> ## Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Statistical Plan 2016-17 - Mid Year Progress Report

Introduction

1.   This report details in Appendix A progress against the NRS Statistical Plan 2016-17.

2.   Recommendation:

        The PAMS committee are invited to comment on the progress report.

#	Objective	Progress as at November 2016
	Established work	
1	Produce statistical publications according to the publications schedule at Appendix B.	Statistical publications all produced on time. The population projections for Scottish areas were moved to October due to methodology changes, and the household projections will be published in January as a result.
2	Engage with other colleagues, stakeholders and users to ensure that we understand their current and future needs and that we work to meet those needs, and ensure that our stakeholders engaged with the Statistics work of NRS.	NRS staff gave a number of presentations and posters about their work at the British Society for Population Studies conference. We have also had 'market stalls' to present our work at a Scottish Official Statistics Conference and the Scottish Government 'Evidence in Policy' week.
3	Provide informed advice and analysis to support uses of our statistics, through liaison with policy colleagues, Ministers, key users, user groups, publications and presentations.	Evidence provided to Scottish Affairs Committee Inquiry into Demography April 2016; evidence provided for British Irish Council Ministerial meeting in December 2016; on-going analyses to support policy colleagues in the Scottish Government; presentation on drug-death statistics to the Harm Reduction group of the Partnership for Action on Drugs in Scotland, in September 2016.
4	Answer ad hoc customer requests for statistics on topics such as the population, households and vital events (births, deaths and marriages) and provide a service for commissioned census	As at 3 November Census Analysis have received 415 significant requests for demographic statistics, and 119 less complicated requests. Nineteen of these customer requests resulted in commissioned census multi-variable tables. Geography received 147 customer requests with most being answered within a day. Vital events received 116 customer enquiries. Enquires about Household statistics numbered 10 and enquires about population projections came to 60. Some cross referrals may be included in these figures.
5	Develop access agreements to census microdata products at the Bio quarter in Edinburgh.	Data sharing agreements are being developed on a project by project basis. A pilot project is underway.
6	Continue to work with the Data Linkage Framework to improve the data linkage landscape.	NRS developing role as trusted third party indexing service for Scottish Informatics and Linkage Collaboration (SILC). Read-through indexes (which are an secure, privacy – preserving and efficient approach to indexing) involving NRS vital events and census data

		are being developed along with Health and Education.
7	Continue to develop the Scottish Longitudinal Study and seek out other potential sources of data.	Discussions with Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) and Indexing team to improve efficiencies around linking of all NRS data to SLS. Application being drafted to link to justice data.
8	Contribute to UK wide projects on: improving migration statistics, population estimates and population projections.	We are liaising with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on UK wide projects on improving migration statistics, population estimates and projections.
9	Continue to work collaboratively with the Centre for Population Change (CPC), an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project involving a consortium of Scottish universities.	The CPC hold regular seminars in Ladywell House which NRS staff attend. We are also arranging a meeting between CPC staff and SG policy and strategy units to share research and plans.
10	Review the methods and systems used to produce sub-national population projections, taking into account changes made in the national methodology by ONS.	The NRS sub national population projection system has been rewritten to take account of the ONS methods and academic recommendations.
11	Develop further analysis of data from Scotland's Census 2011 when requested by customers.	Further flow has been provided to Transport Scotland. There has been a lot of analysis of Scotland's Census 2011 relating to learning disabilities which are available in: Analytical Reports
12	Continue to further enhance the Scotland's Address Register to support Scotland's Census and other activities.	A test version of the new Address Register has been produced and maintenance regime developed. Work to quality assure the additional information has begun.
13	Ensure that we have business continuity plans in place for each significant service or product allowing us to continue to operate selected services during and following any disruption.	Business continuity plans have been developed for each business area and will be reviewed regularly.
14	Support local authorities in using 'Popgroup' software to produce their own local area population projections.	Although data has been supplied to facilitated local projection/forecasting, no requests by local authorities have yet been received.

	New Developments	
15	Investigate ways to improve our digital engagement and investigate ways to improve the dissemination methods of our statistics.	Considerable efforts have been put into developing infographics and data visualisations to accompany the publication of our statistics, including two new visualisations of the population projections for Scottish areas. Tweets are also regularly issued.
16	Develop a new Vital Events Information Technology (IT) system to improve data processing, take account of the changes to the arrangements for the certification of death, improve efficiency and provide scope for improving data quality.	A new IT system for vital events statistics was completed at the end of September and is much more robust and easier to maintain and will allow greater scrutiny of the quality of the data.
17	Develop the use of the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) as the basis for use in data linkage projects for population estimating purposes as well as exploring its further use in other projects.	NRS now acts as a trusted third party for data linkage projects which have gone through the approval process. Seven data linkage projects are underway in 2016/17 so far.
18	Improve the Census Data Explorer website.	Scotland's 2001 Census data have now been added to the Census Data Explorer and work is progressing to add 1991 data.
19	Develop new infographics and data visualisations and investigate ways to exploit the latest technologies and methods to improve the effectiveness of our dissemination.	Refer to 'digital engagement' in the first row of this section on New Developments action 17 above.
20	Investigate the potential of existing and new sources of administrative data to contribute to the development of more efficient systems for population statistics - for example, using Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data.	Because of resource constraints and other priorities, little progress has been made in investigating the potential of HESA data to improve population estimates.
21	Maintain and develop a Geography Strategy for NRS.	Preliminary work has been undertaken and a Strategy will be developed in 2017.
22	Investigate the reliability of the data collected when a death is registered, on the ethnicity of the deceased person. Report on the apparent level of reliability, for Scotland	Approvals have been granted the relevant information has been brought together. NRS staff have started to assess the reliability of the data on the ethnicity of deceased persons.

23	Continue to work with the Boundary Commission for Scotland to provide improved quality assurance for the annual Electoral Statistics publication.	The publication of electoral statistics is likely to be some time after February, because data is not yet available in some of the local offices.
24	Continue to work with the Scottish Assessors' Association Electoral Registration Committee to improve the exchange of information.	On-going discussions
25	Investigate the potential for updating the sub council area population and household projections.	NRS has discussed this with several organisations, but a lack of resources mean it is unlikely that the NRS will be able to update the sub-council projections next year.
	Other improvements	
26	Develop our approaches to data linkage and safe access to data in a collaborative, proportionate and risk managed manner across our three key linkage projects to facilitate legal, ethical and public value research.	Processes and procedures have now been developed for data linkage and data access projects under SILC Read-through indexes have been developed for health, education and 2011 Census datasets to facilitate safer and more efficient linkage.
27	Improve the processing of migration data by replacing historic processing systems to better reflect data supply and data needs to produce migration and population estimates.	The work to replace and modernise part of our migration processing system has been delayed but we hope to complete this work early in 2017.
28	Extend the reach and impact of the Scottish Health and Ethnicity Longitudinal (SHELS) study through wider engagement with potential users.	Developing proposals to open up access to SHELS data via the National Safe Haven
29	Improve the methodology for mid-year estimates.	We improved our use of the NHSCR to create cross border and within Scotland migration, making direct use of the record level NHSCR Demographic Extract.
31	Develop a standardised data sharing agreement for use across NRS and develop a common approach to data sharing across NRS including the use of Secure File Exchange.	A standardised data sharing agreement and agreed data transfer approaches have now been agreed.

32	Have a coordinated approach to data access and privacy.	Information Governance is being developed in conjunction with the SG and Information Services Division (ISD). NRS also have an internal Privacy Working Group which acts as a first base for any NRS projects.
33	Improve the quality of the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and increase the capacity to carry out and support data linkage projects.	Data Quality activity on the NHSCR is on-going and we continue to consider approaches to improving the quality of the data
34	Take part in a range of continuous improvement activities at individual, team and business area level.	Individuals are strongly encouraged to undergo continuous professional development and there are numerous opportunities to attend training courses, seminars and conferences. Teams meet regularly and discuss any potential improvements. NRS also hold regular leadership events where ideas for improvements are often collated and taken forward where possible and practical.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Statistical Publications (2016-17)

A list of planned publications for 2016-17 is below.

April 2016

Mid-Year Population Estimates, Mid 2015 and Corrected Population Estimates mid 2012-2014.

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths registered in Scotland, March 2016

May 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths registered in Scotland, April 2016

June 2016

Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2015

Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events, first quarter 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths registered in Scotland, May 2016

July 2016

Total Migration to or from an Area, Mid 2015 Update

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, June 2016

Projected Population of Scotland, Projections for Scottish Areas - 2014 based.

August 2016

Deaths from Various Causes, 2015

Drug-related Deaths in Scotland, 2015

Local Area Migration, 2015 update

Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, 2015

The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends, 2015

Small Area Population Estimates, Mid-2015 for 2011. Data Zones and Corrected Estimates for mid-2012, 2013 and 2014.

Vital Events Reference Tables, 2015

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, July 2016

September 2016

Population Estimates for Scottish Centenarians, 2005 - 2015

Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events, second quarter 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, August 2016

October 2016

Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2013-2015

Winter Mortality in Scotland, 2015-16

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, September 2016

November 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, October 2016

Household Projections for Scotland, 2014-based

December 2016

Babies' First Names, 2016

Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events, third quarter 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, November 2016

January 2017

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, December 2016

February 2017

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, January 2017

March 2017

Babies' First Names, 2016 (full lists)

Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Death registers, 2016

Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events, 2016 (preliminary)

Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events, fourth quarter 2016

Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths Registered in Scotland, February 2017