

Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) (Scotland)
--

**Minutes of the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland):
28 March 2012**
Present

Jenny Boag
Alison Burlison
Chris Carr
Jan Freeke
Alistair Harvey
Norman Jamieson
Stepanka Jurenova
Paul McNamara
Ken MacKinnon
Ian White
Alasdair Anthony (minutes)

Elisabeth Boyling
Esta Clark
Valerie Hale
Celia Macintyre
Craig McCarter
Keira Murray
Ganka Mueller
Esther Roughsedge
Peter Scrimgeour
Kirsty MacLachlan
Sandy Taylor

Organisation

Falkirk Council
NHS Information Services Division (ISD)
Argyll & Bute Council
Glasgow City Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Church of Scotland
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Stirling Council
Bord na Gàidhlig
Office for National Statistics (ONS)
National Records of Scotland (NRS)
Population and Migrations Statistics
NRS Data Access and Communications
NRS Population and Migrations Statistics
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Census
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Population and Migrations Statistics
NRS Alternative Sources
NRS Household Estimates and Projections
NRS Census
NRS Demography
NRS Census

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed the group, noting apologies from Hervey Gibson, Lorraine Cook, Kirsty Markie, Konrad Zdeb and Frank Dixon.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (PAMS (11))

- 2.1 The minutes were approved.

3. Update on action points (PAMS paper 1 (12) 01)

- 3.1 Action 2011.1 is ongoing. Jenny said that Glen Bramley had started some work which was assisted by the Scottish Government.
- 3.2 Action 2011.5 is ongoing. Valerie will report further work at Household Analysis Review Group (HARG).
- 3.3 Action 2011.6 is complete.
- 3.4 Action 2011.7 is complete. Sandy said it is the intention to publish the census count of the number of households in each local authority as part of the first release.

- 3.5 Action 2011.8 is complete. Sandy explained that a true exact fit to national park (NP) boundaries is not possible from our underlying set of postcode boundaries but the aim is to align the boundaries output areas (which are built up from groups of postcodes) with NP boundaries as best as possible.
- 3.6 Action 2011.9 is complete.
- 3.7 Action 2011.10 is on going. A note will be circulated when Celia has reviewed what information has been received and what is required.

4. 2011 Census progress (PAMS Paper 2 (12) 02)

- 4.1 Peter introduced the paper and gave an overview of the main points. Seven new staff have been recruited since the last PAMS meeting. The processing site at Livingston is in the process of being closed down. The aim is to publish the first release of results in November.
- 4.2 Celia spoke about the data quality assurance progress. The checks to date have used pre-edit and imputation data and have included analysis of known problem areas such as students, armed forces and communal establishments. Initial findings have been presented to colleagues in NRS Demography division. It is anticipated that the external data quality group will be involved after the data has gone through the estimation process.
- 4.3 Sandy raised the main points relating to Census outputs. The outputs prospectus will be released in the next couple of months and will provide further details on outputs. Work is continuing on reviewing and updating the table designs that were published on the website last June. A prototype of the dissemination system has been developed and will soon be available for user testing. Invitations to participate in testing will be issued shortly.
- 4.4 Jenny asked if representatives from all local authorities could be included in the Census dissemination system testing. Sandy agreed with this suggestion.
- 4.5 Action 2012.01 Sandy to invite representatives from all local authorities to participate in testing of the Census dissemination system.
- 4.6 Jenny indicated that an external data quality group pre-meeting probably wasn't necessary. Jan asked for the July date for the meeting of group to be arranged soon as it falls in the holiday period.
- 4.7 Jenny raised concerns about the first release of data being November, particularly as the first release of data for the rest of the UK is anticipated to be in July. Ken noted that the way these issues are reported in the press can exacerbate the problem.
- 4.8 Kirsty agreed that there would be handling issues. Ian noted that ONS had originally planned for a first release in October. Peter said that Ministers had been informed and that lines to take in response to any questions were being prepared.
- 4.9 Jenny noted that she and others were happy that NRS was going to publish a set of 2001-based mid-2011 population estimates.

4.10 Jan asked when the output prospectus would be published and if it would have a timetable for release dates. Sandy said that it would be released towards the end of May and would have an indication of timings but not precise dates.

5. Proposed outputs from the Census in England and Wales (Powerpoint presentation)

5.1 Ian gave a presentation describing the 2011 Census outputs and dissemination for England and Wales.

5.2 Among other issues, Ian highlighted that some of the terminology for the types of tables will be different to previous outputs from the previous census. Terms such as 'quick statistics' have been introduced. Paul asked if the new terminology would be harmonised across the UK. Sandy said that there may be some differences in terminology but that it would be harmonised where appropriate.

5.3 Alistair asked when the flows data would be released. Ian indicated that this data would be available subsequent to the fourth data release. Ian also clarified that each release would include data at all geography levels except for the first release which would only have data at national and local authority level.

6. Beyond 2011 (PAMS Paper 3 (12) 03)

Elisabeth went through the main points of the paper, noting that a main aim is to develop the evidence base on user needs. She circulated a copy of the [Feedback from Attendees](#) for the 2011 PAMS conference. The report is available on the National Records of Scotland website.

6.1 Elisabeth also circulated a questionnaire on use of census data that was originally intended for use at the ScotStat Data Linkage conference but was not used due to a lack of time.

6.2 Paul noted that Census data was probably at a low point in usage at the moment but that interest would increase when the 2011 data was released. Chris asked if consideration could be given to data that there is a demand for but isn't collected in the Census. In discussion it was noted that cross-tabulations are an important benefit of census data. It was decided that the circulation of the questionnaire should be postponed until after the release of data from the 2011 Census.

6.3 Chris stated that the Census was the only source of cross-population health measures, other data relied on people visiting health-care services. Paul noted that ethnicity data is frequently requested. Ken agreed that identity factors were important. He also said he wasn't convinced that census alternatives could provide the data needed for higher order studies of society. Kirsty noted that all options were on the table and that a public consultation would be forthcoming.

6.4 Ian said that in England and Wales there would be a shortlist of about six options for Beyond 2011 work. Information leaflets on Beyond 2011 would be published in April.

6.5 Jenny asked if external members were still being sought for the Beyond 2011 board. It was noted that Paul Davidson of Stirling Council may have expressed interest.

6.6 Action 2012.03 Kirsty to circulate the minutes of the Beyond 2011 board to help potential external members decide if they would like to join.

- 6.7 Jenny expressed concern that the data linkage consultation sent by Roger Halliday had not gone to the correct people in local authorities and it hadn't been released through ScotStat.
- 6.8 Action 2012.04 Kirsty to establish who the data linkage consultation has been sent to and if it should be distributed to other people and/or through ScotStat.

7. Branch updates –

Household estimates and projections (PAMS Paper 4 (12) 04)

- 7.1 Alistair raised the issue of how people in Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) are classified in the household projections. In Edinburgh the population was increasing but there was no substantial house building so the pattern of occupancy of current houses was likely to be changing. However, the household projections could be interpreted to mean that there was a great demand for new houses.
- 7.2 Esther said that the way people in HMO are classified would depend on how they were enumerated in the Census; in most cases, they are probably treated as a single household. Esther also discussed some of the options for improvements to household projections.
- 7.3 Jan asked if there had been further discussions about Housing Market Area (HMA) projections. It was noted that the Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) would be represented at the forthcoming Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) meeting and that further dialog between HARG/PAMS members and the CHMA would be beneficial.
- 7.4 The committee members were happy to accept the proposal for changing the definitions of the numbers of long-term residents in adult care communal establishments.

Population and migration (PAMS Paper 5 (12) 05)

- 7.5 The committee members said that they would like the Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) to be produced but there was not much demand for the Centenarians data or Life Expectancy. The members said that they didn't see a need for the cross-border migration or the population by country of birth and nationality data to be published quarterly, although an annual publication of this data would be valued.
- 7.6 Jenny reported that many local authority representatives felt that the projections for their areas were too high. It was appreciated that each area had to take its share of the total increase projected for Scotland and that the data was a projection of current trends. However, it was felt that in some cases the projections did not look feasible and there would be a knock-on effect for the household projections, which are often regarded as a measure of housing requirement.

Statistical Information Services (PAMS paper 6 (12) 06)

- 7.7 Jenny asked what the timescale was for the implementation of a new website. Kirsty said that the plan was to have a merged Information Technology (IT) system for NRS in place by the end of the year and that a new website would be developed in tandem with this. It was also noted that the new NRS logo would be launched on 10 April.

8. Improvement Service area profiles

- 8.1 In the absence of a representative from the Improvement Service, Jenny updated the group on the area profile work done by the Improvement Service. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Improvement Service to be represented at both the morning and afternoon PAMS meetings.

9. ScotStat Board update (PAMS Paper 7 (12) 07)

- 9.1 Jenny talked through the main points from the paper.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 There was no other business.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The committee members felt that the next meeting should be around late September, as this would fall between the first release of the Census data for England and Wales (expected July) and the corresponding release of data for Scotland (expected November/December).
- 11.2 The committee members were keen to hear more on Beyond 2011 and also for a representative from ONS to discuss their Census data.