

General News

Spotlight on..... [redacted] [redacted]

28 July 2020

Our Spotlight series takes a slightly different turn at the moment - rather than looking at what our colleagues across NRS usually do in their jobs, we're finding out how they're managing, what they're working on and how they're operating at this extraordinary time.

Today [redacted] [redacted] tells us about [redacted] and the changes to [redacted] role since the start of the pandemic.

[redacted].jpg

[redacted paragraph as out of scope]

My role is to manage the team that put our statistics out into the world, and deal with the questions that members of the public have for us. I'm lucky to have inherited an amazing team who really understand their roles, and have adapted well to recent changes.

What did you do pre-NRS and what made you take a job here?

[redacted paragraph as out of scope]

What are the current challenges that your team faces?

Recently, my job has changed a wee bit due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as have the jobs and processes done by everyone in our team. Prior to April of this year, NRS didn't do regular weekly publications, and we didn't publish stats publications on consecutive days. [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] in my team, as well as [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] in the webmasters office have worked extremely hard to change our processes to deal with the demand for weekly statistics, which has been no mean feat. Colleagues in IT have also been instrumental in this process, ensuring the website was able to cope with the huge increase in demand.

Public demand for our statistics has reached unprecedented level due to the First Minister referencing our work in her statements to the country. [redacted] [redacted], our customer services manager has done really well in responding to this challenge.

Personally, I have taken on the task of comparing the latest Scottish COVID-19 statistics with that of England and Wales, and this forms part of the weekly briefing that is sent to the First Minister. Combining this with my other work has been a bit tricky, but I'm starting to get used to it.

Best bits of your job – what you enjoy the most?

I enjoy looking at how our statistics are being accessed, and analysing the trends in the numbers of people visiting our website change each week. We have seen an increase in users since we started to publish COVID-19 statistics, and watching how this changes is quite interesting.

Moving forward what will be your priorities/challenges etc.?

The Registrar General is legally obliged to publish an annual report looking at demographic trends over the past year. Delivering on that is part of our team's remit, and we have worked hard recently to agree a new timescale for the publication of that report, now coming out in October 2020. Managing that process over the next few months will be a challenge.

Other than that we will continue to ensure all our stats publications are published, and make sure that members of the public are able to navigate their way through the statistics on our website.

What you do in your spare time?

[redacted].jpg

[redacted paragraph as out of scope]

[redacted] spoke to [redacted] [redacted] in June 2020