

# MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 20 May 2009

## Present:

Kirsty MacLachlan (Chair)	GROS (Head of Demography Division)
Andrew White (Minutes)	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Michelle Johnstone	Falkirk Council
Frank Dixon	GROS (Vital Events)
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Kateryna McKinnon	(Highlands and Islands Enterprise)
Kirsty MacLean (item 9(c))	GROS (Census Questionnaires and Outputs)
Dorothy Watson	GROS (Household Estimates & Projections)
Andrew Macartney	GROS (Dissemination & 2001 Census Analysis)
Martin Macfie	GROS (Household Estimates & Projections)
Alasdair Anthony	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Laura Blair	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Cecilia MacIntyre	GROS (Population & Migration Statistics)
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Sandy Taylor	GROS (Census Questionnaires and Outputs)
Sara Grainger	SG (Office of the Chief Statistician)
Alistair Harvey	City of Edinburgh Council
Alison Burlison	Information Services Division (ISD)
Peter Scrimgeour (items 1-4 and 9)	GROS (Head of Census Division)

## 1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: David McPhee (SG: Communities Analytical Services), Jennet Woolford (ONS), Paul Boyle (University of St. Andrews), Esther Roughsedge (General Register Office for Scotland (GROS): Household Estimates & Projections), Ganka Mueller (GROS: Alternative Sources) and Sheena Stevely (Renfrewshire Council).
- 1.2 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 2. PAMS members

- 2.1 Paul McNamara will replace Richard Belding on the Population and Migrations Statistics (PAMS) Committee – his details should be added to the PAMS list.

**Action: Andrew White**

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2008

- 3.1 Paragraph 9.19 should read 'Jan asked about the status of the PhD study of Ashley McCormick'.
- 3.2 There was also discussion around paragraph 13.1 which suggested future meetings should start at 1pm. This could cause problems as the morning meeting might not finish until around this time. A compromise of 1:15 was agreed for the next meeting.

**Action: Andrew White**

### 4. Update on action points from previous meeting

- 4.1 Action point 9.1 – Kirsty told the group that Chief Executives of City of Edinburgh and Eilean Siar councils had been written to and that a useful meeting had taken place with City of Edinburgh council. The key will be resolving the legal issues associated with getting access to the data. Kirsty also mentioned that Mayhew Associates had met with GROS. Jan told the group that Glasgow City council were planning an internal meeting on this and would then contact GROS.
- 4.2 Action point 9.11 – Feedback from the visit to Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and East Renfrewshire was positive although it was felt that a half day event may be better in future. The next visit might be to Glasgow City (Jan undertook to speak to Dawn Corbett who would be the best contact) or somewhere in the central region (Jenny will investigate). A programme of the Paisley event should be sent to Jan and Jenny.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan to send a copy of the programme of the Paisley event to Jan Freeke and Jenny Boag**

**Action: Jan Freeke and Jenny Boag to investigate possibility of a half day event in their location and contact Kirsty MacLachlan**

- 4.3 Action point 10.8 – Jenny mentioned that the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) was considered better than the Postcode Address File (PAF) (which is being used as the starting point for the 2011 Census address list) by most local authorities.

### 5. ScotStat Board Meeting Update – PAMS (09) 02

- 5.1 Jenny outlined the main points of the paper. These included the three agenda items of the ScotStat board meeting; UK Statistics Authority issues, an update on Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) and statistical capacity building in local authorities and other public bodies and stakeholder activity within the Statistics Group. The meeting also covered plans for the next annual stakeholders meeting. The plan is to hold this in October / November and it is possible that PAMS might contribute to the format. It was also suggested that

more than 1 session could be run simultaneously and that more junior staff might talk about their work.

## **6. Improving Local Indicators – PAMS (09) 03**

- 6.1 Sara talked the group through her paper which outlined work, led by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), to improve upon the existing menu of local indicators (which is based on the most commonly used indicators – not necessarily the best). It is hoped that a new menu will be produced by October although work will continue after this to further improve it. Celia mentioned that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Strategic Migration Partnership is looking at similar work and that GROS also have an interest from a (Healthy) Life Expectancy perspective.

## **7 Demography Statistics Plan – PAMS (09) 04**

- 7.1 Kirsty MacLachlan presented an early draft of the Demography Statistics Plan and advised that comments were welcome, either at the meeting or afterward. A consultation on the draft plan would be published on the GROS website by the end of July with the final plan due to be published by the end of November.

- 7.2 Jan said he felt that there was a need for more details in the plan and Andrew Macartney suggested he would add key business objectives either to the main body of the plan or as an annex. Jenny pointed out that the plan did not currently mention the publication of sub-national population projections. This would be added and further comments were welcome.

**Action: Andrew Macartney**

- 7.3 Jan asked whether there was any planned follow-up to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) demography research projects. Kirsty MacLachlan explained that the work would continue through the Centre for Population Change (which should also be mentioned in the stats plan). Kirsty offered to circulate a paper on this and mentioned that an update would be given at the next Population and Household Statistics stakeholder event (see 12.2 below).

**Actions: Kirsty MacLachlan to circulate paper,  
Andrew Macartney to add to the stats plan**

## **8. Non-Census Issues**

### **(a) Population and Migration Statistics – PAMS (09) 05**

- 8.1 Celia picked out some of the main points from the paper. She mentioned that the team would need to consider possible timetables for sub-national population projections as variant projections may be needed. These would also have to fit in with Strategic Development Planning (SDP) areas and National Park projections.
- 8.2 There hasn't been a Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) meeting for some time but the next one will probably take place after the work with Fife

Council and Ludi Simpson is complete. This is expected to be late summer or early autumn. In the meantime a new staff member has been employed to look at various issues relating to this work such as how sensitive projections are to different fertility assumptions etc.

- 8.3 Spreadsheets have been produced to allow local authorities to perform Quality Assurance of Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE). Permission is required from data suppliers before this can be sent out.
- 8.4 Laura has been working to look at the impact of the differences in methodology, relating to deaths of non residents, used to calculate life expectancy estimates by GROS, ISD and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Her work has compared Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) and shows that Highland is the most affected by the differences. It is likely that GROS will change their methodology to match ISD's and this will have an impact on historic figures. Laura has also produced life expectancy estimates for the 15% most deprived and 85% 'least deprived' datazones in each council area. There was general interest in this amongst local authorities but more discussions may be needed. Sara suggested it might make sense to discuss this at one of the upcoming 1 day events for the menu of local indicators.

#### **(b) COSLA Migration Partnership / Tayside migration report – PAMS (09) 06**

- 8.5 Alasdair talked through the contents of the Tayside Migration Report. He plans to publish it, along with 8 other reports covering other areas of Scotland, in the next few weeks. This work ties in with a similar project being undertaken by the Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) Analysis & Indicators working group. This group plans to publish similar data for local authorities but in an online interactive excel spreadsheet format. This will include Scottish local authorities and the background data from Migration reports will appear on this website.
- 8.6 The report received positive feedback from local authorities. The only comments were that including 'Not disclosed/known' in the school Pupil census data minority ethnic group charts was potentially misleading – most are not from minority ethnic groups. Alasdair agreed but wanted to show the amount of uncertainty there was about the figures, particularly for earlier years. Other comments were that it would be good if commentary were available. This may be possible but would involve a lot of work. Bi-lateral meetings may be set up to discuss this. Finally Jan suggested that an equivalent Scotland-wide report would be useful. Alasdair will look into the possibility of providing commentary and/or a Scotland wide report. A link to the equivalent ONS report was requested.

**Action: Alasdair Anthony**

**Post Meeting Note:** Links to ONS reports are provided below

The migration statistics quarterly report:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15230>

And the first edition of the local area indicators:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15239>

### **(c) Population estimates by ethnicity – progress report – PAMS (09) 07**

- 8.7 Laura presented her paper considering the feasibility of producing population estimates by ethnicity. Early conclusions are that it should be possible to replicate most of the ONS method. She is writing up a more in-depth feasibility report although this work is considered less of a priority than life expectancy and migration work.
- 8.8 Sara mentioned that she would be interested in being kept up to date with progress with this work and suggested that Amy Wilson (Social Justice, involved with the Equalities Measurement Framework) and David Smith (Labour Market Stats) would also be interested. Laura mentioned that Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP) were producing population projections by ethnicity for local authorities and Celia suggested that this might influence the GROS' work.

### **(d) Household Estimates and Projections – PAMS (09) 08**

- 8.9 Dorothy and Martin went over the paper. Dorothy mentioned that a draft SDPA population and household projections paper had been sent to PAMS Local Authority (LA) reps for councils covered by SDPAs and that comments were requested by 5 June. Martin said that Estimates of Households and Dwellings 2008 had been published on 14 May. He also mentioned that, despite a delay to the plans to abolish Council Tax, work to identify suitable replacement data sources would continue so that an alternative source would be in place if and when this happens.

### **(e) Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis - PAMS (09) 09**

- 8.10 Andrew Macartney talked over the paper. He mentioned that he would welcome feedback on a number of issues including the sub-Scotland data sources section recently added to the GROS website and the usefulness of factsheets. He explained that work to publish the remaining Census tables had progressed but was currently delayed due to a lack of IT resources.
- 8.11 Kirsty MacLachlan mentioned that the planned publication timetable showed the 2009 Mid-year Estimates (MYEs) as due for publication in April 2010 but that there had been discussions about delaying until May 2010 in order to coincide with ONS and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who were considering bringing their publications forward. Jenny wasn't too keen on the idea but suggested that a relatively short delay would be acceptable. She expressed concern that if ONS and NISRA failed to publish on time GROS' publication could end up being significantly delayed. Jan mentioned that he had spoken to Andrew White who had suggested there could be a delay to the 2009 estimates. Andrew said that contacts in ONS had said that the International Passenger Survey (IPS) might not be available until

later than normal due to changes being made to the survey. He would investigate this further.

**Action: Andrew White**

- 8.12 Andrew Macartney then updated the group regarding progress on the issues raised by stakeholders at the PAMS conference. Progress had been made on most of the points. He offered to give an update on investigations into 'ways of sharing data and information in a controlled environment' at the next meeting.

**Action: Andrew Macartney**

## **9. 2011 Census**

### **(a) 2011 Census Progress Report – PAMS (09) 10**

- 9.1 Sandy presented the paper which referred to the recent Census rehearsal. There had been a 44% response rate and 11% of respondents completed the form on-line. The first data from the rehearsal is expected to become available to GROS towards the end of August, and this will feed into the evaluation work to be carried out ahead of the Census Order (late Oct 2009) and Regulations (early 2010) being laid before the Scottish Parliament.
- 9.2 There was interest in the use of the on-line method of response. This hadn't really been publicised for the rehearsal but had been used by a reasonable number of respondents nonetheless. It was thought it might be interesting to look at the quality of on-line responses as opposed to paper responses and that it would also be interesting to look at the demographics of the two groups.
- 9.3 Jenny asked whether a Census Quality Survey (CQS) was planned for the actual Census (as opposed to just the rehearsal as in 2001). Sandy confirmed that it was planned to run a CQS after the 2011 Census.

### **(b) Census Output Geographies – PAMS (09) 11**

- 9.4 Sandy went over the next paper, explaining that essentially the same approach used in 2001 was planned for 2011. He noted the intention to produce standard 2011 Census outputs for datazones due to the importance of Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) to many users. While continuity with 2001 will be important in creating the census output areas for 2011, there will require to be some changes to take account of population shifts (e.g. new builds and demolitions) and changes to local authority or locality boundaries. As SNS datazones are constructed from census output areas, any changes to the latter will have the potential for affecting the former. The implementation of the draft National Statistics statistical geography coding and naming policy may mean that meaningful labelling could be added to some standard codings (e.g. for datazones).
- 9.5 A number of other issues were outlined and it was suggested that a group (possibly a sub-group of PAMS along with representatives from St Andrews University, SNS and the Data Library) should be formed to discuss these. There had been interest from local authorities at the morning meeting in

contributing to the work of such a group, and it was agreed that Sandy would contact Jenny to seek some LA nominees.

**Action(?): Sandy Taylor**

### **(c) Population base for Census 2011 – PAMS (09) 12**

- 9.6 Kirsty MacLean talked the group through the paper which outlined GROS' plans to use an enumeration base of 6 months and then to use modelling to produce a 12 month output base. The 6 month enumeration base would be more or less consistent with 2001 whilst the 12 month output base would be consistent with ONS plans for 2011. It emerged that the paper had not been fully understood at the morning LA meeting and that the addition of a summary table in the paper might be useful along with some other modifications.
- 9.7 Some questions were raised about how the modelling would be performed. This would be done in conjunction with ONS and would probably use the responses in England & Wales to the intention to stay question (not asked in Scotland) as well as responses to other relevant variables. If the intention to stay responses were not deemed to be of good enough quality then a method not relying on this question could be used.
- 9.8 It was pointed out that it would be necessary to revise earlier mid-year estimates (pre-2001) in order to maintain the time series as these were not based on a 12 month output base as the post 2011 estimates will be.
- 9.9 Jenny agreed that Scotland shouldn't ask an intention to stay question and Alistair suggested that if GROS felt confident about the modelling option then that seemed a sensible solution.
- 9.10 It was agreed that the paper should be revised before being sent out to a wider group of people, including the Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP). Celia also offered to update on work to produce an estimate of short term migrants – this will give an idea of the number of people who might be in a 6 month base but not in a 12 month base.

**Action: Celia Macintyre and Kirsty MacLean**

### **10 Population Projections by Disability – Oral update**

- 10.1 Jan updated the group on this work which had been carried out by Manchester University. The work is now complete and Glasgow City council are evaluating it. It uses prevalence rates from the Health Survey for England (HSE) in relation to Limiting Long Term Illness. It is an issue how the estimates from the modelled prevalence rates relate to more direct estimates of disabled populations from other data sources, e.g. the Scottish Household Survey. Alison suggested that Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and the Glasgow Centre for Population Studies might have figures for the area. Jan also mentioned that Manchester University plan to add a module to the POPGROUP software, which will apply disability prevalence rates to projected populations.

**11 Any Other Business**

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

12.1 The next meeting should include items on census alternatives and census outputs. It may be best to arrange this for September rather than the usual November slot.

12.2 The next Population and Household Statistics stakeholder event will be held on 30 October 2009 at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh. Details will appear on the GROS website shortly: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/user-consultation-groups-seminars/seminars/index.html>.