

## Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

### Scotland's Census 2021

#### Programme-wide update

##### Summary

The team is continuing to expand and an enormous amount of effort is going into designing and preparing for Scotland's Census 2021.

A number of additional staff have been recruited since the last PAMS meeting in November, including appointing a Head of Delivery, a Programme Manager and additions to our Business & Technical Architecture, Admin data and Programme Management Office teams.

Two of our major procurements have been launched. One for the Online Collection Instrument and one for our Data Collection Operational Management System. We will also shortly be awarding a tender for assistance with Question Testing.

##### Outputs & Statistical Disclosure Control

The outputs and statistical disclosure control team continue to work with colleagues in Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and other external stakeholders to develop the Statistical Disclosure Control methodology for 2021.

We have also begun considering the scope, timing and format of the outputs we will produce for 2021. We are keen to seek further input and feedback from a wider group of stakeholders about our current thinking and plan to hold stakeholder events in June and throughout 2017. We will be in touch with members of PAMS when dates are confirmed.

##### Geography

Our Geography team has worked with the Data Collection team to aid some travel time research to aid field force plans. Work is also continuing on planning and field work areas for review and quality assurance.

##### Questions and questionnaire design

The Questions and questionnaire design team have been taking forward a programme of work to get detailed information on user need across the ten topic areas identified for further consideration in the [Topic Consultation report \(published in August 2015\)](#). Since publication, we have been working with a range of data users and undertaking research to further inform our plans. As part of this, in early 2017, Ipsos Mori carried out public acceptability testing for sexual orientation and gender identity on behalf of National Records of Scotland (NRS), ONS and NISRA throughout the UK.

A series of [Scotland's Census 2021 Topic events](#) have also taken place, to provide an update about the research that is on-going and invite discussion:

- In January, a stakeholder event covering the potential topics of sexual orientation and gender identity was held. A summary of the event is available on the website.
- In April, a stakeholder event on Ethnicity, National Identity, Religion, and Language was well attended. A survey to collect information on detailed user need, and suggestions for changes to the existing questions is still open. A summary of the event and the survey findings will be published on the website following the completion of the survey.
- We held a further event in April on health and care/ long-term conditions.

Further engagement will take place throughout 2017, alongside a programme of question testing, before finalising a set of proposed questions for 2021.

### **Statistical Methods and Data Processing**

Further development on essential metadata and data modelling are being carried out by the Statistical Methods and Data Processing team. Initial requirements gathering and planning on the Estimation and Adjustment methodology work has also begun.

### **Data Collection**

The Data Collection team conducted some small scale enumeration research in Edinburgh and Dumfries over two weekends in March. The purpose of this research was to gather evidence on travel times between households in varying geographic areas with different characteristics. Stakeholder engagement continues and the team has held useful early sessions with a number of representatives of Communal Establishments.

### **Admin Data**

The Admin Data team have been working with a number of stakeholders including the Admin Data Research Network in Scotland, ONS and NISRA to discuss on-going work on data sharing and data sharing processing agreements. The Digital Economy Bill has gained Royal Assent paving the way for onwards transmission of information to the Devolved Administrations.

### **Communications, Stakeholder Engagement and Legislation**

We published the first version of the Scotland's Census 2021 Privacy Impact Assessment in January. Whilst it reflects that some of the programme's specific processes, procedures and operational aspects are not yet fully defined, it evidences that we have begun to explore the various issues involved and wish feedback on it.

In March we issued a survey to all who subscribe to Scotland's Census newsletter to learn about areas of interest in the census, what people want to hear more about and whether they would like to get more involved in our planned activity. We have received a large number of responses and they will help us improve the content of future newsletters and

website content. We will also be in touch with those who asked to hear more or get more involved in planning for the 2021 Census.

**Action point from the last PAMS meeting**

At the last PAMS meeting we took away an action to ask for nominations to form a Scotland's Census 2021 PAMS subgroup. To date we have only received one response from PAMS members to this specific request and therefore we would like some feedback on how you would like us to engage with you going forward.

At the meeting today we are presenting a selection of work we thought you would find interesting; the Hard to Count Index, how we might group councils when processing the data, as well as asking about the user requirements from this group for migration questions, building on the topic consultation responses we published in August last year. There is the potential to share work on our enumeration strategies and other operational related work if that would be of interest.

**Therefore PAMS are invited to say:**

a) Do we need a specific subgroup of PAMS?

or

b) Are your needs catered for through a combination of the main PAMS meeting and other stakeholder events for example topic events, output working group/planned output engagements, newsletters?

We could come back to whether a group is needed at a later date if PAMS members feel it is needed and there are likely to be times when we would like to convene a group to get feedback on particular items.

**NRS: Statistical Futures  
May 2017**