

<b>POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS (PAMS) COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)</b>
--

**Population Projections**

1. As the result of customer requests high and low life expectancy, high and low fertility and a zero migration variant have been produced at local authority level. These variants will be published on the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) website on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011. These variants were approved by the Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) in October 2010. They are consistent with the equivalent Office for National Statistics (ONS) variants.
2. At the PPWG meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010, it was agreed that as most of the work in the original plan was complete and the group had achieved what it had been set up to do, there was no need to have any further meetings of the group. In future, matters dealing with population projections, along with the outstanding items on the PPWG work plan, should be dealt with at the PAMS meetings.
3. The items remaining on the PPWG work plan, to be carried forward by PAMS, are:
  - 3.1 Mortality and fertility scaling factors – no further development work is planned but varying the scaling factors across time for each local authority rather than using the same value for the duration of the projection period could be looked at in the future subject to resources. It would require changes to the GROS projection system so this is not a simple investigation.
  - 3.2 Controlling the results to the national total – it was reported that the uncontrolled options had not been investigated yet. There was a request for the population projections to be run using the uncontrolled options as it was felt that it would be useful to see the results. There are different levels of uncontrolled projections that would have to be considered. One option would involve using the same inputs but not controlling the outputs from the projection system to the national totals. The other option would be a completely uncontrolled projection, where none of the inputs are constrained to national figures. This would be a more in-depth investigation, and would effect the migration assumptions, births and deaths inputs as these are all controlled to the national totals as some stage in the projection process. No investigative work is planned on uncontrolled projections at present but if resource was available it would be considered.
  - 3.3 Migration assumptions for population projections – there was a request for long-term migration assumptions to have variable values, rather than the same values for each year (i.e. to have a separate migration assumption for each year of the projection period). It was noted that the current method meant that sub-national projections were consistent with the national projections produced by ONS but it may be possible to investigate if there is a suitable national variant that can be adapted to work with the sub-national methodology. The current projection system is inflexible and works on the basis of there being up to six run in years and a long term migration assumption for the remainder of the projection period. At present there is not the resource to allow us to

investigate changing the projection system to allow for individual migration assumptions for each year of the projection system.

4. At the meeting, producing a variant for migration converging to zero was discussed. ONS produce this variant but only at UK level, and therefore the current GROS projection system could not replicate this variant at sub-national level as we do not have national level data.

Population & Migration Branch  
December 2010