

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Household estimates and projections branch update

1. Household and dwelling estimates

The [mid-2018 estimates of households and dwellings in Scotland](#) were published on 18 June. As with the previous year's publication, these included updated statistics on occupied and vacant dwellings, second homes and trends in household types. The publication also included analysis using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and the latest (2016) Scottish Government Urban Rural classification. The publication was accompanied by an updated infographic (to illustrate the key findings) and an interactive data visualisation (to enable viewing of several key charts for selectable council areas and years).

A Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between National Records of Scotland and the Scottish Assessors to enable us to access and publish summaries of the relevant data on dwellings has still to be finalised. In the interim we plan to release (provisionally on **28 November**) as supplementary data, the 2018 estimates of the number of dwellings by council tax band at council and data zone level, as this is information that is effectively already in the public domain via the Assessors Portal. Release of the other breakdowns of dwellings - by dwelling type and by number of rooms - will have to wait for the DSA to be in place.

The council tax base data required as input to the preparation of the mid-2019 household estimates has all now been received and quality assured. We are grateful to local authority colleagues for their help with this.

2. Dwelling estimates for small areas

The small area (2011 data zone) household and dwelling estimates data for 2018 were released on 18 June, both on the [NRS website](#) and on [statistics.gov.scot](#). Dwellings estimates for 2011 Data Zones are available for each year back to 2014. Work to compile a back series of dwellings estimates for 2011 Data Zones for years prior to 2014 remains ongoing and will be progressed as other priorities permit. As confirmed at the PAMS meeting in May, dwelling estimates for 2001 Data Zones are no longer produced.

We have recently received a request for small area data on unoccupied exemptions (eg dwellings that are new builds not yet occupied, undergoing repair or awaiting demolition) and long-term empty properties. As there is judged to be no disclosure issues in releasing this data at data zone level, we propose to make available the 2018 estimates for these two categories of information on the NRS website and on [statistics.gov.scot](#), with this release provisionally scheduled for **28 November**.

We would be grateful for any comments which PAMS members may have on the proposal to release small area statistics on unoccupied exemptions and long-term empty properties.

3. Household projections

Since the publication last July of the [2016-based household projections for Scotland](#), we have been reviewing the methodology used to produce the household projections. This has included testing the sensitivity of the projections to changes in some of the underlying assumptions, for example on the proportion of the population that are assumed will live in communal establishments. We have also been comparing our current projections methodology with that used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in producing the household projections for England, most recently for the [2016-based household projections in England](#).

Work to develop the next (2018-based) set of household projections will continue over the coming months, with publication of these projections currently planned for July 2020.

4. Household Analysis Review Group

The Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) met on 13 June; this was the first time the group had met in a couple of years. The meeting considered a number of issues, including trends in household type; proposed changes to the methodology used to create household projections for Scotland; and the availability of small area data on households. Further information about HARG is available on the [NRS website](#).

5. Electoral Register statistics

The next collection of electoral register statistics is due to take place in December. We are currently in discussions with the Electoral Registration Offices (EROs) about the impact the General Election on 12 December will have on this data collection. It seems likely that many EROs will publish their electoral register data ahead of the usual 1 December reference date, while others will delay doing so until 1 February. This is therefore likely to result in a staggered data collection, and may also delay (by a month or so) publication of the annual summary statistics – currently scheduled for March.

6. Cross-government housing statistics group

The Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG) - formed in early 2018 – has continued its work to review the quality, coherence and accessibility of official housing statistics across the UK. Further details on the current work of this group can be found in its [2019/20 workplan](#).

In the spring the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carried out a cross-UK survey of users of housing and planning statistics. A summary of the responses obtained in the survey are available in this [blog](#). Recently a report and statistical article have also been published on the topic of [affordable housing](#).

Sandy Taylor
NRS: Household estimates and projections branch

November 2019