



**Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics update**

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<b>Security marking</b>	Not sensitive
<b>Can this be shared wider than PAMS?</b>	Yes
<b>Actions for PAMS members ahead of meeting</b>	Review the paper and provide comments/feedback
<b>Aims for discussion</b>	To update PAMS members on developments in population and migration statistics, and seek feedback.
<b>Key questions for PAMS members</b>	Do you have any feedback on the proposed method, outlined in paragraph 6, to estimate international migration for year ending June 2020?
<b>What is required from PAMS members</b>	Comments/feedback on the paper  Case studies/feedback on how you have used the sub-council area projections produced by the Improvement Service and/or the support package on the NRS website

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

### Population and Migration Statistics update

#### Introduction

1. This paper provides an update on recent work and developments in population and migration statistics.

#### Publications

2. Publications since the last PAMS meeting:
  - [Mid-2019 Small Area Population Estimates](#) (27 August 2020)
  - [Local Area Migration](#) (27 August 2020)
  - [Migration Statistics Quarterly Summary for Scotland](#) (28 August 2020)
  - [Centenarians \(and people aged 90 and over\) Population Estimates](#) (24 September 2020)
3. Future publications:
  - Migration Statistics Quarterly Summary for Scotland (27 November 2020)
  - Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, July 2019 to June 2020 (14 January 2021)
  - Mid-Year Population Estimates, Mid 2020 (April 2021)
  - Migration Statistics, Mid-2020 update (April 2021)
  - Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, 2020 (May 2021)

#### Mid-year Population Estimates

4. Work has started on the Mid-2020 Population Estimates (MYE). The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the availability of a number of data sources which feed into the MYE with more information in the following paragraphs. We are working towards the usual publication date of April 2021, however this date depends on the availability of the impacted data sources. We will update users if there will be any delays to publication.

5. **International migration.** The International Passenger Survey (IPS) has previously been used to estimate Long term International Migration (LTIM) at Scotland level. In March 2020, the IPS was suspended and as a result, there is no LTIM estimate for Q2 2020 (covering the period April to June 2020). The Office for National Statistics are leading research into alternative sources and development of Administrative Based Migration Estimates (ABME) is ongoing. However, there are no guarantees that an alternative international migration estimate for this period will be available early enough to be included in the MYE.
6. The proposed plan to estimate international migration for the year ending June 2020:
  - Estimate international migration using the first 3 quarters of IPS data only (this covers Q3 2019, Q4 2019 and Q1 2020).
  - Based on the assumption that immigration and emigration in Q2 2020 (April to June 2020) would net out to a negligible figure well within our levels of uncertainty. Whilst not a direct measure of migration, data from the Civil Aviation Authority shows there was a reduction of over 98% in monthly passenger arrivals at Scottish airports between April to June 2020 compared to the same months in 2019.
  - Remain open to the option that a Q2 2020 official estimate of international immigration or emigration may be produced in the coming months and that we would consider using this.
  - We will be transparent on any limitations and communicate with users how to interpret the figures in the light of the missing quarter.
7. **Internal migration and cross border flows.** We are currently processing our internal migration estimates and cross border flows, and are looking into the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on these estimates. We use extracts from the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) as well as birth registrations to estimate internal migration and cross border flows, both of which have temporarily been affected by the pandemic. We are aware that students may have left their term time residences at the onset of the pandemic. In many cases, students may have spent several months at their term address before moving home. As we use the NHSCR, these student moves will only be captured if they have chosen to deregister with their GP at their term address or register with a GP when they have returned home. We are working with ONS and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to understand the range of potential impacts on internal migration and cross border flows. Delivery of cross border flows data between ONS, NISRA and NRS may be subject to change as a result of this work. We will keep PAMS updated if this is likely to impact our ability to publish MYE in April 2021.
8. **Birth registrations.** Registration offices were closed to registration of births between March and the end of June 2020. Significant work has been undertaken to catch up with the backlog of birth registrations and it is likely that this will be resolved by the time this data is needed for the MYE processing.

## Migration Statistics

9. Population estimates for Scottish council areas by country of birth and nationality for the period covering July 2019 to June 2020 were due to be published on 26 November 2020. However, this publication is now subject to delay as the estimates are sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which has been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. APS datasets are currently being reweighted to take into account changes in data collection. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) who carry out the APS have published a [blog post](#) with more information. **The new publication date has now been confirmed as 14 January 2021**, and the [NRS website](#) has been updated accordingly.
10. We continue to publish our [Migration Statistics Quarterly Summary for Scotland](#) (MSQS) which brings together data from a range of sources to give an overview of key migration trends in Scotland. In our [August update](#), we included alternative data from the Civil Aviation Authority to provide insights into how the coronavirus pandemic affected international travel patterns. While travel data are not a measure of migration, they can provide early insight and context to official statistics on international migration. The next MSQS update will be published on 27 November 2020.
11. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) used to measure headline net migration was suspended on 16 March 2020 due to COVID-19. As part of the ongoing transformation programme for migration statistics (being led by ONS), the IPS being stretched beyond its initial purpose, and the impact of COVID-19, the IPS will no longer be used to measure migration. This has meant the approach for delivering new measures of migration based on administrative data has been accelerated. NRS continue to work with ONS on this programme and will keep users updated on future developments, including more details on what regional data will be available and when.

## Population Projections

12. Decisions on timescales for publishing future national population projections (NPPs) and subnational population projections (SNPPs) will be made shortly after reviewing responses from the recent [engagement exercise](#) where users were invited to provide feedback on their preferences. Thank you to PAMS members who responded. We will share further information once a decision has been taken.

## Sub-council area Population Projections

13. The standard set of [2018-based Sub-council area population projections for areas within each council in Scotland](#) have now been published by the Improvement Service. We are particularly interested in hearing more about how you use these projections and any other feedback on potential outputs. This evidence is important to

help us prioritise any potential future work in this area, so please feedback if you are using the projections or plan to in future. Annex A includes an optional case study template which can be used to help reflect and structure a case study. Completed case studies or feedback by email is welcomed.

14. The support package has now been finalised for users who wish to create their own projections for specified areas within a council using POPGROUP software. This is available on the [NRS website](#) and includes training videos giving step-by-step instructions on creating sub-council area projections, a user guide on producing sub-council area projections, and a data utility tool which helps users aggregate official statistics to the sub-council areas to prepare POPGROUP input files.

### Small Area Population Estimates

15. [Mid-2019 Small Area Population Estimates](#) were published on 27 August 2020. A range of outputs related to this publication are available, including:
  - [Statistical publication](#)
  - [Interactive visualisation](#)
  - [Detailed tables by data zone](#)
  - [Time series tables \(2001 to latest\)](#)
16. A boundary review between Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire came into effect on 1 April 2019. This boundary change was taken into account in the latest population estimates. A paper explaining the adjustment methodology was shared with PAMS members via email on 22 January 2020. Please get in touch if you require a copy of the paper or would like further information about the adjustment methodology.

### Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities

17. Following discussion with colleagues, we now propose to produce a mid-2020 set and a 2022 Census set of settlements and localities. Provisionally, work on a mid-2020 set should start around August 2021 with publication around March 2022. We will keep PAMS members updated on these plans including scope to engage in consultation on boundaries and methods.

### Administrative data based population estimates

18. NRS colleagues in the Census Admin Data team published [administrative based population estimates](#) (ABPE) for 2016 as statistical research on 17 November 2020. Further information is available in the Census update paper. Whilst comparisons are made with the official mid-year population estimates, it is important to note that the ABPEs are part of ongoing research and should not be seen as a replacement for mid-year estimates.

**NRS: Population and Migration Statistics  
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**Annex A****External - Improvement Service  
Case Study Template**

Remember that case studies don't always have to be a written document, nor do they have to follow a 'story' format. You could present your case study as an interview with the key person/people involved. Or it may be more interesting/appropriate to use podcasts, video or graphical/visual presentations, or a mix of these. When deciding on how best to present your case study, you should consider who your audience is and what they will respond to, as well as how you plan to distribute your case study and any technical requirements/ constraints.

Whichever format you choose, this template can be used to plan and structure the case study.

Date:	
Local Authority:	
Submitted By:	
Case Study Title:	

**Case Study Synopsis (100 words):**

The Challenge:

Actions/Approach Taken:

Impact and Results (including cost savings/income generated if applicable):

How is the new approach being sustained?:

Lessons learned

(What advice would you give others doing the same thing? What would you do differently if you did it again? What would you do the same? What documents, templates did you use that you could have?)

Next Steps:

Contact:	
Links to relevant documents:	

