

## Household Analysis Review Group (HARG)

HARG (19) 6

### Minutes of HARG meeting:

Thursday 13 June 2019, 13.00 – 15:00, Room 1/G/9, Ladywell House, Edinburgh

### Present:

Sandy Taylor (Chair)	National Records of Scotland (NRS): Household Estimates and Projections
Alan Ferrier	NRS: Demographic Statistics
Graham Galloway	NRS: Household Estimates and Projections
Stefania Sechi (Minutes)	NRS: Household Estimates and Projections
Mike Atkinson	Highland Council (via phonelink)
Duncan Gray	Shelter
Murdo MacPherson	Scottish Government: Centre for Housing Market Analysis
Lesley Mann	North Lanarkshire Council
Steve Morley	North Ayrshire Council
Sarah Nodwell	Scottish Water

### Apologies:

Lisa Bullen, Scottish Government: Housing Supply Unit  
Anne Grove, Scottish Government Planning  
Fiona Kell, Homes for Scotland  
Dorothy McDonald, Clydeplan  
Steve McGowan, Glasgow City Council  
Debbie McLean, Scottish Government: Policy on planning for homes  
Ada Yiu, City of Edinburgh Council

### Welcome and introductions

Sandy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that while it had been some time since the last HARG meeting he shared the positive view his predecessor in post (Esther Roughsedge) had about how useful the group is in providing advice to NRS on household statistics.

### Actions from this meeting

**Action 1:** Sandy to issue invitations to join the HARG group to the various organisations identified in discussion.

**Action 2:** Stefania to arrange the updating of the HARG membership list on the NRS website.

**Action 3:** NRS Household estimates and projections branch to review the range of statistical data currently available on households and dwelling at SNS 2011 data zone level and provide a summary to HARG members.

**Action 4:** NRS Household estimates and projections branch to produce a summary analysis note on trends in household composition, for circulation to HARG members.

**Action 5:** Stefania to feed back comments about training and use of Popgroup to colleagues in NRS Population and migration statistics branch.

**Action 6:** Stefania to pass on comment about interest for population projections for NHS Health Board Localities to colleagues in the NRS Population and migration statistics branch.

### Minutes of meeting on 29 November 2016

It was accepted that, given the passage of time, the minutes could be taken as a correct record of the meeting. All five action points listed in the minutes were noted as closed.

### Terms of reference and membership

Members of the group confirmed that the existing remit and purpose of the group remained valid, as did its reporting line in to the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) committee.

In relation to the group's membership, Alan suggested it would be useful to look for new members from the academic and private sectors. In discussion other suggestions for augmenting the range of interests represented on the group included:

- Scottish Assessors Association
- Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)
- Registers of Scotland
- Transport Scotland

Sandy noted that the Household Estimates and Projections branch would follow up these suggestions and issue invitations to the relevant organisations to join the group.

Stefania noted that the membership list included on the NRS website was in the process of being updated. [Note: the HARG [membership page](#) on the NRS website has now been updated.]

**Action 1:** Sandy to issue invitations to join the HARG group to the various organisations identified in discussion.

**Action 2:** Stefania to arrange the updating of the HARG membership list on the NRS website.

In relation to how frequently the group should meet, the proposal for a face to face meeting at least once a year, with other meetings called as necessary and business otherwise carried out by correspondence, was agreed.

## **NRS general update on household estimates and projections**

Sandy provided a brief recap on the work of the NRS Household estimates and projections branch over the last couple of years, covering changes in personnel, the range of statistical publications produced, the increased provision of supporting interactive data visualisations and infographics, and areas of development work undertaken. In discussion, Mike expressed an interest in any additional data on households and dwellings at SNS data zone level that would help address questions such as what housing had been built where, by whom, what tenure, etc. He noted for example that in some parts of Highland approaching a quarter of dwellings are second homes. Sandy agreed that it would be useful to review what information at data zone level was available from Scottish Assessors, local authority council tax systems and others sources such as Registers of Scotland.

**Action 3:** NRS Household estimates and projections branch to review the range of statistical data currently available on households and dwelling at SNS 2011 data zone level and provide a summary to HARG members.

## **Review of household projections methodology**

Graham introduced discussion on the paper, outlining the current key areas of difference in the methodologies used by NRS and the Office for National Statistics to produce household projections. He noted that some sensitivity testing had been carried out on the impact of how data on communal establishments feeds into the household projections, and that NRS was considering incorporating Scottish Household Survey data in to the projections to better reflect recent trends in household type.

Duncan commented that any change to the projections methodology would need to be well evidenced, particularly where such a change would result in revising the projected numbers downwards. He noted that the picture obtained from the 2011 Census may have been repressed by economic downturn from 2007/8, so that projecting from it may be relatively pessimistic in terms of future growth in household numbers. Duncan also pointed out that adult care is rapidly changing in terms of numbers and policy, and so sourcing up to date information on communal establishments in this sector would be beneficial to the household projections.

In further discussion it was noted that there was interest in the extent of a backlog/unmet need for housing, and how this might be affecting the household projections. For example, it was suggested that any increase in the number/ proportion of adult children living in the parental home may represent an unmet housing need rather than an unconstrained lifestyle choice.

## **Analysis of trends in household composition**

Sandy introduced this paper, noting the recent work by NRS and others to analyse changing trends in household composition, for example the shift towards living alone (in large part driven by males aged 30-65 years), and adult children living longer in the family home. Duncan suggested it would be useful for NRS to produce and circulate to members of the group a summary note of this work, also covering the results from the Civitas report referenced in the paper.

**Action 4:** NRS Household estimates and projections branch to produce a summary analysis note on trends in household composition, for circulation to HARG members.

## Small area household projections

In discussion about how NRS could best support users interested in producing household projections for small (sub-council) areas, it was noted that the Popgroup software provides an opportunity to do this via the derived projections module. However, Mike, Lesley and Steve all noted that Popgroup required a significant investment in terms of time to train up in how to set up and use it, that it is easy to forget things if the software is not used regularly, and that some IT understanding is also needed to install and update it. It was suggested that Popgroup refresher training videos would be helpful, and that a meeting of Popgroup users every 6 months or so might be useful for sharing issues and promoting best practice in how best to use the software (which it was felt was currently geared more towards the academic than the general user).

**Action 5:** Stefania to feed back comments about training and use of Popgroup to colleagues in NRS Population and migration statistics branch.

## Any other business

Sandy noted that colleagues in NRS continued work to develop population and household estimates from administrative data sources, though their main focus on this at the moment related to supporting preparations for the 2021 Census. He also flagged up a private rented sector statistics user event that was due to be held in Edinburgh on 25 June.

Lesley noted an interest for population projections for the six NHS North Lanarkshire Localities, particularly in relation to modelling services for different disease/health conditions.

**Action 6:** Stefania to pass on comment about interest for population projections for NHS Health Board Localities to colleagues in the NRS Population and migration statistics branch.

## Date of next meeting

Sandy noted that it would be useful to hold a further meeting early in the New Year but that NRS would keep in touch with members by correspondence in the interim.