

Household Analysis Review Group(HARG)

**Minutes of Household Analysis Review Group:
4 April 2012, Room 1/G/8, Ladywell House, 10:30 – 12:30 pm**

Present

Esther Roughsedge (chair)
Allison Craig
Valerie Hale
Debbie Amabile
Craig McCarter
Sangeetha Gallagher
Keira Murray
Kirsty MacLachlan
Jan Freeke
Tom Snowling

Organisation

National Records of Scotland (NRS): Household Statistics
North Ayrshire Council
NRS: Household statistics
NRS: Household statistics
NRS: Household statistics
NRS: Data Access and Communications
NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
NRS: Demography
Glasgow City Council
Aberdeen Council

Apologies

Esta Clark	NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
Alastair Harvey	Edinburgh Council
Andrew Ballantine	Scottish Government (SG): Planning
Tony Jenkins	Dundee City Council
Andrew Macartney	SG: Statistical Support for Local Government
Blair Melville	Homes for Scotland
Gordon Stenhouse	Scottish Water
Adele Trainer	North Lanarkshire Council
Jill Morton	SG: Communities Analytical Services
Paul McNamara	Stirling Council
Charles Brown	SG: Centre for Housing Market Analysis

1. Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Esther welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She noted that comments on the papers would be welcome from both those present at the meeting and those who were unable to attend.
- 1.2 Esther asked Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) members to note that some of the papers contained information that was restricted and should not be shared or discussed with anyone else without first asking permission from Household Estimates and Projections (HEP) branch. This is a requirement of the pre-release access rules for Official Statistics.

2. Agenda Item 2: Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The actions of the previous meeting were checked and following outcomes noted:
- 2.2 Action 1 update: Household Estimates and Projections (HEP) branch to compare household estimates with the 2011 Census data once it becomes available. This will be done once census data is available.

- 2.3 Action 2 update: HEP and Scottish Government (SG) Housing Statistics branches to investigate the possibility of including housing tenure information in the household estimates publication. This is covered at [agenda item 12](#).
- 2.4 Action 3 update: HEP branch to investigate more targeted results by grouping Local Authority's (LAs) into urban/rural groups and also to investigate why the impact on Edinburgh was not greater. Valerie said her paper on incorporating survey data into household projections ([Paper 5 HARG 2012\(5\)](#)) and the associated presentation at [agenda item 7](#) would address this action point.
- 2.5 Action 4 update: HEP branch to review household projections methodology once data on household composition becomes available from the 2011 census. Valerie said that [Paper 6 HARG 2012\(6\)](#) to be discussed at [agenda item 9](#) would address this action point.
- 2.6 Action 5 update: HEP branch to seek opinions on which variants or alternative headship rates are the most useful at the next Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) meeting. This was discussed at the PAMS committee meeting in autumn 2011. PAMS members agreed that the 2010-based household projections publication should include the following variants: low migration, high migration and a variant which represented the halfway point between 2001 census headship rates and the principal projection (alternative headship rate variant).
- 2.7 Action 6 update: HEP branch to seek permission to publish Tables 1 and 2 from relevant data providers when 2010 data is requested. This refers to data on Communal Establishments (CEs) collected by HEP branch. Esther and Valerie both commented that the suppliers of armed forces data still don't want it to be published. Esta Clark from National Records of Scotland (NRS) Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) branch is discussing getting this data from a different source. If she is successful, it may mean it would be possible to publish the CE data. Valerie commented that most other data providers were happy for their data to be published in this way. She noted that at the most recent POPGROUP meeting HEP branch agreed that they could supply LAs with their LA level and possibly sub-LA level data if required. Allison Craig said she had received data for wards in North Ayrshire in this way which she found very useful.
- 2.8 Action 8 update: HEP branch to give further consideration to the publication of CE data at data zone geography. Jan mentioned that even just data zone level CE population totals would be useful for calculating average household size for quality assurance purposes. The issues mentioned above with armed forces data are still a barrier to releasing data zone CE data. Esther reiterated that this might be resolved if armed forces data is obtained through the potential new source but discussions are still ongoing.
- 2.9 Action 9 update: HEP branch to clarify with Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) why newly formed households rather than net households are a requirement of Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs). Jan commented that information on newly formed households is still important; this isn't something that LAs can get from NRS's household projections. Esther is continuing to work on this. It was agreed that gross newly formed households was the information required. Esther mentioned that she was aiming to have results to share with HARG members in the next few months to coincide with the Centre for Housing Market Analysis producing data templates for LAs to use for future Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs). Aberdeen City doesn't have a pressing need for this information at the moment but that may change when they come to update their

HNDA. There had been discussion of newly formed households at the last PAMS meeting.

Action 1: Esther Roughsedge to check with CHMA about when her work on newly formed households will be needed.

3. Agenda Item 3: Scottish Government (SG) consultation on Council Tax charges for long-term empty properties

- 3.1 This item refers to [Paper 1 HARG 2012 \(1\)](#) 'Scottish Government Consultation on Council Tax Charges for Long-Term Empty Properties'. Debbie commented that since her paper was written, the SG have laid their proposed legislation before parliament (on 27 March in the 'Unoccupied Properties' bill).
- 3.2 Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) members commented that a difficulty here would be monitoring any impact on Household Estimates and Projections (HEP) branch's data.
- 3.3 Tom suggested that the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) may have information on empty properties – presumably they can't tell when they draw up their sample which properties are empty. Therefore they should have information on properties which interviewers found to be empty. If they do, HEP branch could compare changes in SHS figures on empty properties with their figures. There were some concerns about the sample size for SHS – LA level information probably isn't achievable.
- 3.4 Jan asked about the tenure split of long-term empty properties. HEP branch don't have information on the tenure of such properties though Debbie remarked that social sector properties which are earmarked for demolition should not be classed as long-term empty. Jan suggested that the Annual Performance and Statistical Return (APSR) would be another source to check when monitoring impact (although this would only cover Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)). Jan also said that he can provide a tenure split of Glasgow's long-term empty properties and Debbie said that would be extremely useful.
- 3.5 Jan noted that the real issue here is how to monitor impact at data zone level. Empty properties can be concentrated in particular data zones and there aren't really any sources of information at this geography. Debbie acknowledged that this was also a concern for HEP branch.

Action 2: Debbie Amabile to ask Jan Freeke for a tenure breakdown of Glasgow City Council's long-term empty properties.

Action 3: Debbie Amabile to investigate alternative sources of information on empty properties including the SHS and APSR.

Action 4: HEP to continue to liaise with Scottish Government (SG) policy, housing statistics and local government finance statistics teams on progress of this legislation and how it will be implemented.

4. Agenda item 4: 2010-based communal establishments estimates

- 4.1 This item refers to [Paper 2 HARG 2012 \(2\)](#) '2010-Based Communal Establishment (CE) Estimates'. Valerie gave a presentation highlighting some of the key points from the 2010-based communal establishments estimates including the impact of some methodological changes.

- 4.2 Household Estimates and Projections (HEP) branch plan to change the definition used for long-term residents in adult care in their CE estimates. This change has been requested by a number of Local Authorities (LAs) and the aim is to capture those who intend to stay in adult care for more than 6 months but have not yet been resident for 6 months. HEP branch are proposing that they use the NHS Information Services Division (ISD) definition of long-term care. This includes residents who intend to stay long-term.
- 4.3 The proposed methodological change was discussed at the last Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) meeting and the general feeling was that this was a positive step though Jan was concerned about potential double counting. HARG members were happy for the change to be made.
- 4.4 Jan suggested that comparing the figures from the changed definition with 2001 census figures on adult care may be a useful way of looking at the impact of the new definition. Valerie pointed out that the expectation is that adult care has expanded substantially since 2001 but agreed that Jan's suggestion would still be worthwhile.

Action 5: HEP branch to use Information Services Division (ISD) definition of long-term care in 2010-based communal establishment estimates.

- 4.5 There was some discussion of other key differences between 2008-based and 2010-based CE estimates. The reasons for these are covered in [Paper 2 HARG 2012 \(2\)](#).

Action 6: HEP branch to monitor the quality of Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data on students' term-time addresses and compare with the 2011 census data when it becomes available.

- 4.6 A potential alternative source for data on long-term residents in hotels was discussed. Currently the 2001 census is the only reliable source. Tom Snowling commented that he had seen a presentation on STEAM data on tourism that VisitScotland holds; this may provide some useful information. The main issue for CE estimates is getting information on long-stay residents, rather than the capacities (which are widely available).
- 4.7 Alison mentioned that North Ayrshire council took a snapshot of their data on CEs for census quality assurance purposes. This involved creating a list of their CEs (mainly based on information from social services and environmental health). They are going to try to update this information and it is a useful check against HEP branch's CE data. The information includes both addresses and capacity.
- 4.8 Kirsty asked whether HEP branch were involved in the quality assurance of the CE data from the 2011 census. Valerie is due to meet Anneli Lyon from census to discuss this work. Esther noted that NRS's Geography branch produced a list of CEs for the census. So far Valerie has looked at the student halls of residence information on this list.
- 4.9 HARG members felt that HEP branch's CE information should be more visible on the website. Although some LA level information is published, it isn't immediately obvious.

Action 7: HEP branch to make it clearer on our website that we have information on CEs which is more up-to-date than the 2001 census and give links to where it can be found.

5. Agenda item 5: 2010-based principal projections

- 5.1 This item refers to [Paper 3 HARG 2012 \(3\)](#) '2010-Based Household Projections – Principal Projection - Provisional Results'. Sangeetha gave a presentation on the main results from the provisional principal projections and asked for any comments from HARG members.
- 5.2 There was a discussion about comparisons between the figures on households with children, and trends in the birth rate. Kirsty noted that it might be worth looking at literature on trends in birth rates and fertility. Keira said that the percentage increase in children for Scotland as a whole was smaller than the percentage increase in adults.
- 5.3 Esther mentioned that Edinburgh council were concerned that, as the population projections were higher than in previous years, the household projections may show a larger increase in households than they'd expect from the level of house building that's going on in the area. This was discussed at the last PAMS meeting. Edinburgh think that what may be happening in their area is that larger houses are being converted into multiple dwellings rather than new homes accounting for new households. However they're concerned that developers may use household projections as justification for pushing forward house building that isn't really necessary.
- 5.4 Allison commented that she was happy with trends in annual change in households in North Ayrshire in light of what has been happening on the ground in the past 5 years. Valerie commented that we account for recent changes by constraining the first two years' household projections to the household estimates but the projections don't account for that trend continuing.
- 5.5 Jan commented that he was particularly interested in the variant projections.

6. Agenda item 6: 2010-based variant household projections

- 6.1 This item refers to [Paper 4 HARG 2012 \(4\)](#) '2010-Based Household Projections – Variant Projections Provisional Results'. Valerie presented some of the results from the variant projections and asked HARG members if they had any comments.
- 6.2 Jan thanked Valerie for all the work that had gone into producing the variant projections. He commented that it might also be useful to produce and publish low and high migration variants using the alternative headship rate. There was some concern that it would be confusing for users to have too many variants in the same publication. Jan commented that these additional variants could potentially be useful to allow users a range of results for planning purposes. Esther agreed that HEP branch would look into the feasibility of Jan's suggestion.
- 6.3 Tom Snowling said that it would be useful to see a zero migration variant household projection for Aberdeen City. This is something that could be produced and shared after the household projections publication.

Action 8: HEP branch to look into the feasibility of publishing low and high migration variant household projections using the alternative headship rate and to report their conclusions back to HARG members.

Action 9: Valerie Hale to send Tom Snowling the results of the zero migration household projection for Aberdeen City after household projections have been published in June 2012.

Note: HARG members very much appreciate the effort that has gone into producing variant household projections and they feel that they will be very useful.

7. Agenda item 7: Incorporating survey data into the household projections

7.1 This item refers to [Paper 5 HARG 2012 \(5\)](#) 'Developing the methodology for incorporating survey data into household projections'. Valerie gave a presentation covering some of the results shown in her paper and she invited HARG members for comments on any aspect of the presentation or paper.

7.2 HARG members were very pleased that this work had been done and thanked Valerie for her efforts. However they generally felt that given the small differences between the projections involving survey data and the variant projections currently produced by HEP branch, particularly the alternative headship rate variant, the incorporation of survey data would not add any value for users. It was felt that the alternative headship rate variant was a better approach and much easier to understand.

7.3 Tom Snowling suggested that it would still be useful to publish the results of Valerie's investigation. Valerie commented that the paper would be published with all other HARG papers but that it would not form part of the household projections publication. However there was a general feeling that it would at least be worthwhile for HEP branch to say briefly, no more than a paragraph or two, that they had investigated using survey data in their projections but had decided against it. It was felt that this would show HEP branch had addressed concerns about using 'out-of-date' census data.

Action 10: HEP branch to include a paragraph in the 2010-based household projections publication explaining that they have investigated incorporating survey data in the projections and why they decided not to include them in the publication.

8. Agenda item 8: Micro-simulation project update

8.1 Esther updated the group on progress with the micro-simulation project. The PhD student HEP branch was funding to work with Professor Paul Williamson on this project has now completed his studies. The model produces simulations of Scotland's population and households. It gives Scotland level results only.

8.2 The model is to be handed over to HEP branch in July, which is too late for any results to be included in the 2010-based household projections publication. However HEP branch will put together a paper comparing projections produced from the model with our household projections later in the year.

8.3 Esther outlined some of the key benefits of the model. It doesn't rely on census data. It can be used to produce different projections, e.g. for recession years versus non-recession years. It is more sophisticated at incorporating things like changes in

birth rates and marriage rates than our projections. It is possible to break down the figures into more detail.

- 8.4 Esther also mentioned that Paul Williamson will give a seminar on the model when he visits HEP branch in July. HARG members would be asked to the seminar but Esther wondered if there were any suggestions for others that should be included. There was some concern that the seminar may be over technical and that having it in July would potentially miss out some people as many will be on holiday. It was suggested that some PAMS members might be interested, as well as some members of the POPGROUP user group.

Action 11: HEP branch to inform HARG, PAMS, POPGROUP members and any other interested parties of date and time for micro-simulation model seminar well in advance of date.

9. Agenda item 9: Post 2011 census options

- 9.1 This item refers to [Paper 6 HARG 2012 \(6\)](#) 'Post-2011 census options'. Valerie summarised the contents of her paper. HARG members were asked if they were happy with the options HEP branch plan to consider and if they had any additional suggestions.
- 9.2 Tom commented that the difference between using head of household and household representative person was looked at after the 2001 census and it wasn't much. Esther agreed but this time round we will have two censuses (i.e. 2001 and 2011) which have information on household reference person for every household, rather than just a 10% sample as in the 1991 census.
- 9.3 Jan said that the paper considers technical options but it might also be worth looking at the usefulness of various aspects of the projections e.g. the household types we use and how meaningful they are to users.
- 9.4 Keira asked if we are expecting an increase in 3+ adult households given talk of many students moving back home once they've completed courses. Kirsty mentioned that there was work being done at Southampton University on 'boomerang children'.
- 9.5 Jan suggested that it might be worth getting CHMA to ask Local Authority's what's useful in terms of Housing Need and Demand Assessments. He thought it would also be useful to look at what's being done in England and Wales. There was some discussion of other countries' use of household membership rates rather than head of household in their projections. It would be useful for HEP branch to know why the household membership approach was taken elsewhere.

Action 12: HARG members to let HEP branch know what their thoughts are on post-2011 census options for the household projections.

10. Agenda item 10 – Household estimates quality assurance

- 10.1 This item refers to [Paper 7 HARG 2012 \(7\)](#) 'Quality Assurance of Small Area Household Estimates Data'. Debbie gave a short presentation outlining the key aspects of the quality assurance carried out with Local Authority's and giving illustrations of what issues with the data might look like. She asked for HARG members' comments on the process.

10.2 The feeling amongst HARG Local Authority members was that the information being sent out was clear enough. Debbie commented on the difficulties that can sometimes be faced getting Local Authority's to respond, even when there are problems with their data. Tom felt that it would be useful to explain to the people HEP branch send the QA data out to what the data will eventually be used for. They may be more inclined to respond if they don't view the process as a purely technical exercise.

Action 13: Debbie Amabile to include information on how the household estimates data is used, emphasising importance of the data, when sending out quality assurance information to local authorities.

11. Agenda item 11 – Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) update

11.1 Esther re-iterated Charles Brown's apologies for not being able to attend. Charles sent an e-mail update on CHMA activities to HARG members after the meeting, on 10 April 2012.

12. Agenda item 12 – Any other business

12.1 Esther gave an update on progress on tenure estimates. She has spoken to SG housing statistics and CHMA about this work and how it could be taken forward. Data on tenure comes primarily from their division (Communities Analytical Services). Housing statistics are having some staffing issues at the moment so not much progress has been made and it's difficult to know what might happen in the near future. One of the main issues at the moment is splitting the private sector between owner-occupied and private rented. Jan commented that he would still be interested in estimates without this split if it can't be achieved.

Action 14: HEP branch to continue to liaise with SG housing statistics and CHMA colleagues on tenure estimates.

12.2 Valerie asked if, in line with what is now done with the household estimates publication, HARG members would be happy not to receive pre-release access to the final household projections publication for quality assurance purposes. One day pre-release access to those PAMS LA side reps that require it to be able to comment in an informed manner on the statistics would still be given. HARG members were happy with this, especially as they are given the opportunity to comment on provisional household projections at HARG meetings.

Note: HARG members were happy to no longer get pre-release access to the final household projections publication for quality assurance purposes. Those who require it will be still be given one-day pre-release access.

12.3 Esther informed the group that HEP branch passed its UK Statistics Authority assessment and thanked everyone for their contributions to the assessment process.

13. Agenda item 13 – Date of next meeting

13.1 The next meeting will be held in March/April 2013. A more definite date will be discussed with HARG members in the new year.