

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

### 2021 Census Programme Update

#### Progress since last PAMS meeting

#### Overall Programme Progress

1. Since October 2014, work has continued both in terms of scoping the 2021 Programme and developing programme structure and governance.
2. Up until very recently, the 2021 Programme has been run with a joint Board with the 2011 Census Programme. However, as we reach the closing stages of 2011, we have been considering how we best govern the on-going work to ensure that we deliver a high quality census 2021 operation and data as well as delivering benefits to National Records of Scotland (NRS) and across the wider Scottish Public sector. We have been working with the Scottish Government Consultancy team to look at potential associated programmes with whom we could/should form partnerships. Some of the areas we are currently exploring are procurement, public engagement, and the development of shared tools other bodies. These conversations are still at an early stage but are helping us to think about where our programme should sit alongside other large (potentially) transformational ones.
3. We have a new Programme Manager – Geoff Duke – started 24 March. This – and the subsequent establishment of a 2021 Programme Management Office (PMO) - will be enormously helpful to the Programme. Geoff is currently focussing on the development of programme structures and documentation as well as developing the business case and resourcing strategy.
4. As this work progresses, we will continue to grow as a team. At present there are 18 people working on the programme and we expect that this number will approximately double by the end of 15/16.
5. Over the last six months we have been reviewing the 2011 statistical methodology to ensure that we fully understand methods and programme and are looking for opportunities to make improvements for 2021. We are concentrating our research on the methods we use to assess under and over-count in the census and our imputation methodology. We have also been working closely with Information Services Division (ISD) to develop an activity flag from health data. The final approval for accessing the data has recently been granted and we hope to start this work shortly.
6. We are continuing work to develop our overall design and enumeration strategy. This work – understanding who we will be enumerating, how we will contact them, follow up etc is central to the 2021 planning and cost considerations. As always, we are learning much from Office for National Statistics (ONS), but are keen to ensure that the approach that we adopt is fit for our purposes.

7. We have continued to spend a lot of time assessing the quality of the output from 2011 and reviewing all parts of the programme. This work fulfills a dual purpose in that it is part of the controlled closure work required for 2011 as well as helping us ensure that we understand the lessons to be learned for 2021 (both positive and negative).

### **Looking forward**

8. Over the forthcoming 6 months, we are aiming to have fully established the programme structure and have clear aims and objectives agreed – and published – for the programme. We will be focussing on growing the team, on refining our design, developing a first draft methodology and also our costing.
9. We plan to have started work defining our sourcing and procurement strategy and to be beginning to engage with the market around the types of goods and services are available.
10. ONS are planning their first topic consultation in the summer. We will not be consulting at the same time, but are likely to be carrying out consultation work towards the end of the year (to be confirmed). This consultation would be seeking users' views on the list of question topics to be asked - not on the specifics of these topics.
11. Throughout all of this, we continue to work closely with colleagues in ONS and also in Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

### **Key Risks Looking forward**

12. There is clearly a lot to be done over a fairly short timescale and we need to agree the scope of the programme with key stake holders very soon to ensure that we have a shared understanding of what we are delivering.
13. We face particular challenges as some key programme team members are having to work on other NRS priority programme in the short term. Looking forward, we also face challenges around the scale of the recruitment required as well as the availability of the skill sets we need going forward.

NRS: Statistical Futures  
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