

MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 24 November 2008

Present:

Kirsty MacLachlan (Chair)	GROS (Head of Demography Division)
Kateryna McKinnon	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Lisa McNeill (Minutes)	GROS (Household Estimates & Projections)
Esther Roughsedge	GROS (Household Estimates & Projections)
Marina Curran	Scottish Government
Alasdair Anthony	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Frank Dixon	GROS (Vital Events)
Cheryl Heeley	ISD
Tony Jenkins	Dundee City Council
Sheena Stevely	Renfrewshire Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Paul Boyle	St Andrews University
Andrew Macartney	GROS (Dissemination & 2001 Census Analysis)
Andrew White (Minutes)	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Ganka Mueller	GROS (Alternative Sources)
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Jen Woolford	ONS
Peter Scrimgeour	GROS (Head of Census Division)
Neil Yemm (agenda items 10b,c by telephone)	ONS

1. Introductions

- 1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. PAMS members

- 2.1 A number of people who are on the PAMS members list do not attend and others attend occasionally. It would be worth asking if these people could suggest a replacement who could attend in their place.
- 2.2 It would be easier for people to attend if the dates were set further in advance.

Action: Andrew White

3. Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2008

- 3.1 The final sentence of paragraph 5.2 should read 'a further split by age was less important'.

Post meeting comment: This change has been made and the minutes will be published on the GROS website in due course.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

- 4.1 Action point 4.4 – Peter Scrimgeour said that a decision about a vacant land follow up survey has not yet been taken, discussions are ongoing with Duncan Gray.
- 4.2 Action point 5.2 – a paper from Claire Boag was circulated at the meeting which showed some work done to look into Private Landlord Registration as a potential source of sub national tenure estimates. Feedback from PAMS was welcomed. It was pointed out that certain types of properties (such as manses) may be excluded from this. Jenny Boag asked if she could be provided with an electronic copy of the paper to circulate for comment.

Action: Esther Roughsedge

Post meeting comment: Done

- 4.3 Action point 5.3 – a number of problems were found with using DVLA data as a source of information on the population and so this has not been pursued further.
- 4.4 Jan asked whether it would be possible to produce a split of international and rest of UK migrants at council level for years prior to 2006/07. GROS has looked into this and it would not be possible to produce estimates that were consistent with figures already published.
- 4.5 Jan also asked if any further work was planned following the TELMOS presentation at the last PAMS meeting. Esther answered that TELMOS are planning to run a simplified version of their projection system, excluding the information from Development Plans, in order to allow for better comparisons with GROS projections.

5. Feedback from PAMS Conference

- 5.1 Kirsty outlined the main points that people liked about the conference; the venue, the networking opportunity and the fact that it made people aware of the statistics GROS produces.
- 5.2 A document was handed out entitled “Workshop Feedback”. This outlines suggestions that came out of the workshops at the conference. Kirsty said this could act as an action plan which could be tracked at the next meeting. She asked if the group wanted reports on progression of these suggestions and the consensus was that this is something they would like.

Action: Kirsty MacLachlan

- 5.3 Kirsty told the group that Victoria Quay was being considered for the next conference around the same time next year.

- 5.4 When asked for the general views on the conference, Jenny said that events like this were very much welcomed. Future events and topics were discussed later in agenda item 9(b).

6. ScotStat Board Meeting Update – PAMS (08) 13

- 6.1 Jenny outlined the main points of the paper. These included the three agenda items of the ScotStat board meeting; Annual Statistics Stakeholder Conference, update on statistics reform issues and stakeholder engagement with the statistics group. On this last item, Jenny said that PAMS had taken good steps in stakeholder engagement with, for example, the recent PAMS conference and it is hoped that other ScotStat groups will follow.
- 6.2 Jenny told the group that all papers related to the ScotStat meeting can be found on the ScotStat website.

7. Update from ONS

- 7.1 Jen Woolford spoke about the implementation of further improvements to population statistics. ONS are starting to plan the strategy for implementing improvements for the period before the publication of 2011 census results, during which there will be three sets of mid-year estimates. Jen offered a paper on this and someone to present it at the next PAMS meeting.

Action: Jen Woolford

- 7.2 Jen told the group that ONS are currently considering what outputs to produce following the 2011 census and, in particular, which output bases should be rolled forward year-on-year. This work is being discussed across the UK.
- 7.3 Regarding work on coherent reporting of migration statistics, Jen said that publication dates for migration-related statistics have been coordinated so that five key migration reporting dates were achieved. Furthermore, in 2009, there are plans to develop a population and migration web page, to introduce a quarterly migration report and to produce a comprehensive migration volume which will incorporate existing publications from across the government.
- 7.4 Jen spoke of other developments which include work on early indicators of migration and the feasibility of short-term migrant estimates at local authority level. She informed that ONS are planning a series of UK workshops where the detail of these developments can be discussed.

8 Single Outcome Agreements

- 8.1 Marina Curran gave a presentation on the new Statistical Support for Public Bodies branch which, among other things, will facilitate the new ScotStat Network of Analysts from Local Government and Public Bodies.
- 8.2 Following the presentation Kateryna mentioned that she had not been involved in SOAs but thought this might change in the future. She asked whether local level data would be placed on Scotland Performs in the future. Marina explained that this wasn't planned but that local level data relating to national outcomes should go on SNS but wasn't always available at lower geographies. She also suggested that joining the network might be a good idea.
- 8.3 Jenny mentioned that there was a split in local authority PAMS members between those who were involved in the SOA process and those who weren't. This meant that some of the people working on SOAs were in PAMS (or ScotStat) and so understood the data and others did not. Marina suggested that the planned GROS visits to councils should perhaps target people who were involved in SOAs and that something similar could be done for other subject areas.
- 8.4 Kirsty pointed out that the network sounds similar to LARIA and Marina said that discussions were planned in light of this.
- 8.5 Andrew Macartney mentioned that GROS were now involved in feeding into the work of the Improvement Service on a 'menu' of indicators for Single Outcome Agreements.
- 8.6 Jenny asked if Marina could provide a copy of her slides which Jenny could then circulate around LAs.

Action: Marina Curran

9. Non-Census Issues

(a) Administrative data integration – PAMS (08) 14

- 9.1 Ganka ran through the main points of the paper which described a programme which aims to investigate external administrative data sources which may improve census operations. It also discussed a pilot study to be carried out around the time of the census rehearsal. Ganka said she'd be happy to answer any questions on the paper and asked if the group could circulate it around their colleagues to generate interest in participating in the research of the programme.

Action: All PAMS members

- 9.2 Jenny said she supported the programme in general, though wondered how it might be progressed. It was agreed the search for contacts should be wide since external data sources are being investigated. Jenny suggested a high

level approach and that COSLA could be involved. Furthermore, it was suggested that a presentation about the programme could be given at a COSLA/SOLACE conference.

- 9.3 Ganka said it would be good if local authorities could help by seeking out contacts for possible data sources. It was said that this doesn't need to be done by all 32 councils; just a selection. Ganka said she has already been in contact with Stirling and Edinburgh. Tony suggested that, when contacting local authorities, the request should be precise so that it's clear what is wanted. It was suggested that this request could also be made to COSLA/SOLACE. Sheena pointed out the data protection issues and Ganka assured that the proper protocols will be set up.

(b) Population and Migration Statistics – PAMS (08) 15 & 16

(i) PAMS (08) 15

- 9.4 Andrew White talked about the main points of the paper. The recent publications of the branch include small area population estimates, population projections for National Parks, population estimates by country of birth and estimates of population over 90 years old. Future publications include population estimates by marital status and population projections for the new strategic development plan areas.
- 9.5 Andrew told the group that his branch has secured funding for a new statistician whose role will be to help councils make local population projections.
- 9.6 Andrew also mentioned that the branch is planning to add a migration section to the GROS website.
- 9.7 Tony Jenkins said he wasn't aware of the Tayside project and would like to have more information on this. Jan Freeke also expressed interest in getting more information. Alasdair outlined that the project involves pulling together different migration data for Tayside and clarifying the differences and definitions of the types of migration data. He said that the work is still in its early stages and when there is something more substantial, this will be circulated around the group. Kirsty added that Tayside had initially approached the Scottish Government about this work. Tayside is being treated as a case study and the work will be expanded to the whole of Scotland in the future.

Action: Alasdair Anthony

- 9.8 Richard said he was interested in the trips by Cecilia MacIntyre to the Scrutiny Boards in Renfrewshire and Scottish Borders council. Sheena explained that, at the Renfrewshire board, they had discussed, amongst other things, the need for better coordination of distributing data to those who need it. Sheena said the board are working to improve this and she will let the group know of any developments.

- 9.9 Jan asked whether the 2008-based national population projections would be published in autumn 2009. Andrew White replied that they were expected to follow the same schedule as the 2006-based projections and so should be published in autumn 2009 with sub-national projections following in December 2009 or January 2010.

(ii) PAMS (08) 16

- 9.10 Kirsty asked the group for their views about the proposal for more events with stakeholders. Jenny Boag said she thought it would be useful to have an annual or biannual PAMS conference. She also said events should be spread out over more places so that stakeholders from Aberdeen or Inverness, for example, could more easily attend.
- 9.11 Kirsty suggested that GROS could combine forces with Marina Curran and Sara Grainger, who will also be making visits to stakeholders. Kirsty said she could get together with Marina to discuss a pilot road show.

Action: Kirsty MacLachlan

- 9.12 Regarding topics of events, Jenny said that smaller events with a more focused topic would be useful. These could be based on specific theory and methodology and they need only be short sessions (e.g. 2 hours).
- 9.13 Jenny also said that events with broader topics, e.g. data linkage/data protocols, would be good for bringing in a wider audience. Sheena added that this would require a wider invitation to include people from community planning, police and health boards, for example, along with people from different departments in three or four different councils.
- 9.14 Sheena thought it would be best for GROS to decide the programme of any future events. Jenny then said that the councils could provide the venue and also think about other local services or organisations that may be interested.
- 9.15 Esther said she would find it useful to have some one-on-one time with council members to talk to them about what they do and how they use the statistics provided by GROS. It was suggested that this could be achieved in a workshop attached to a future event.

(c) Household Estimates and Projections – PAMS (08) 17

- 9.16 Esther outlined the main points of the paper summarising the work of the branch. She mentioned that she will be sending the PAMS local authority members 2008 small area data for occupied/vacant dwellings. This is to quality assure the figures, which will be published next year.
- 9.17 Esther said that Martin Macfie will be speaking at the HARG (Household Analysis Review Group) meeting at the end of January about his work on finding replacement household statistics for use if council tax is abolished.

- 9.18 Sheena asked about the availability of a 2006 communal establishment list. Esther said that the census list of communal establishments which was sent out recently is the most up-to-date list and is therefore the one to be used.
- 9.19 Jan asked about the status of the study of PhD student, Ashley McCormick, who is doing work for the Household Estimates and Projections branch. Esther said his work is going well. He has set up a working micro-simulation which will produce household projections for Scotland. Ashley will be giving a presentation on his work at the HARG meeting in January. He is also in the process of writing a short summary paper describing his work and when this is finished Esther will circulate it and put it on the GROS website.

10 Census

(a) Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis - PAMS (08) 18

- 10.1 Andrew Macartney explained that he had replaced Alan Fleming and then outlined the main points of the paper. He invited comments on whether any additional information should be added to the Summary Statistics for Council Areas map on the GROS website. Andrew also mentioned that the new web co-ordinator would be setting up a focus group to investigate what people think of the GROS website and what can be improved. Members of the PAMS group could be invited to feed into this.

(b) 2011 Census Progress Report – PAMS (08) 19 and PAMS (08) 19

- 10.2 Neil Yemm from the census Local Authority Liaison team in ONS joined the meeting by telephone at this point.
- 10.3 Peter Scrimgeour outlined the main points of PAMS (08) 19. In particular he mentioned that a Government Statement would soon be published (latest estimate was 11 December) which will outline the operational arrangements for 2011 along with details of what questions will be asked and information on the decisions to include or exclude questions. Peter also mentioned that work was underway for the 2009 rehearsal and that the online data capturing system was being tested and evaluated in advance of this. GROS are working jointly with ONS and NISRA on the development of the Downstream Processing system.
- 10.4 PAMS (08) 20 outlined the Scotland specific results of the 2001 output on-line survey and was in response to a query at the previous PAMS meeting. Fifty respondents were interested in Scotland alone with most of these working in local government.
- 10.5 Jenny asked whether it would be possible to get 24 hours notice of when the Government Statement would be published and Peter agreed this would be possible. Jenny also mentioned that LAs wanted output at output area level rather than just datazone level and enquired about when decisions on disclosure control would be made. Peter answered that data would be made

available at output area level and said that decisions on disclosure control should be made over the next 6-9 months. LAs will be kept informed.

Action: Peter Scrimgeour

- 10.6 Neil Yemm informed the group that ONS had just completed a round of census roadshows and asked whether GROS had plans for similar roadshows. Peter answered that there were plans for roadshows next autumn.
- 10.7 Jan expressed concern about the possibility of inconsistent census tables depending on the decision taken about disclosure control and asked that this be avoided if at all possible.
- 10.8 Jenny mentioned that discussions at their morning meeting had suggested that Royal Mail had been removing certain buildings such as second homes from the Postcode Address File (PAF) and vacant homes that hadn't received mail for a certain length of time. Peter agreed that this would have to be looked into as the PAF will be the starting point for the address list although will be supplemented by the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG).

Action: Peter Scrimgeour

(c) Census Population Definitions

- 10.9 Peter gave an update on GROS concerns over ONS plans about how to deal with the usual residence of spouses or partners who work away. The current plan would mean a change in the definition from that used in 2001 although ONS believe this would more closely relate to what was actually done in 2001. The likelihood is that there will be consistency across the UK but ONS plan to use a second residence question to amend figures while GROS do not plan to ask this question.
- 10.10 Jenny raised the point that there is a related issue over how long someone must be resident before being considered a migrant. Peter explained that ONS are currently planning on a 3 month cut-off but they are also collecting information on intention to stay and will use this to adjust their figures. GROS are not planning to collect this information and are currently planning on using a 6 month cut-off.

11 Highland and Island Enterprise area offices on SNS

- 11.1 Kateryna told the group that SNS will be updated before the end of the year with data for Highlands and Islands area offices. This will be contained in a new section called Non-standard Geographies. This section will appear under "Specialist Reports" on the website and it will have indicators and time series data for Highlands and Islands. Kateryna said the intention is to do the same thing in the future for other non-standard geographies.

- 11.2 Kirsty suggested that a message could be sent to the SCOTSTAT group when this data goes on the website. Marina added that it would be useful to let the SCOTSTAT group know about any future SNS updates.

12 Any Other Business

- 12.1 There was no other business.

13 Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1 The next meeting will be held in May 2009, ideally at 1pm and a trawl for suitable dates will begin in late March / early April