

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Scotland's Census 2021

Programme update - May 2016

As members of PAMS are aware, planning has begun for Scotland's Census 2021. A variety of activity has been going on 'behind the scenes' to put in place the various structures and controls for the programme. A lot of focus has been given to identifying the resource required (financial, people and other) particularly those to be recruited over the next six months and beyond.

In the coming weeks, we intend publishing more material on the Scotland's Census website offering background, plans and how we intend keeping people up to date with the work. In the meantime, we provide a variety of updates below against some of the key deliverables and related projects.

Topic Consultation

The programme is keen to start with the uses and users of the census data at the forefront. As most of you will be aware, we have conducted a consultation considering the topics required in 2021. Responses have been published, following Scottish Government guidelines, and a summary report is now being produced. The consultation will be covered in a separate update at the PAMS meeting.

Data Collection

Work has started on a number of the sub-projects, including a more detailed enumeration design (for both households and communal establishments), the hard to enumerate index and field force roles and information needs. Team members have attended a number of events to better understand those groups most likely to require additional support and to make links with organisations representing those groups. We are also working with Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) to identify third sector organisations which may be best placed to offer insight and support our digital assist work.

Data Processing

We are working to document, understand and learn from the experiences of data processing for the 2011 Census. Considerable effort has been put into understanding and documenting 2011 estimation and adjustment and edit and imputation work and the focus for the next six months will centre around prototyping suitable data processing systems.

Outputs and Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC)

Some work on the Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) element of this work has begun. This includes engaging with Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), participating in international groups on dissemination and disclosure and researching various disclosure methodologies. We are also beginning discussions about outputs and SDC with key stakeholders shortly. As part of that, there will be a separate discussion and update during the PAMS meeting.

Geography

Geography is a well-established function within National Records of Scotland (NRS). The team is looking to integrate their plans and deliverables with the Scotland's Census projects that have requirements on them. Certain assumptions have been made to allow their work to progress and these will be continually tested within the team and beyond.

Sourcing and procurement

We have continued to define our sourcing and procurement strategy and intend to begin engaging with the market around the types of goods and services required later in the year.

Impact Assessments

Work has begun to draft an initial Privacy Impact Assessment for the 2021 Census. Discussions with a range of interested stakeholders around privacy will be used to identify all privacy risks so the programme can identify ways to mitigate those risks.

Work is also beginning to draft an Equality Impact Assessment for the programme whilst the needs for other impact assessments is also being considered.

NRS: Statistical Futures
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