. Jenny mentioned that there were discussions about pre-release access being restricted and pointed out that local authorities value this highly. The meeting also covered the Atkinson Review, the 2007 census consultation, the GROS website and the first ScotStat annual stakeholder event. It was felt that it would have been more appropriate to invite PAMS people to the event than non PAMS people.

5. Non-Census Issues

(a) Population and Migration Statistics Update – PAMS (07) 11

- 5.1 Celia outlined the main points of the paper. Jenny Boag asked which councils had been affected by the recent SAPE revisions and Celia answered that it was those in the Grampian Practitioner Services Division (PSD). This includes the 6 councils affected by the Mid-Year Population Estimate revisions as well as Highland, Orkney and Shetland. Celia offered to ask Harvey Snowling to write a note explaining the changes that had been made. It was also pointed out that PAMS had not been informed of the publication of SAPE 1996 – 2000.

Action: Celia Macintyre / Harvey Snowling

- 5.2 Concern was expressed at the recently circulated proposed migration assumptions for the 2006-based sub-national population projections. Duncan Gray pointed out that the projections were the output of a mechanical process and that less emphasis should be placed on them when planning. Richard Belding commented that introducing a new method of calculating migration assumptions appeared to have left some councils worse off. Celia said that a report would be written detailing what changes were made as a result of council comments.

Action: Celia Macintyre / Andrew White

- 5.3 Jan Freeke asked how consistent the migration assumptions and the projections in general were with the recently announced target of 35,000 new houses. It was explained that the two were not consistent as the projections do not take into account policy changes.

(b) Population Estimates of non-Standard Geographies – PAMS (07) 12

- 5.4 Nick Wright gave a short presentation on the work of Donata Wasiuk - a student who was with GROS for a few months in the summer. The work suggests that it is appropriate to use datazones to estimate up to Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies (SPCs) and most Multi-Member Wards (MMWs) but not NUTS-5.
- 5.5 Richard Belding mentioned that census data for MMWs is aggregated from output areas but SNS uses datazones. He also pointed out that 2006 MMW data is not on the SNS website and that 2003-05 data has not been revised. Celia said she would follow this up with SNS.

Action: Celia

5.6 Andy Bates explained that ONS use a postcode best-fit methodology to produce populations at unit postcode level using the patient register and adjustments for Armed Forces. These can then be used to build up populations for other geographies. Celia said that GROS would compare this method with the original method when producing settlement data.

5.7 Jenny said that she was glad the work had been shared with SNS and asked if a report listing which MMWs and SPCs etc. were bad fits was available. Celia answered that a report was nearly completed and would be made available.

Action: Celia / Nick

(c) Sub-national Allocation of Migrants

5.8 Nick summarised his paper on methods for the allocation of migrants at sub-national level. Possible options include:

- Migrants moving to and from overseas will be distinguished from those moving to and from the rest of the UK.
- A propensity to migrate model is being considered (as used by ONS)
- NINO and WRS data could be used but not everyone registers

5.9 Jan Freeke said that he welcomed the move to differentiate between UK and overseas migrants and asked whether it was possible to identify which countries they came from or moved to. He also asked what would be implemented for 2006/07. Celia answered that it was not possible to determine country of origin / destination but that she would discuss with the alternative sources branch. She hoped to implement as much as possible for 2006/07.

Action: Celia / Nick

(d) Household Estimates and Projections Update

5.10 Anneli Lyon outlined the main points of the update paper.

5.11 Jenny mentioned that some councils had received small area household estimates for quality assurance purposes and some had not. Anneli explained that all councils would eventually receive their data. She will ask Esther for a completion date for data checking.

Action: Anneli / Esther

Post meeting note: Esther has given a checking deadline to those councils whose data she has sent back since the meeting. 2-3 weeks would be the preferred timescale.

5.12 Updated information on communal establishments is to be incorporated into the 2006-based household projections. Sheena Stevely asked when the consultation would take place and Anneli answered that it would be sent to users by the end of the year. Andy Bates asked what sources were being used and Anneli answered that DASA and Armed Forces survey results would be used for Armed Forces. Jan Freeke mentioned that this had been considered for 2004 but that the data was not of good enough quality. Anneli explained that a lot of work had been done since then.

5.13 Jan asked what variants were being considered for the projections and Anneli answered that different headship rates as well as different population projections

would be considered. Anneli was asked for the likely publication date of the projections.

Post meeting note: The household projections will be published in April or May.

(e) Census Vacant Follow-up Survey

- 5.14 Sheena Stevely and Jenny Boag said that councils would get back to GROS as to whether the survey was useful. Duncan Gray mentioned that it had come about late in the day last time round and that there were questions over how useful it was as it relies on enumerator judgement and doesn't provide tenure.

Action: PAMS LA members

(f) Census Test and DNA Address List

- 5.15 The paper passed without comment.

6. NSCD Workplan

- 6.1 Kirsty MacLachlan asked if anyone had anything they would like added to the workplan. Jan Freeke asked whether GROS was involved in the work. Andy Bates answered that all constituent countries worked closely but Kirsty, Celia and Andy mentioned the need for more consistent output between countries.

- 6.2 Jan Freeke asked about the review of methodologies for forward household projections and mentioned that the Chelmer model, which is mainly used for household projections in England, had run out of funding. Anneli reported that the Chelmer model is being looked at as part of this review.

- 6.3 Kirsty MacLachlan mentioned that a public policy seminar was being held in December and that invites should have been received. Jenny Boag will circulate to those who didn't receive invites.

7. 2001 Census – update

- 7.1 Alan Fleming presented the paper. Jenny suggested that electorate figures and components of change data by Council area (back to 1974) should be added to the time series area of the website.

- 7.2 Sheena Stevely said that she would like to see some sort of indexing system on the website as some things could be difficult to find.

- 7.3 Jenny and Sheena said that users needed to be informed when new data appeared on the website and that this hadn't always been the case recently.

- 7.4 Andy Bates offered to provide a contact point so that people could receive the travel to work DVD.

Action: Andy Bates

- 7.5 Alan encouraged people to fill in the Customer Survey on the GROS website and also asked whether having data on SCROL Warehouse rather than SCROL Analyser was inconvenient. Sheena answered that it was probably more important

to have ward level data on Analyser than it was to have datazone data. Local Authorities have very few ethnicity questions for which they need data. Generally they use SASPAC or CDs rather than SCROL.

7.6 Jan commented very favourably on customer services.

8. 2011 Census – update

8.1 Peter Scrimgeour presented the papers and offered to pass round a list of Census Liaison Officers (CLOs) to PAMS.

Action: Peter Scrimgeour

8.2 Jan asked whether the workshop to be held in March was only for CLOs involved in the rehearsal and Peter replied that this was not the case.

8.3 Jenny asked whether, given that questions would have to be finalised by spring 2008 to allow for a spring 2009 rehearsal, there would be any further consultations to allow last minute pleas for topics as in 2001 there had been UK-wide content working group meetings which allowed more one-to-one discussions specifically on content. Peter answered that no further consultations were planned but he would consider it.

8.4 Jan asked whether the questionnaire was likely to be 3 or 4 pages. Peter answered that the 4 page option was preferred but that it would depend on funding.

9. OCS Update

9.1 There were no comments on this paper.

10. Any other business

10.1 Celia mentioned that a PAMS event would be held sometime between March and July. This would concentrate on demography rather than the census and would probably include presentations from GROS and from others. Suggestions for speakers from outwith GROS were invited.

Action: PAMS members

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 The next meeting will be held in May 2008 and should avoid CLIP meetings.