

Our Purpose

To collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) is a non-Ministerial department of the Scottish Government, supporting the Registrar General for Scotland and the Keeper of the Records for Scotland. Our work underpins the fabric of Scottish society: telling the story of our nation through the records we hold and the data we gather and produce on behalf of the people of Scotland.

As the official Scottish national archive we are guardians of over 800 years of irreplaceable national documents spanning the 12th to the 21st centuries touching on virtually every aspect of Scottish life. We are the Scottish official source of demographic statistics and administer the census of Scotland's population. We produce information about our population, households, migration, vital events (such as births, deaths and marriages), life expectancy and electoral statistics which help inform policy decisions across central and local Government, and the private and third sectors.

We work in partnership with the Scottish Government and the wider public sector to deliver a national Data Linkage Framework to facilitate ethical research that protects privacy whilst benefiting Scotland and informing national investment priorities. We support Scottish public bodies compliance with the Public Records Scotland Act 2011 and as expert advisers in information and records management we fulfil a leadership role for the archive sector and work to secure the future of physical and digital records. We make our information as accessible as is reasonably possible, while preserving it for the future and are committed to making more information available over time through digital channels.

Our Vision

Increase our reach and impact and be recognised as an influential leader across our sectors. As a trusted, expert and professional organisation, we will continuously improve our customer services and enhance our digital services.

To help us achieve our vision we have identified ten key things that we need to do over the next few years – these are set out as our [Operating Model commitments](#) and reflect the characteristics and ways of working for NRS going forward.

Our rolling five year business strategy (under preparation) and Business Plan will be updated annually as we firm up our forward commitments to reflect changing priorities and growth of the organisation and services delivered. Year 1 is grounded in our 2018-19 NRS Annual Business Plan in which we have defined the following commitments for the year ahead.

Our 2018-19 Annual Business Plan priorities

Working with a range of partners to design and deliver a **successful Census for 2021** with lasting benefits for Scotland, we will prepare and set out, in late 2018, an approach to deliver Census 2021, including any legislative Parliamentary authority requirements, whilst meeting digital assurance requirements in delivery.

We will continue to deliver **high quality public services** to our customers, whilst developing a Business Strategy which identifies our key investment priorities for new and enhanced digital services over the next 3 to 5 years.

We will deliver **high quality statistics** by meeting our commitments in the NRS Statistics Plan, in line with UK standards and through enhancement of our statistical services, and will support and develop the delivery of **registration services** through local authorities across Scotland.

We will work on our strategy for the **future of NRS archive functions** to ensure they are fit for the 21st century, investing in digital through the delivery of our Digital Preservation Programme priorities for 18/19 and engaging in a collaborative project to take forward long term storage options.

We will **improve our organisational infrastructure** to enhance the way we operate, through strengthened governance, developing the skills, knowledge, leadership and capacity of our organisation and continuing with the implementation of our Estates Strategy to ensure our buildings are fit for purpose.

We will progress a long term plan to transition to a **single sustainable NRS IT function** augmented by increased customer insight to inform our priorities and secure efficient, high quality digital services.