National Records of Scotland

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Population and Migration Statistics 2015 Conference:

SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE & PLACES:

LOOKING FORWARD

Overview of conference sessions

1 December 2015

9:30am to 4:00pm

Edinburgh Zoo

We hope you enjoyed the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) 2015 conference.

We have now made the slides and workshop overviews available online and in this overview document.

We got some great feedback, information and ideas from you in our workshops, if you have anything else you would like to add please get in touch with us via the email addresses listed in the relevant sections below or in the main point of contact information.

Overviews:

Main points of contact for further information:

Scotland's Census and the 2021 Topic Consultation online or by email at scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

National Records of Scotland at their website or contact the statistical areas by email at statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk.

The Scottish Informatics Linkage Collaboration (SILC) is a collaboration between the Farr Institute, the Administrative Data Research Centre and the Urban Big Data Centre. More information about the data linkage framework can be found online.

The Scottish Longitudinal Study Development and Support Unit at the SLS-DSU website.

Plenary 1: Scotland's Census 2021

Amy Wilson, Head of Census at NRS, gave an overview of the key benefits and learning from Scotland's Census 2011 and highlighted some of the noteworthy products and uses of census data including those that can be found on the [Scotand's Census](#) website and the [Datashine Scotland](#) website. She introduced key elements of the design for 2021, including the use of admin data and how we strive to understand user needs. Could the PAMS Conference cope with a 'predominantly online survey'? Amy tested us with a quick online census survey in real time!

The slides for this session are now available on the [NRS website](#).

If you have any further questions, comments or would like further information please contact scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

More information about Scotland's Census 2021 and the current Topic Consultation can be found in the [Consultation 2021](#) section of the Scotland's Census website.

Parallel Workshops: Scotland's Census 2021

2021 Topic Consultation
Kirsty MacLean and Anneli Lyon introduced the 2021 Topic Consultation, discussing NRS' initial views on the potential topics and offering participants the opportunity to reflect on those views. They discussed previous census questions: what worked well and what could do with improvement to meet user needs. They gave useful tips on how to respond to the topic consultation on [Citizen Space](#), refer to their slides (now available on the [NRS website](#)) or for more information get in touch at scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

A 'predominantly online census' – opportunities and challenges
Thomas Robertson and Alex Stannard hosted this workshop following on from the morning's presentation on Scotland's Census 2021 high level design. They discussed some of the opportunities and challenges raised by conducting the next census predominantly online and participants were invited to discuss and offer views.

Participants were generally positive about moving to a predominantly online census but highlighted the need to give careful consideration to those that are digitally excluded.

The slides are now available on the [NRS website](#), and for more information or if you have further comments please get in touch at scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

What other lessons should we learn?
Celia MacIntyre and Tom Wallace invited participant views and discussion on the high level successes and challenges identified in relation to Scotland's Census and for NRS to consider as we plan Scotland's Census 2021.

Participants expressed their thanks for the provision of census data and that NRS are planning to conduct a census in 2021. There were positive comments around access to the current data via the Scotland's Census website and that the 2011 data is now available alongside that for 2001. Likewise participants were thankful for the high response rate and that NRS had involved users in the planning and delivery of 2011. The clearest 'asks' looking forward to 2021 related to the timing and prioritisation of the outputs and that NRS continues to work on finding ways to deliver them more flexibly i.e. potentially fewer structured tables but with greater freedom to allow users to shape outputs based on their own needs.

The slides are now available on the NRS website and for more information or if you have further comments please get in touch at scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Plenary 2: Scotland's demography

Kirsty MacLachlan, Head of Demographic Statistics at NRS, and Esta Clark, Head of the Population and Migration Statistics Branch, gave an overview of Scotland's demography and the latest population projections at national, sub-national and small areas.

The slides from this presentation are now available on the NRS website, more information, including all of our latest demographic statistics can be found on the National Records of Scotland website or get in contact at statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Parallel Workshops: Demographic Statistics

Case studies: the use of population projections
Esta Clark lead a discussion about the use of population projections in the Scottish Government. David Horn described how population projections are used in macroeconomic analysis to provide a (non-official) forecast of GDP. Paudric Osbourne explained how the population projections are used in the National Resource Allocation Formula for the health budget.

In addition, users of our statistics at the conference highlighted their use of our population projections in other areas, including (to name but a few) strategic development planning and as input to the Housing Needs and Demand Study.

For more information and the latest population projections for Scotland please visit the National Records of Scotland website.

The slides for the introduction of this session are now available on the NRS website.

The Open Data Publishing Platform
Gregor Boyd introduced the Open Data Publishing Platform that is currently under development at http://statisticsbeta.com, our vision and aim in supporting the release of data behind Scotland's official statistics to improve accessibility and re-use.

The slides for this session are now available on the NRS website.

Infographics and Data visualisations
Esther Roughsedge demonstrated the current outputs of NRS in terms of visualisations, infographics and Twitter, and shared her tips and advice about these dissemination methods. At the end of the session there was some very useful discussion, with people sharing their own tips and advice.

Esther's slides are now available on the NRS website.

Our current infographics and data visualisations can be found on the National Records of Scotland website, and you can follow us on Twitter @NatRecordsScot (NRS), @ScotStat (Scottish Government statistics) or Esther herself @et_roughsedge!

More information about communicating statistics has been compiled by the Government Statistics Service.

Plenary 3: Data Linkage

Gerry Donnelly, Head of Data Resources at NRS, gave an introduction to the Scottish Informatics Linkage Collaboration (SILC), who they are: a collaboration between the Farr Institute, the Administrative Data Research Centre and the Urban Big Data Centre, and how data in Scotland is linked, indexed, kept secure and accessible for statistics and research purposes.

More information about the data linkage framework can be found online and the slides from this session are now available on the NRS website.

Parallel Workshops: SILC

Data Linkage speed dating
In pairs, participants came up with ideas for linkage projects based on the data that they have (or would like). This was a great networking opportunity to find out what data others have, for us to introduce you to

data linkage project opportunities and for us to get feedback about the data linkage projects that our users are interested in.

Data Linkage: separation of functions in action
Gerry Donnelly lead us in a data linkage game to demonstrate how data linkage is carried out in practice from the data providers/controllers to the indexing team, data linkage and the final research product, to maintain data privacy and data security.

More information about the data linkage framework can be found online, and this process is also detailed in the slides from the plenary session (now available on the NRS website).

SLS case studies: using linked data
Professor Chris Dibben, Director of the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) introduced us to the Scottish Longitudinal Survey: a large-scale, anonymised linkage study that incorporates data from current Scottish administrative and statistical sources, how the study is designed, how the data is controlled and how the SLS can be accessed for research purposes. He gave an example of the use of SLS data in the study of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Scotland.

For more information visit the SLS website, and the slides for this session are now available on the NRS website.