



Paper Title: Scotland's Census 2022 update

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Aims for discussion	To update PAMS members on the latest developments from Scotland's Census 2021
What is required from PAMS members	Comments/feedback on any of the points raised in the paper

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Scotland's Census 2022 update

Since the last PAMS meeting NRS announced that the Scotland's Census would be moved to 2022. This decision was made by Minister's following evidence provided by NRS. The decision was made to ensure the high quality of the census results could be met. The press release announcing the move in census date, which includes FAQs is available on the Scotland's Census website.

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/node/753>

Key achievements include:

- The Census (Scotland) Amendment Order was approved by the Scottish Parliament on 11 November. This changes the date on which the next Census is taken to 20 March 2022.
- Completing our statistical methodology rehearsal, the methods tested during this rehearsal were Data Cleansing, Edit and Imputation, Estimation and Adjustment, Administrative Data and Household Record Swapping. Key findings have been published on our [website](#)
- Taking papers on our statistical methods to our External Methodology Assurance Panels. Details of the papers presented are available on our [website](#).
- Published the Administrative Data Based Population Estimates, Scotland 2016 on 17/11/2020

The rest of this paper describes some of these areas in more detail and provides some more information on other areas of census development which PAMS may find of interest.

PAMS are asked to note progress and to feedback any comments and/or queries.

External Methodology Assurance Panels (EMAPS)

1. External Methodology Assurance Panels (EMAPs) are short-life advisory working groups comprising subject matter experts and academics to support and facilitate the independent peer review of the proposed statistical methodology for Scotland's Census 2022.

Since establishing the EMAPs working group in May 2020 we have held six virtual sessions where the panel have reviewed methodologies from different census processes. Reviewed papers and summaries of the panel sessions can be viewed on our website.

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/external-methodology-assurance-panels-emaps-0>

[Comments and questions on the methods are also welcome from PAMS.](#)

Scotland's Census 2022 – Outputs Website

2. As part of our dissemination plans for Scotland's Census 2022 outputs we are developing a new website. Feedback from users showed that the existing site was not meeting users' needs as well as it could. Research showed that users found the site difficult to navigate and that the range of data was not meeting their needs. To address these issues we are developing a new site that will be more accessible and make use of a flexible table builder to allow users to build their own census tables.

As part of this work we are being assessed by the Digital Assurance Office to ensure that we meet the [digital first service standard](#). This standard aims to make sure that services in Scotland are continually improving and that users are always the focus.

Following completion of the development phase of beta (including the Digital First assessment) we will launch a Beta site that will be publically accessible. This Beta site will run parallel to the existing site, allowing us to gather useful feedback and insights from users without impacting on the existing service. We are also developing a flexible table builder to allow users to explore Census 2022 data. We are planning a beta release of this tool next year once the new website is live.

Scotland's census outputs & UK census data

3. Following the move to 2022 we have updated the Census outputs strategy to reflect the new dates which we are aiming to release 2022 Census data. https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/Scotlands_Census_2022_-_SDC%20and%20Outputs_-_Census_Outputs_Strategy.pdf

ONS and NISRA are still planning to run their censuses in March 2021. Due to the difference in census years we are reviewing how we create UK data outputs from our respective censuses. We are continuing to work with ONS and NISRA across all works streams to continue harmonising across the three censuses wherever possible. We are investigating how we can create a UK dataset, and how to account for any cross-border migration between 2021 and 2022.

NRS will continue to publish the annual mid-year population estimates (MYEs) every year until the next census. The MYEs are based on the last Census and updated every year to account for population change - adding in births, removing deaths and adjusting for migration. The next set to be published will be mid-2020 population estimates (MYE 2020) which will be released in Spring 2021. NRS work closely with ONS providing access to Scottish MYE to feed into the production of UK-level population estimates and this will continue. We will provide access to Scottish MYE 2021, to include alongside 2021 Census based population estimates for the rest of the UK.

We will be holding stakeholder events will cover the impact of the census move to 2022, derived variables, the release schedule for outputs, UK harmonisation and plans for the new Scotland's Census website.

These events will be on the 24th, 25th and 26th of November and will update users about current plans for outputs and help to further develop our plans. If you would like to attend these events please use the following link to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scotlands-census-2022-outputs-event-tickets-127175925617>

Statistical Methods and Data Processing Rehearsal Evaluation

4. The data collected during the Census 2019 rehearsal was used to test the Statistical Methods and Data Processing steps for Scotland's Census 2022. This was carried out from April 2020 to June 2020 and was an important step in testing and developing the statistical methodologies and data processing steps for Scotland's Census 2022.

The statistical methodologies tested in this rehearsal are broadly defined as Data Cleansing, Edit and Imputation, Estimation and Adjustment and Household Record Swapping. The use of administrative data to quality assure these processes was also tested. An evaluation of our Statistical Methods and Data Processing rehearsal was published on our [website](#) in November 2020.

Administrative data

5. We have published new research on Administrative Data Based Population Estimates, Scotland 2016. The research was published on Tuesday 17th November 2020. This is exciting new work bringing together a range of administrative datasets to create population estimates not based on a census to enable a wider discussion of the methods with key stakeholders and users of demographic statistics. The work is published as statistical research where we try to re-create the population of Scotland using only de-identified administrative data sources. This new methodology will be compared with the Mid-Year Population estimates for 2016.

We will look to give a presentation to PAMS members on this research at the digital PAMS meeting and we will be running stakeholder events in Spring 2021.

Geography

6. The Geography team are continuing to work with local authorities and other stakeholders to resolve common issues and improve the quality of the census address register (CAR). The CAR is based on Ordnance Survey's AddressBase Premium product with supplementary information coming from Royal Mail, the Improvement Service and internal NRS datasets. Data from the Scottish Assessors Association, the Electoral Registration Office and Digital is being used to assist quality assuring core address data. Only "live" addresses need to be included in CAR e.g occupied or in use. A distinction is made between residential, non-residential and businesses with possible residents. Managed residential

addresses - communal establishments need to be pre-identified and every address in CAR needs a UPRN and a high quality grid reference.