

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (PAMS) (SCOTLAND)
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**Minutes of the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland):
21 January 2011**

Present:

Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Alistair Harvey	Edinburgh City Council
Iain Stewart	Renfrewshire Council
Paul McNamara	Stirling Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
David Duncan-Fraser	UK Statistics Authority
Kateryna McKinnon	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Richard Lawder	NHS ISD
Chris Dibben	St Andrews University
Kirsty MacLachlan (chair)	GROS Demography
Sandy Taylor	GROS Census Outputs
Laura Murison	GROS Census Processing Surveys and Quality
Dorothy Watson	GROS Household Estimates and Projections
Dylais Mattison	GROS Population and Migration Statistics
Keira Murray	GROS Population and Migration Statistics
Harvey Snowling	GROS Population and Migration Statistics
Alasdair Anthony	GROS Population and Migration Statistics

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed the group, noting apologies from Alison Burlison, Peter Scrimgeour, Frank Dixon, Esta Clark and Thomas Robertson.

2. Minutes of previous meeting ([Paper 14 PAMS \(10\) 29](#))

- 2.1 The minutes were approved. Kirsty mentioned that the GROS strategy review paper was on hold pending the merger with National Archives Scotland (NAS). Kirsty also gave a brief update on the Centre for Population change. Four researchers were currently working at Ladywell House, and a workshop on fertility had been held recently. An article covering the work of the Centre for Population Change has recently been published in Population Trends:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=2579>

3. Update on action points (PAMS (11) 01)

- 3.1 Action 4.9 – It was felt that this action point should be succeeded by another action for the issue to be raised elsewhere.

- 3.2 **Action** – Kirsty to write (as chair of PAMS) to Rob Wishart requesting that the Scottish Government pursue small area income statistics work.
- 3.3 Action 9.4 – Link to the Migrant Survey feasibility report:
<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/abstracts/occ92.html>
- 3.4 Action 8.8 – Jan said that he would like more information on the programme for the summer school being organised by Paul Norman. There would be interest in an event in Scotland but it should be advertised beyond PAMS members.
- 3.5 **Action** – Esta to circulate the programme for the summer school on 29 June to 1 July and ask Paul about the possibility of doing an event on their projections in Scotland.
- 3.6 Action 10.7 - Covered later in meeting. Action closed but will continue to report.
- 3.7 Action 10.9 - Ongoing - Kirsty to add communal establishment population estimates at datazone level to the Statistics Plan draft
- 3.8 All other action points were closed.

4. 2011 Census Progress Report (Paper 2 PAMS (11) 02)

- 4.1 Sandy reviewed the main points from the paper. Paul said that through his work as a census team leader he had found that quite a few potential enumerators had failed to turn-up for interview/testing and he thought it would be worthwhile investigating the reasons for this. He would feed-back his comments through the normal census channels.
- 4.2 Kateryna asked if there was a timetable for census outputs. Sandy replied that the outputs would be released in stages starting in summer 2012 and continuing through to spring 2013.
- 4.3 Jenny asked if there were any plans for road shows on the census outputs consultation. Sandy explained that there weren't any plans for road shows at the moment but they would be considered.
- 4.4 Disclosure control methodology has been agreed in principle across the United Kingdom (UK) census offices but the details of record swapping were still to be finalised.
- 4.5 Jan asked if the software for census outputs would have the capability to allow aggregation to user defined areas. Sandy said that Space-Time Research had been chosen to provide the census output software and it would allow area aggregation.

5. Census Quality Assurance (QA) Work (Papers 3 to 7- PAMS (11) 03-07)

- 5.1 Laura reviewed the main points from the five papers. She asked for template responses by May but said it would be acceptable to wait until the end of the year if it meant more up to date data would be available.
- 5.2 Kateryna noted that there was no representative on the Census Data Quality Advisory (CDQA) Working Group from the islands. Although working group members weren't there to represent their area, it was still felt that there should be representation from someone with knowledge of the issues that specifically affect the island areas.
- 5.3 **Action** – Laura to contact Kateryna to find out about potential CDQA working group members from the islands.
- 5.4 It was noted that there was some confusion between this request for data for census quality assurance and a request for data snap-shots for use in census alternatives work.
- 5.5 **Action** – Laura and Kirsty to write formally to local authorities clarifying what data is requested from them in relation to census quality assurance and census alternatives work.
- 5.6 **Action** – Laura to circulate minutes of last week's Census Data Quality Advisory Group meeting to PAMS.
- 5.7 GROS are producing summaries of published data to be used in the early stages of Census quality assurance. Laura said that once these have been collated, (probably in May) they could be shared with PAMS.

6. Population base (PAMS Papers 8 (11) 08 and 9(11)09)

- 6.1 Alasdair reviewed the main points of the two papers. Members were generally happy with the conclusion that no adjustment to remove people staying 6 to 12 months needed to be made. However, it was felt that this decision needed formal approval as it related to a UK Statistics Authority requirement. Kirsty said that the work had just been completed in time to go to PAMS and the decision would be put to the UK Census Committee to ratify.
- 6.2 **Action** – Peter Scrimgeour to seek formal approval at the UK Census Committee for the proposal relating to 6-12 month migrants.
- 6.3 Kirsty noted that there was a very informative paper on census population bases due to be published in Population Trends soon.

7. Beyond 2011

- 7.1 Ganka gave a presentation on current progress and future plans for census alternatives work in the UK and Scotland. Kirsty noted that there was other data linkage work on-going, for example the linkage of health and social care data sets. Chris gave the Scottish Health Informatics Programme as another example.

- 7.2 Jenny noted that alternative ways of conducting a census had been considered following the 2001 Census. Ganka said that this work would be re-visited. Jan asked what would happen if more funding was allocated to census alternatives work in Scotland. Ganka said that this would enable work on the use of administrative data to be intensified, as administrative sources were sometimes different in Scotland to the rest of the UK. However, much of the work relies on data sharing legislation and the possibility of preparing a new Act of Parliament was under consideration.

8. GROS Demography Statistics Consultation and UK Statistics Authority assessment

- 8.1 The GROS statistics consultation is due to close on the 9th February. The UK Statistics Authority was also consulting users now in relation to their assessment of GROS statistics. David said he expected a draft Population and Migration assessment report to be ready by the end of February. The report would then go to the April meeting of the UK Statistics Authority board.
- 8.2 Jenny asked if there would be any feedback on the GROS statistics consultation. Kirsty said that a summary of responses and GROS' response to them would be published after the consultation had closed and the responses analysed.

9. Newly formed Households

- 9.1 Dorothy gave a brief update on behalf of Thomas. Thomas has reviewed and taken forward Esther's previous work, making sure it was all easier to update with new projections data. Next step will be to clearly document this work and discuss with users. After this he will look to draw conclusions about how the results can best be used to inform Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

10. ScotStat Board Update (Paper 10 PAMS (11) 10)

- 10.1 Jenny reviewed the main points of her ScotStat board update.

11. Branch Updates

Household Estimates and Projections

- 11.1 Dorothy reviewed the update paper. Jan asked if the subject of newly formed households would be on the agenda for Household Analysis Review Group (HARG). Thomas does plan to submit a paper on this topic for the next HARG meeting which is scheduled for March/April later this year.
- 11.2 Dorothy also mentioned that there may need to be a change in the way communal establishment data is shared with local authorities for validation. This would be covered in more detail at HARG.

Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis

- 11.3 Members reported that there were no major problems following the website re-vamp. Although some previous bookmarks did not now work, the structure of the website was such that it was easy to find the pages required.

- 11.4 Jan asked if a specific date for the mid-year population estimates had been set. Alasdair said that the estimates would be published on the 27th April 2011.
- 11.5 It was noted that SAPE was absent from the forthcoming publications list. GROS plan to publish 2010 estimates in September 2011.
- 11.6 **Action** – Donna Hosie / Harvey to add SAPE to the forthcoming publications list.

Population and Migration statistics

- 11.7 Alasdair reviewed the update paper. With regards to the local area migration reports, members were happy for them not to be produced any more as long as they could get the data. For the migration spreadsheet they are more interested in counts rather than proportions, and they want to be able to download the data.
- 11.8 Jan Freeke asked for a written Scotland level migration report but others felt that just having the data is enough. The Scotland level report could include survey data and other data sources that are not available at local authority level.
- 11.9 Keira reviewed the paper on population projections. Jenny said she was keen for the remaining items from the Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) not to be forgotten and she would regard taking forward the uncontrolled projections as the priority.
- 11.10 **Action** – Kirsty to add remaining items from PPWG to ‘wish-list’ in the statistics plan.
- 11.11 Harvey reviewed the paper on quality measures for population estimates. Jenny thought that it was interesting work and suggested holding a workshop to look at the data and give feedback. Jan commented that it was important work in view of the need for GROS to have a strategy on when to revise population estimates.
- 11.12 **Action** - Harvey to consider the possibility of holding a workshop on quality measures for population estimates.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 It was noted that the SG response to the datazone consultation was due to be published in April
- 12.2 Kirsty reviewed the suggestions for the agenda for the next meeting:
- Census progress
 - Census quality assurance
 - Beyond 2011
 - UK Statistics Authority assessment
 - GROS demography statistics plan
 - Geography update (to include outcome of data zone boundary consultation).

12.3 Potential user events were discussed. An event lead by Leeds University was suggested, as well as an event on the work of the Centre for Population Change.

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 After 2011 Census – late May/ early June.