



**General Register Office for Scotland**  
*information about Scotland's people*

**Consultation on the GROS Demography Statistical  
Work Programme**

**Analysis of Responses**

**22 March 2011**

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the individuals and organisations who contributed to this consultation.

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## Summary

Fifty-nine responses were submitted to our consultation on the future Demography Statistical Work Programme using our specially designed form and a few more were received by e-mail. The result is that we have been provided with a wealth of information about the uses of our outputs and the decisions they inform. We also have valuable information to help us plan our work for the next few years. This report summarises the responses received. The next steps are to produce a draft statistics plan which will be circulated to others for comment and discussed at the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) meeting in May 2011 before the final version of the plan is published on our website.

## **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of responses to the Consultation on The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) Demography Statistical Work Programme carried out from 1 December 2010 to 9 February 2011. GROS asked for views to help determine the shape of its future Demography Statistical Work Programme. The budget reductions announced as part of the 2010 Spending Review mean that GROS has to consider where savings can be found and it is critically important that our statistical outputs reflect our users' priorities.
- 1.2 The consultation was intended to provide the basis for informing the planning of demography statistical work and outputs over the next few years. It sought views on two main areas:-
- What GROS demography statistical outputs are used and how they are used.
  - The impact on users of possible reductions in various areas of GROS demography statistical work.
- 1.3 An outline of the next steps is given in [section 7](#).

## **2. Consultation process**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The consultation was launched on 1 December 2010 and closed on 9 February 2011. It was a web based consultation, with the consultation and supporting background material placed within the Consultation and Groups section of the GROS website.

### **2.2 Consultation document**

- 2.2.1 The document set out the background to the consultation and the topics on which views were being sought. Respondents were asked to consider and comment on specific consultation points regarding the uses and decisions current outputs are used for and for views on various options going forwards. An example of the consultation document is at [Annex A](#).

### **2.3 Promotion of the consultation**

- 2.3.1 We recognised that the consultation needed to reach as wide a range of users as possible. The consultation document was therefore published on the GROS website in order to make it open for anyone to respond. When the consultation was launched members of ScotStat (the Scottish Government's statistical consultation network) were contacted and sent a link to the website. Other users with an interest in our statistics were also contacted including the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency (NISRA), the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), statistical, economic, research and policy colleagues in the Scottish Government (SG), COSLA (who circulated the consultation document to their contacts) and some of the other customers who had asked GROS for information within the past year or so. The consultation link was also sent around various other networks including the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS), the AQMeN network as well as members of our Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) and the wider PAMS network.

In addition, the links were also sent to a range of Vital Statistics user networks including: the Scottish Public Health Observatory Steering Group, the Scottish Suicide Information Database Steering Group, and the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths. Depending upon the type of user, no, one or two reminders were sent during the consultation period.

2.3.2 The consultation was therefore widely publicised through a combination of email alerts and the notice on our website.

## 2.4 Responses and respondents

2.4.1 In total, 59 responses to the consultation were submitted using our response template provided on the consultation page on the GROS website and a small number were also received by e-mail.

2.4.2 Each respondent replying via our template classified themselves to one of ten (GROS defined) categories. In the analysis of responses, this gave a broad indication of the variety of user interest and requirements. The profile of respondents is summarised in Table 1 and a list of individual respondents (who were happy for their response to be made publically available) is given in [Annex B](#). The largest single group of respondents were from Local Authorities, who are one of our main users, however having said that, both the number and variety of responses are considered healthy for a consultation of this kind.

**Table 1 Number of respondents by type**

Type of respondent	Number
Central Government department	6
Government agency	2
Local government	23
Higher/further education	3
NHS	9
Private/commercial organisation	2
Charity	5
International organisation	0
Media	0
Other	8
Blank	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

## 2.5 Analysing responses

2.5.1 If a response was submitted which did not answer the consultation point(s) directly, it was treated as a general comment. If a comment was made but the tick box was not checked then the tick box was not counted in the summary results for [table 2](#), similarly for [table 3](#). The comment was still included in the summaries of the comments.

2.5.2 Some respondents appeared to repeat the same statements for many of the outputs - for example, one put 'Research, publication, teaching' against 23 of the outputs; another put 'Inform policy and service provision' against 14 of them. In producing some of the summaries in [Section 3](#), less weight has been given to such responses than to comments which are clearly specific to a particular output.

## **2.6 Interpretation of findings**

2.6.1 The purpose of the consultation was to give a wide range of users the opportunity to comment on some options for our statistical work programme. Those replying did so voluntarily, each with their own particular motivation and interpretation of the issues involved. It should also be kept in mind that, while the consultation was open to anyone who wished to respond, it will tend to have captured the views of established demography users, predominantly those working in organisations such as councils, NHS boards and elsewhere who already make significant use of our outputs. There will be other types of user, for example some voluntary groups or members of the general public, whom GROS could not contact in the ways described in [Section 2.3](#) and who perhaps have made relatively less (or no) use of demography information to date. They will not necessarily have been aware of the consultation (or if they were, perhaps less inclined to submit a response) and their needs will also need to be borne in mind as the future Demography Statistical Work Programme is developed.

## **3. Summary of the use of current outputs and the decisions they inform**

### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 This section summarises the responses to section five of the consultation document which asked 'Below is a list of GROS Demography outputs. To help us understand the uses made of our statistics and services, please mark which of the outputs you use, and state how you use them'. [Table 2](#) shows a summary of the number of responses by tick box that each output received as well as information on the number of web hits by apparently different users of the output.

**Table 2 Use of GROS Demographic outputs (total respondents = 59)**

Output	Number of responses by tick box to say that they used that particular output	Hits on main web pages - number of apparently different users <sup>1</sup>
<b>Population Estimates:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/index.html</a>		
Mid-year population estimates	51	5,462
Small Area Population Estimates	49	663
Settlement and Locality Estimates	31	1,523
Population estimates for other special areas built up from datazones i.e., Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS2), Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Urban Rural, Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (WPC) <sup>2</sup>	36	1,715
Centenarians	3	403
Marital Status	12	289
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality	30	735
<b>Population Projections:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/projections/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/projections/index.html</a>		
Projected Population of Scotland	38	5,088
Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS board areas)	46	3,259
Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas <sup>2</sup>	14	394
<b>Life Expectancy:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/life-expectancy/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/life-expectancy/index.html</a>		
Interim Life tables	14	2,241
Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas (council and NHS board areas)	29	1,127
Life Expectancy for Special Areas (SIMD, Urban Rural, Community Health Partnership Areas, Intermediate Zones, 15% most deprived of a council area) <sup>2</sup>	23	962
<b>Migration:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/index.html</a>		
Total Migration To or From an Area	34	NA
Migration within Scotland	30	678
Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK	30	480
Migration between Scotland and Overseas	29	1,157
Local Area Migration Reports	30	1,227
<b>Vital Events:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/index.html</a>		
Babies' First Names	4	11,193
Births, Marriages and Deaths - Quarterly Figures	18	2,920
Births, Marriages and Deaths - Preliminary Annual Figures	23	4,447
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland	29	2,197
Increased Winter Mortality	13	537
Vital Events Reference Tables	23	4,105
Vital Events Time-Series Tables	20	894
Web sections on Alcohol-related deaths, Clostridium Difficile deaths, MRSA deaths and (probable) Suicides <sup>2</sup>	23	5,096
Weekly and Monthly data on Births and Deaths	6	763
<b>Electoral Statistics:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/index.html</a>		
Electoral Statistics	11	1,217
<b>Household Estimates and Projections:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/index.html</a>		
Estimates of Households and Dwellings	35	2,300
Household Projections for Scotland, 2008-Based <sup>3</sup>	31	813
Household Projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Plan Areas and National Parks <sup>3</sup>	10	224
Small Area Household Estimates	29	NA
Dwelling counts at data zone level	24	NA
<b>Compendia and Summaries:</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/at-a-glance/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/at-a-glance/index.html</a>		
Scotland's Population (Annual Review)	30	6,007
Council Area Profiles	29	NA
High Level Summary of Statistics	20	NA

**Notes:**

1. Google Analytics was used to produce the web hit numbers. It should be noted that we cannot be certain that the number of hits recorded are actually different users. The data for population and vital events outputs are for hits on the main pages between October 2009 and October 2010.
2. The number of hits for these web pages have been combined together from information on hits to two or more pages therefore there may be some double counting of different users.
3. For the household outputs the time period for the analysis varied by output: Estimates of Households and dwelling covered May 2009 to May 2010, Household Projections for Scotland, 2008-based covered a 6 month period (May 2009 to October 2010) and Household Projections for Strategic Development Plan Areas only covered 3 months (August 2010 to October 2010).

- 3.1.2 The three outputs which received the highest number of responses via tick box to say that the output was used were: Mid-year population estimates (51), Small Area Population Estimates (49) and Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS boards) (46). Those outputs with the fewest number of responses to say they were used were: Centenarians (3), Babies' First Names (4) and Weekly and Monthly Births and Deaths (6). However as [table 2](#) also shows there is a "mis-match" between user responses and the web hits for some outputs e.g. Babies First Names (11,000 apparently different users of its home page versus only 4 respondents ticking the box to say they used the output). Therefore the responses to this consultation as well as other evidence will need to be considered when planning for the future.
- 3.1.3 Each output is taken in turn in the remainder of this section and a summary of the comments made on the outputs is given (in some cases non-users comments are included even if they didn't ticked the "use" tick box). Both numbers of those who ticked the boxes to say they used the outputs and the number of people who included written comments are referenced in the following summaries and there are some cases where more people provided comments than ticked the boxes and vice versa. Full comments provided on uses for each output are provided in [Annex C](#).

## 3.2 Population estimates

- 3.2.1 Fifty-one respondents ticked the box to say that they used the **Mid-Year Population Estimates**. A wide range of comments were also made. Common uses mentioned were: resource allocation; feeding into planning and delivering services; calculating rates and performance measures; informing local and national policy; research; weighting surveys; tracking trends; modelling the Scottish economy, and health care planning.
- 3.2.2 **Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)** were said to be used by 49 respondents. Uses, provided by those that made written comments, included: the "flexibility to use datazone estimates as building blocks for user defined geographies", "resource and service planning at a local level", "performance reporting", input to "policy" and "strategic work", "Single Outcome Agreements", "research" and "local development" plans amongst others.
- 3.2.3 **Settlement and Locality Estimates** were reported as being used by 31 respondents. Comments included: supporting information for planning; community and local policy development; as an input to the Scottish Urban Rural Classification which in turn feeds into a range of grant schemes (e.g. Scotland Rural Development Programme); servicing planning and housing needs; resource allocation; local area profiling; land use allocations; and also for answering queries from the general public.
- 3.2.4 **Special Area Population Estimates** for various geographies are used by 36 respondents. Comments were: as denominators for rates, looking at population trends, monitoring and research. They are used in a National Statistics publication on Rural Scotland Key Facts. Population estimates for Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) areas are used for regional differences and for European Programmes. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) populations feed into health targets (e.g. HEAT target H9). Some users, mostly experienced analysts, said that they tended to use the datazone Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) estimates to aggregate up to their own areas rather than use the GROS figures.
- 3.2.5 Estimates of the very elderly in the **Centenarians** publication were said to be used by 3 respondents. Uses they mentioned were: for producing Interim Life Tables for Scotland and the United Kingdom (UK), mortality assumptions for the national projections and

aggregated estimates of the UK very elderly population. One user said that Scotland's ageing population means that these estimates will become increasingly important. Other users said that the estimates were of passing interest, or of general interest.

3.2.6 **Marital Status** estimates were used by 12 respondents. Uses reported were for : equalities frameworks, diversity reports research, producing marriage and divorce rates, estimates of the impact of respiratory infections, an analysis of breast feeding trends, information purposes, and analysis of household composition for policy planning.

3.2.7 **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality** were reported as being used by 30 respondents. Uses included: for supporting planning, understanding population movement, equalities frameworks, evaluating needs for providing English as an additional language to new pupils, survey demographics, public health strategy and planning services, community care planning, papers on factors affecting rural migration, research, reports to the UK Parliament, used to identify minority groups, local and strategic planning, diversity and planning for maternity related services.

### 3.3 Population projections

3.3.1 Several responses note that the **National Population Projections for Scotland** are used for comparison purposes with other countries as well as areas within Scotland including council and NHS board areas. Thirty-eight respondents ticked the box to say that they used them. Other comments include: monitoring national trends, as a control for land-use and forecasting model, calculating housing needs, community care planning, for central government policy, modelling and projecting health indicators, analysis of equality issues, and calculating pupil projections and teacher workforce planning.

3.3.2 **Sub-national projections for administrative areas (council and NHS boards)** are described in several responses as being "key " and "essential". Forty-six respondents said that they used them. The main uses recorded are: for central and local finance allocation, planning and delivering a range of services, informing national and local policy, housing and land use planning, health care planning, monitoring and modelling health indicators, implications of an ageing population, pupil and teacher workforce projections both at a national and local level, weighting surveys, monitoring equality issues, benchmarking other projections and as a control for smaller level projections, Single Outcome Agreements, other publications including Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) Health and Wellbeing Profiles and the ONS Ageing tool, national and international comparisons as well as a wider range of other uses.

3.3.3 Fourteen respondents ticked the box to say that they used **Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas**. Comments included: environmental scanning and planning purposes, used in land-use and transport models, planning housing strategies of Strategic Development Plan Areas, statutory development plans, reference point for projections, comparing to other projections, estimating service requirements for these areas, including health needs.



### 3.4 Life expectancy

- 3.4.1 **Interim (between census years) Life Tables** calculated at single year of age are used by 14 respondents for: considering the impact of chronic infectious diseases, research, strategy and service planning, social service planning and work areas involved in tackling deprivation, equality and social justice, various projections looking at health and health outcomes, health improvement policies, ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles, various analytical projects, comparison with local estimates, outcome measures and reports, as well as reporting frameworks.
- 3.4.2 Twenty-nine respondents said that they used **Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas (council and NHS boards)**. The uses are similar to those above and include: planning related to the equity strategy, monitoring purposes, local reports, Single Outcome Agreements, demand for care and health services, research and teaching, informing policy and service provisions, monitoring trends (changes in health, environmental and social justice), housing needs of an ageing population, key health outcome, various health projects, comparing local and national trends, informing health inequality work, health improvement policies, allocation of resources, ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles, future social care provision, and a summary measure of population health.
- 3.4.3 **Life Expectancy for Special Areas** (e.g. Urban Rural, SIMD, intermediate zones etc) are used by 23 respondents again for similar reasons: planning relating to an equity strategy, used to “identify areas where interventions can be put”, demand for care and health services, research and teaching, publications including ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles, Rural Scotland Key facts, strategy and service planning, highlighting discrepancies within small geographies, lifestyle and health education at small area level, health outcomes, various health projects, to inform health inequality work, health improvement policies at local level, allows comparison across smaller areas and targeting of those areas in greatest need. Other comments were “informs of disparity within a council area” and “Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and intermediate zone values [used] for monitoring population health status and geographic inequalities”.

### 3.5 Migration

- 3.5.1 Thirty-four respondents said that they used **Total Migration to or From an Area**. Uses include: understanding the local population, monitoring, associated links to migration in crimes, research, school roll projections at local and school catchment level, projections of demand for housing and schools, teaching, informing policy and service planning, key data for housing needs demand assessment, helpful for planning services for those whose first language is not English, community care planning, informing rural policy on rural migration issues, population projection work areas, equalities and regeneration, strategy and policy development, population and economic forecasts, ad hoc analysis, estimating migrant groups within an area, modelling, informing local government, evidence for local and strategic planning, monitoring population change as migration has the biggest influence, population dynamics for health service planning. One user commented that GROS’ new products are an improvement and are increasingly important.
- 3.5.2 Uses of **Migration in Scotland** (30 respondents reported use) are: understanding the local population, monitoring and information purposes, associated links to crime, research, school roll projections, teaching, publications e.g. Rural Scotland Key facts, ONS Internal Migration within the UK, service planning, community care planning,

informs debate on understanding push/pull migration factors, population projection work, housing need and demand, strategy and policy development, input for population and economic forecasts, ad hoc analysis, modelling, Single Outcome Agreements, informs Local government, informing policy, identifying areas people are drawn to, useful for supporting local authorities with using the Migration toolkit, general information.

- 3.5.3 **Migration between Scotland the Rest of the UK** (30 respondents) is used for: control in land use and transport forecasting model, servicing planning, research, publication (e.g. ONS Internal Migration within the UK quarterly output), statutory development plans, future housing, monitoring change input for population and economic forecasts, ad hoc analysis, background, modelling, Single Outcome Agreements, informs local government relating migration to economic and employment change, evidence base for local and strategic planning, understanding local housing and labour markets, use with councils and the Migration Toolkit, teaching, school roll projections at local and school catchment area, associated links to crime since criminal networks do not respect boundaries, background information, helpful for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English, survey research, informing rural policy and rural migration issues, equalities and regeneration work.
- 3.5.4 **Migration between Scotland and Overseas** (29 respondents) is used for: service planning, research, publication and teaching, school roll projections, associated links to migration in crimes since criminal networks do not respect boundaries, background, for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English, community care planning, inform rural policy on rural migration issues, statutory development plan, future housing, monitoring change, housing need demand assessments, input for population economic forecasts, ad hoc analysis, modelling, Single Outcome Agreements, informs local government, relate overseas migration to economic and employment change and growth in ethnic diversity, evidence base for local and strategic planning, understanding local housing and labour markets.
- 3.5.5 **Local Area Migration Reports** (30 respondents) are used for: service planning and provision, policy, resource and strategic planning, for projections of demand for housing and schools, background, published on the council website as a useful summary, community care planning, research, informing rural policy on rural migration issues, used in projection work areas, equalities and regeneration, statutory development plans, future housing and development decisions, monitor change and estimate/project impact, to help understand population structure, population and economic forecasts, internal reports and answering internal and external queries, locations of overseas migration, Single Outcome Agreements, informs local government, brings together data into a single document, monitor change and associated service provision, more interested in the data than the report, understanding local housing and labour markets, informs about migration landscape of a particular area, useful as they group neighbouring local authorities together, useful for Migration Toolkit workshops, general info, and community planning.

## 3.6 Vital events

- 3.6.1 Only half-a-dozen respondents commented on **Babies' First Names**, some of whom indicated that it was not particularly important to them - for example: "of passing interest only"; and "interesting, but [body] does not make significant use of Babies' First Names". In terms of 'hits' on the GROS web site, Babies' First Names it is by far the most popular {Vital Events / Demography } output - for example, in a 12-month period, over 11,000 different users accessed the "home page" for the publication compared with only 6,000 for Scotland's Population.

- 3.6.2 Twenty people commented on **Births, Marriages & Deaths - Quarterly Figures** (two saying that it was of little or no use to them). Several local authorities used the figures (e.g.) for "calculating the number of children that are likely to begin pre-school and primary school education in the forthcoming years", with one noting that "quarterly figures are useful because they can be summed to roughly reflect the school admission year" and another using them "to compile data for different reporting periods - e.g. mid-year to mid-year, financial year and calendar year". Other uses mentioned included mortality trends, public health queries, comparative health, service planning, monitoring natural population change, teaching purposes, producing UK quarterly vital statistics outputs and calculating fertility rates (for population projections, research and answering requests). Note that from 10 March 2011, this publication has been called **Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events ...**, in response to a requirement in the UK Statistics Authority's assessment of GROS's Vital Events statistics.
- 3.6.3 **Births, Marriages & Deaths - Preliminary Annual Figures** was the subject of comments from two dozen respondents (one saying that it was not used). As well as the same kinds of uses as are made of the Quarterly figures (e.g. monitoring natural population change, and population and school roll projections), there were also references to public health reports, demand for bereavement services and children's services, comparisons (e.g. urban/rural), checking figures from other sources, and interest in the numbers of deaths of infants and from particular causes (e.g. respiratory infections, meningitis). Note that from 10 March 2011, this publication has been called **Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events ...**, in response to a requirement in the UK Statistics Authority's assessment of GROS's Vital Events statistics.
- 3.6.4 Thirty users commented on **Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland**. Several referred to the information being used by (e.g.) addiction team specialists, Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships, the Police, Public Health staff, and substance misuse officers. One wrote that the data are "used to monitor the effectiveness of substance abuse initiatives" and also relate to "other areas of work, such as community safety, deprivation and regeneration"; others referred to comparisons (e.g.) "with rates in other Boards and the overall Scotland rates". A number use it for (e.g.) "monitoring drugs harm in, and within, Scotland" or as "contextual information to frame our work and understand trends"; others mentioned briefings and various types of report, funding bids and programme planning, to help inform practice, and informing the Substance Misuse Strategy.
- 3.6.5 There were comments on **Increased Winter Mortality** from 14 respondents. One user mentioned "monitoring the age-specific impact of seasonal influenza and climatic changes", another "the impact of respiratory infections", a third "report writing and analysis in relation to energy efficiency of homes and winter mortality", and another "identification of vulnerable people / vulnerable areas, contributes risk management and business continuity management plans". There were a number of references to informing policy, service planning and service provision.
- 3.6.6 Twenty-six respondents commented on the **Vital Events Reference Tables**. One said that they were used "as a gold standard to check the validity of figures in our analyses. They are fundamental for quality assurance ..".

There were a number of references to each of the following: "monitoring" (e.g. "population health status", "the demography of [area]"); comparisons (e.g. with other NHS Board and Local Authority areas, and the national rates); the allocation of funding and other resources; and a source of data for (e.g.) Single Outcome Agreements, analyses/reports, denominators and "context". Figures are also used in the production

of UK Vital Events totals, fertility rates and life tables for Scotland and the UK, and as input to population projections.

- 3.6.7 The **Vital Events Time-Series Tables** were the subject of comments from 24 people. As well as the same kinds of uses as are made of the Reference Tables, several people mentioned identifying and/or monitoring (e.g.) trends and/or changes in demography and/or population health status.
- 3.6.8 Twenty-nine respondents commented on the Web sections on **Alcohol-Related Deaths, Clostridium Difficile Deaths, MRSA Deaths and Probable Suicides**. Some referred to the use of the figures for particular purposes (e.g. "as an indicator against our interventions", "a monitoring indicator for our Single Outcome Agreement", "a key theme in the SOA", "monitor trends over time and evaluate the impact of Scotland's strategy", "HEAT target to reduce the suicide rate", and "to inform the Substance Misuse Strategy and Health Improvement initiatives"); others to their range of users (e.g. "key information ... for the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership", "hospital planning decisions and vital readily-available data for Mental Health teams", and "mortality causes that are regularly monitored, especially within Public Health"). There were also a number of references to each of the following: comparisons with other areas and the national position; various types of local and national reporting and briefing; and planning service provision. One respondent felt that the web section was "a useful resource to quickly access this important data"; another that "publication using (and explaining) relatively complex coding to identify cause of death ensures the consistency of the evidence and interpretation. This is work best undertaken and presented nationally".
- 3.6.9 Ten people commented on **Weekly and Monthly Data on Births and Deaths**. Four felt that the information was not needed, and the responses from four of the others suggest that they were thinking of the datasets that are sent each week to NHS Boards (rather than the week by week and month by month figures that GROS publishes on its Web site). There were a couple of comments about the need for weekly data for monitoring acutely fatal epidemics, such as respiratory infections.

### 3.7 Electoral statistics

- 3.7.1 Eleven respondents said they or others in the organisation used **Electoral Statistics** and 13 comments were provided. Nearly all were from Local Authorities. Where responses were sufficiently specific, the use of statistics related to the electoral process.

### 3.8 Household Estimates and Projections

- 3.8.1 **Estimates of Households and Dwellings** are used by 35 respondents. Uses reported included: for service planning and provision, research, publication (e.g. Rural Scotland Key Facts), teaching, planning housing services, informing land-use and transport models, UK wide analysis of household change, planning resources against potential demand, for planning waste collection services, survey research, calculating housing need, informs strategy, community care planning, policy consideration of issues such as second homes and empty dwellings, resource allocations, housing need and demand assessments, comparing to Annual Population Survey or Labour Force Survey, comparison with other local authorities, statutory development plans, understanding the working of regional and local economies, baseline for forecasts, school roll forecasts, household forecasts, projecting effects of household change on the economy, Single Outcome Agreements, used as a denominator, performance monitoring, for household based models of infectious disease, briefing, answering queries from the public,

changes in health service usage, intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government Surveys from 2012 onwards.

- 3.8.2 Household Projections for Scotland** (31 respondents) were said to be used for informing land-use and transport models, service planning, housing need and demand assessments, informing policy and service provision, research, teaching and publication, to guide school roll projections that contain an element of new housing forecasts for the local area, UK-wide analysis of households and household change, local development plans and local housing strategies, waste collection, services for older people, survey research, calculating housing need within the local authority, informs strategies, community car planning, to inform rural policy on housing issues, as a comparator to local authority data, plan to compare against survey data, reference point for household forecasts, projecting effects of household change on the economy, Single Outcome Agreements, a benchmark to compare projection results, use these but rely on additional data supplied by GROS to produce our own projections, household models of infectious diseases, comparison with local and national results. Two respondents note that they use them because they tie in with population projections, changes in health service use and how and where people live and informing strategic planning.
- 3.8.3 Household Projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and National Park (NP) Areas** (10 respondents) tend to be used by those respondents that are based within these areas or belong to a local authority within one of the SDP areas or have a National Park within their area. Comments received referred to using them for planning related services, monitoring change and comparing with other sources, informing strategic develop plans, housing need and demand assessments, reference point of household forecasts, SDP monitoring. Useful for pulling together plans across council areas e.g. strategic development plan for the conurbation, to compare against own projections, contributing to the evidence base for local planning, helping with service planning provision for National Parks.
- 3.8.4 Small Area Household Estimates** (29 respondents) are reported as being used for traffic modelling, housing need and demand assessment, inform policy and service provision, school roll projections, UK-wide analyses of housing change, to generate data for non-standard geographies, survey research, community care planning, to inform rural policy on housing issues, funding proposals, resource allocation, to inform the statutory development plan, to prepare settlement profiles, spatial analysis for demographic based projects, to inform single outcome agreements, to monitor trends in small areas, evidence for funding bids and Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) calculations, informs housing land allocations, service planning at the local level, intend to use to weight population surveys from 2012 onwards, used extensively by users of Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS).
- 3.8.5 Dwelling Counts at Data Zone Level** (24 respondents) were identified as being used for: informing policy and service provision, to generate data for non-standard geographies, survey research, community care planning, to calculate housing need and inform local housing strategy and affordable housing policy, to inform rural policy on housing issues, to inform funding applications, to monitor change over time, used to inform single outcome agreements, land use planning, to answer information requests, to contribute to local and strategic planning policy, housing land allocations, used extensively by users of Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website, to weight population surveys from 2012 onwards,

### 3.9 Compendia and summaries

- 3.9.1 The responses show that the main use of the **Scotland's Population (Annual Review)** publication is as a reference document to provide background information on the people of Scotland, including national and local comparisons and changing trends over time. This summary data is used for planning purposes and to inform policies on a range of topics, such as future housing need and community care. Responses also show that the information is used for research into a number of demographic areas, including fertility. In total, thirty respondents ticked the box to say that they used this output.
- 3.9.2 The target audience for the **Council Area Profiles** is the more casual user, like the general public. They are less likely to respond to this consultation. However, 29 of those users who did respond said that they use this output. Their main use of the Council Area Profiles was to give an overview or answer general enquiries about specific councils, and for comparisons between councils. Like the Scotland's Population publication, they are also used for informing policy and planning.
- 3.9.3 The **High Level Summary Statistics** are used as background information on specific demographic topics. They are also used for planning and research. Twenty respondents ticked the box to say that they used this output.

## 4. Summary of responses to proposals for reducing outputs and activities

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Various suggestions for reducing outputs, or statistical activities, were made in section 6 of the consultation document. Respondents were asked to mark whether a reduction in these outputs or activities would have "High" or "Low" impact on them. A summary of the number of responses can be seen in [table 3](#) under 5 broad headings: Population and Migration Statistics, Household Estimates and Projections, Vital Events, Compendia and summaries, and Other statistics services (e.g. ad hoc requests). A summary of the comments are provided in the rest of this section. Sections 4.2 to 4.6 summarise respondents' comments on the suggestions; full lists of all comments on the consultation points are provided in [Annex D](#).

**Table 3 Impact of the proposed suggestions listed in the consultation (total Respondents = 59)**

No.	Output	No ticked High Impact	No ticked Low Impact
<b>Population &amp; Migration Statistics</b>			
1	Combine Life expectancy outputs into one reduced publication, producing some tables every two years (potential saving 20 person-days)	6	29
2	Produce projections every 3 years (potential saving 100 person-days per edition for all outputs inclusive)	20	17
3	Stop producing Local Area Migration Reports and replace with an Excel spreadsheet similar to Council Area Profiles but focused on sources of migration data. Also produce a Scotland level migration report with some commentary. (potential saving 15 person-days)	6	31
4	Stop producing Marital Status estimates (potential saving 25 person-days)	2	23
5	Stop developing ethnic population estimates (potential saving 40 person - days)	15	20
6	Stop developing estimates of short-term migration/migrants (potential saving 40 person-days)	10	22
7	Stop organising and facilitating POPGROUP User meetings (potential saving 5 person-days)	7	24
8	Reduce the frequency of settlement and locality population estimates (if reduced to every three years a potential saving of 35 person-days per publication)	13	22
<b>Household Estimates &amp; Projections</b>			
9	Produce household projections every three years (potential saving 100 person-days)	15	20
10	Stop producing small area household estimates at datazone level (potential saving 100 person-days)	25	15
11	Stop producing dwelling counts at datazone level (potential saving 80 person-days)	21	16
<b>Vital Events</b>			
12	Stop producing 'babies' First Names' (potential saving of 5 person-days)	0	32
13	Stop producing 'Births, Marriages and Deaths - Quarterly Figures' (potential saving of 25 person-days)	8	26
14	Reduce 'Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland' - to (say) only half the tables and charts, and much less commentary on the figures (potential saving 5 person-days)	13	27
15	Reduce 'Increased Winter Mortality' - to (say) only half the tables and charts, and very little commentary on the figures (potential saving 3 person -days)	4	29
16	Reduce the Vital Events Reference Tables - to (say) only half the tables (potential saving 25 person -days)	9	26
17	Reduce the Vital Events Time-Series Tables- to (say) only half the tables (potential saving 2 1/2 person-days)	7	26
18	Stop publishing the Weekly and Monthly data on Births and Deaths (potential saving 3 person-days)	2	30
19	Do not develop any further the documentation of the Vital Events statistics on the GROS Web site (potential saving 10 person-days)	6	24
<b>Compendia &amp; Summaries</b>			
20	Reducing commentary in the Registrar General's Annual Review (RGAR) would save staff time in all branches. A very rough estimate of the total staff time spend on 'RGAR' is about 200 person-days per year.	5	31
<b>Other Statistics services e.g. ad hoc requests</b>			
21	Reduce providing ad hoc material that is not readily available off the shelf for one customer in order to preserve outputs that are publically available to all (potential saving roughly 60 person-days)	24	20
22	Reduce other non-publication outputs e.g. special datasets (e.g. data for small areas for Neighbourhood Statistics, small area projections or research) (potential saving roughly 40 person -days).	32	11

## 4.2 Population and migration statistics

- 4.2.1 It was proposed to **Combine Life Expectancy outputs into one reduced publication, producing some tables every two years**. Twenty-nine respondents said that this would have a “low” impact on them and 6 said it would have a “high” impact. Comments made included: that life expectancy is an “important health outcome indicator”, “a reduction in tables would mean that it could not be monitored annually in Single Outcome Agreements”, “life expectancy by urban rural classification are vital to illustrate changes to and difference in health and living standards between these areas”, “presented at small area level is useful for public health and health inequalities”. Some respondents said that it would “depend on what tables are produced every two years” and were “not sure about how reduced is defined”. Respondents also said that it would impact on the content of other publications and consistency of methods. One response favoured a reduction in the number of tables produced over reducing the frequency of publication.
- 4.2.2 A number of responses noted that **Producing projections every three years** would have a high impact on them (19 versus 15 saying it would have a low impact). However several of the comments noted that there would be implications for moving to every three years both for users, as well as for GROS. A few respondents would like annual projections e.g. for school roll projections. Responses included noting that reducing the frequency of the projections would result in more councils trying to do their own projections (with resource implications) and therefore more requests to GROS for advice, data and assistance. Other views were that they needed to “remain timely to ensure that financial allocations remained [in] line with the population demand on services”, another was “it would be acceptable as long as there were no major changes taking place in current trends”. Every three years was ok for one respondent’s purposes but another needed them “more frequently as a major check on their own school roll projections and it would be disappointing to go to 3 years”. One respondent said that while they were used to underpin health board service planning moving to 3 years would have minimal impact. One respondent noted that every three years would mean less timely statistics on which to base housing, education etc and rural policy decisions on. The potential impact to GAE calculations was mentioned: reducing frequency would make it more likely that projections used for calculations will be more out of date. One respondent thought that currently 2 years isn’t often enough so 3 years would be a step backwards. Another thought that we need to maintain frequency to keep pace with current changes. It was noted that they are frequently used in research and that population and age impact on a number of areas of council responsibilities. Another said that they are needed every two years to monitor the ever increasing ageing population, and the potential impact on the National Resource Allocation formula for health boards but did not think it would be “as big an impact for planning purposes”. One respondent thought that “3 yearly projections could be supplemented by local government planning data to identify major changes”. Another respondent noted that if changed to every three years, “decisions would potentially be made on projections using a base four years earlier”. One respondent noted that “authorities use different timescales for planning and therefore need current data, a significant number of authorities would be adversely affected by moving to every three years”. Other comments included: “every three years would mean reacting too slowly to changes”, “even biennial figures are not up to date enough given recent pace of economic and demographic change, prefer annual projections”, and one thought that they “should be produced every two years meaning they would be released twice each Scottish Parliamentary and Council term”.



- 4.2.3 It was proposed to **stop producing Local Area Migration Reports and replace them with an Excel spreadsheet**. Thirty-one respondents said this would have a low impact on them compared with 6 saying it would have a high impact. Responses were mixed depending on the background of the respondent. Those respondents who were experienced analysts or had Excel skills were happy with the idea of having an Excel based facility as long as all the data was there in one place. Two respondents liked the accessibility of the current report for those who did not have Excel skills.
- 4.2.4 In response to **stop producing marital status estimates** several respondents said that they do not use these statistics and one commented that they “do not mean much these days”. It was noted that if they were not available then cruder rates for calculating marriage, divorce and civil partnership rates would have to be produced and they would not then be on a comparable basis to England and Wales, although it was noted that they currently are not produced for Northern Ireland. Twenty-three respondents said this suggestion would have a low impact on them compared with 2 saying it would have a high impact.
- 4.2.5 Another suggestion was to **stop developing ethnic population estimates** and 15 respondents said that it would have a high impact on them compared with 20 saying it would have a low impact. Several respondents said that they were frequently asked about this information and some thought that the information was important but questioned the data quality. Some respondents representing areas with small ethnic populations were less interested in the data whereas others representing areas with larger ethnic populations were more interested. It was thought that this information would become “increasingly important as the NHS gets better at recording ethnicity” as they would need the denominator population. It was thought it would be really useful if the information became available at NHS board and council area level. It was noted that there was “a lack of accurate ethnic minority data and that the production of these data would be essential for work to ensure equity in health services and health outcomes and there is already a paucity of this type of information”.
- 4.2.6 It was proposed to **stop developing estimates of short-term migration/migrants**. It seems from the comments that there was a little confusion about what this suggestion was. GROS has not published short-term migration/migrant estimates whereas ONS has for England and Wales. Also there was perhaps some confusion with the Local Area Migration reports. Ten respondents said that it would have a high impact on them and 22 a low impact. Comments included: “it would be a retrograde step to stop outputs on short-term migrants”, “information is regularly asked for and useful to inform service delivery”, “important to inform picture of employment in the agriculture sector in rural areas”, “public authorities need this information to plan services in the absence of other data sources”, “given the relative paucity of migration data, the short-term is important”, “required for population risk assessments”. One respondent notes that the information would provide insight into an area but noted that the method and the level at which migrants could be profiled would be key in terms of value. Another thought that short-term migrant estimates would be useful as short-term migrants can have a high impact on services.
- 4.2.7 Another suggestion was to **stop organising and facilitating POPGROUP user meetings** (7 said it would have a high impact and 24 a low impact on them). The comments here depended on whether they were POPGROUP users. One respondent said that they appreciated being able to get advice and support for their work and that GROS have an important part to play as a supplier of data. Other users noted that the support network has already been very useful to them.

4.2.8 It was proposed to **reduce the frequency of settlement and locality population estimates to every 3 years** (13 said it would have a high impact and 22 a low impact). The comments were mixed. Some local authorities said that they don't use the data but that it is of use to the general public and others said that it was very useful for policy and service delivery. One respondent said that they need data to correspond to their transport model year and another that reduced frequency could impact on work to improve housing quality and supply. Another respondent said that reducing the frequency of the settlement and locality estimates would mean that the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification frequency would then also be reduced with an impact on the timeliness and relevance of the classification and the statistics based on it. Other respondents want this information more frequently on an annual basis.

### 4.3 Household estimates and projections

4.3.1 In response to the suggestion of **producing Household Projections every three years**, 13 responses said this would have a high impact and 20 said it would have a low impact. Many users were reluctant to reduce the frequency of the publication "current 2 years isn't often enough so 3 years would be a backward step", "Three yearly publication would be reacting too slowly to changes. Even biennial figures are not really up-to-date enough given recent pace of economic and demographic change." It was also felt that "Having to use older data reduces people's confidence on the reliability of plans for the future."

4.3.2 Several responses pointed out that this was "currently only source of such data" and could lead to "Potentially greater requirement to prepare own projections, rather than use GROS projections. This has important resource implications for the Council." It was also suggested that this could lead to "more requests to the GROS for advice, data and assistance. So moving to a 3 year cycle could result in more person days rather than less being spent of household projections."

4.3.3 In response to the suggestion of **stopping production of Small Area Household Estimates at data zone level**. A number of responses noted that stopping the production of data zone level household estimates would have a high impact on them (23 compared with 14 saying it would have a low impact). Several respondents thought it was important to produce household estimate data at data zone level as "This data is needed to allow data for bespoke geographies to be created". The broad impact was noted by a Scottish Government response "This would reduce our ability to accurately weight population survey data, which would have a multitude of knock-on effects across Scottish Government, public bodies and academia."

4.3.4 Several local authorities commented on the importance of having access to both small area household estimates and small area population estimates, "Household estimates are a necessary complement to population estimates. Apart from the direct use of the household estimates in planning and policy documents, they will also be important as an input to the validation of population estimates"

4.3.5 A number of responses noted that **stopping the production of data zone level Dwelling Counts** would have a high impact on them (20 compared with 15 saying it would have a low impact). As with household estimates, several respondents stressed the importance of producing these figures at data zone level "we can create figures for Housing Market Areas and other non-standard geographies".

4.3.6 It was also felt "Important that these are available to allow the authority to effectively plan and resource services at the local level, e.g. waste collection". For both the household estimates and dwelling counts "Funding bids and investment decision are

often based on small area statistics. Datazones are important for building up data for organisations such as community councils."

#### 4.4 Vital events

- 4.4.1 **Stop producing Babies' First Names** - there were just four comments, which ranged from "support" to "This is your best publicity with the media! Cheap at the price".
- 4.4.2 **Stop producing Births, Marriages & Deaths - Quarterly Figures** - 9 respondents commented. Six referred to the importance of the figures for various purposes, two to the information being nice to have but not essential, and one supported the suggestion.
- 4.4.3 **Reduce Drug-Related Deaths ....** - there were comments from 17 people, about half of whom appeared opposed to the suggestion (e.g. "... it would be madness to reduce monitoring at such a crucial time, especially as the person-days saved are so few", "the reduction in information would reduce our ability to target novel drugs and new drug trends that are found in Scotland", "key publication that helps drive local and national policy", "important data which is complex and requires explanation"). The positions of some respondents would appear to depend upon whether their needs would be met by a "reduced" publication (e.g. "the breakdown of data into constituent Local Authority (LA) and Health Board area (HB) is imperative for my work" and "the number of tables could be reduced ... but further consultation would be needed to gauge which are used most frequently .... less commentary may be acceptable if the remaining text can still aid interpretation"). The remaining comments were supportive, at least in part (e.g. "tables are the most important part ... graphs and commentary are less important" and "useful information but not essential").
- 4.4.4 **Reduce Increased Winter Mortality ...** - was the subject of comments from 8 respondents, again some opposed (e.g. "this issue is of current and future immense topicality...", "the absence of this information would prejudice estimates of the impact of respiratory infections ..." and "important to monitor the effects of weather and fuel increases etc, if there are any, on the elderly"); and some supportive, whether in part or with caveats.
- 4.4.5 **Reduce the Vital Events Reference Tables ...** - 15 people commented. Some appeared opposed to the suggestion (e.g. "these reference tables are a vital source of mortality data used for service planning", "if GROS reduced [them], [we] would need to make ad-hoc requests for data no longer available on the GROS website", and "... may result in more ad-hoc requests ... these tables are a resource for all those concerned with public health and involved with understanding change in the health status of the population over time ... should be seen as a 'crown jewel' that should be expanded ... provide more age- and sex-standardised rates ... an interface that allows the user to select content for download and to assemble the data they want to extract"). Almost all the rest mentioned, or indicated that they had, minimum requirements (e.g. "it is important to have the data available at local authority level", "hope that the tables listed ... would still be published, especially Table 6.4", "a lot of the data are very useful", "assuming high-level mortality figures will continue to be produced", "depends on which tables", "would need further consultation on the tables to be discarded", and "depends on which tables. The tables we use regularly include .... for example, Table 6.4 saves us carrying out certain mortality analyses, and is also essential as a quality control check on our analyses...we would request that these tables are retained.")

- 4.4.6 **Reduce the Vital Events Time-Series Tables ...** - 11 respondents commented, in many cases repeating what they said about the corresponding suggestion on the Reference Tables. One user felt that "these are the most important of the vital events tables", another wrote that "time-series data is important to monitor trends and some of the detail is important, e.g. deaths by age band for Council areas".
- 4.4.7 **Stop publishing the Weekly and Monthly data on Births and Deaths** - there were comments from 8 people, three of whom appeared content because they rarely (if ever) used this output, and three who would probably be content as long as GROS continued to send datasets each week to their organisations. One user felt that GROS could stop publishing such data for "births" but should continue to produce week-by-week figures for deaths.
- 4.4.8 **Do not develop any further the Vital Events documentation** - 6 respondents commented. Four referred to the importance of documentation and/or metadata being available and up-to-date: one of them wrote that "explanatory text and particularly the addition of metadata has increased the accessibility and relevance of this product. Particularly, if the commentary in the Registrar General's Annual Review (RGAR) is reduced, the text content of the Vital Events tables should be increased". One person was not clear what the suggestion meant, and one suggested "shift all Vital Events (VE) stats to website rather than produce reports".
- 4.5 Compendia and summaries**
- 4.5.1 **Reduce commentary in Scotland's Population (Annual Review)** – Many of the respondents felt that, although the commentary was useful, some reduction in certain sections of the publication would be acceptable. One respondent suggested that adding more links to relevant areas on the GROS website would reduce the need for so much commentary.
- 4.6 Other statistics services e.g. ad hoc requests**
- 4.6.1 **Reduce providing ad hoc material...** - Over half of those who responded to this question said that a reduction in the provision of ad hoc material would have a high impact. Many commented that the service was vital or greatly valued. Even those who don't use this service often stated that they felt it was an important service to provide. One respondent highlighted that if other GROS outputs are reduced as a result of this consultation then there may be an even greater requirement for the ad hoc service. There were a number of suggestions that we could introduce a charge for this service, particularly for some of the larger ad hoc requests.

## **5. Summary of comments on whether the reduction in outputs would unlawfully discriminate against people**

- 5.1 Respondents were asked “For the areas that you have identified in section 6, please describe where, in your opinion/experience, withdrawal or reductions in scope of the statistical outputs could unlawfully discriminate against people in any of the following equality categories: Age (younger and older people), Disability, Gender (inc. male/female), Gender identity (including transsexual, gender reassignment), Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion or belief (including belief and non-belief), Sexual orientation (including lesbian, gay, bisexual)”. Over a third of respondents made a comment and the majority were to do with ensuring that demographic information is available for equality monitoring and planning service provision for these groups. Some comments referred specifically to the demand for ethnic population estimates and some commentators in these cases may have thought that this information was already published by GROS whereas it is only under development. Either way respondents thought that not producing these estimates may discriminate against some groups.
- 5.2 There were a couple of comments saying they were not sure about the implications for discrimination and one comment saying this “needs to be fully assessed by staff who know what alternatives are available from other official statistics – and that [are] not also to be cut!”.
- 5.3 Full comments are provided in [Annex E](#).

## **6. Summary of general comments**

- 6.1 Respondents were asked to provide any general comments, or comments on development work outlined in the consultation document “Over the coming years we plan, subject to funding, to continue investigating the feasibility of a new integrated system for producing population statistics after the 2011 Census. This will create opportunities for developing more effective and efficient ways for using data from a variety of sources”.
- 6.2 Twenty-nine comments were received in this section from different respondents and covered our development work as well as other comments on other areas of our work.
- 6.3 For the developmental work there was support for developing a new integrated system of population estimates after the 2011 Census from the majority of those that made a comment. One respondent commented “that if the Census is discontinued after 2011, there is a grave risk of the loss of valuable population, demographic, social, disability and health data, which for many topics has spanned several decades allowing crucial comparisons over time...”.
- 6.4 Other comments cover a wider range of GROS’s current and future work and the priority which should be given. Full comments are provided in [Annex F](#).

## **7. Next steps in the consultation process**

- 7.1 Publication of this summary analysis of the consultation responses concludes the formal consultation on GROS's Demography Statistics Work Programme. However, our usual consultation with stakeholders will still be on-going especially with the ScotStat Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) and the wider ScotStat network as work moves on to develop our plans in more detail.
- 7.2 GROS would in the first instance welcome any user reaction to the content of this consultation analysis, either from those who submitted responses (to correct any misreading of their comments or to provide further feedback in light of comments made by others) or from anyone else.
- 7.3 GROS will be preparing a draft statistics plan for work going forward which will be circulated prior to the May meeting of PAMS and to those that responded to the consultation. This plan will then be published on the GROS website.

## **Annex A Consultation form**

### **Consultation on the GROS Demography Statistical Work Programme**

**1 December 2010**

#### **Introduction**

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is seeking views to help determine the shape of its future Demography statistical work programme. The budget reductions announced as part of the 2010 Spending Review mean that GROS has to consider where savings can be found. It is critically important that our statistical outputs reflect our users' priorities.

#### **Topic and scope**

We are asking you to let us know:

1. What GROS demography statistical outputs you use and how you use them.
2. The impact on you of possible reductions in various areas of GROS demography statistical work.

#### **Who we are seeking views from**

We would particularly like to hear from regular users of our statistics. But anyone can respond and all views will be considered in full.

#### **Duration**

This consultation will be open from **1 December 2010** to **9 February 2011**.

The consultation period is 10 weeks, rather than the usual 12 weeks and it is over the festive holiday period. This shorter period will enable us to take account of the responses in our business plans for the coming years.

#### **Enquiries**

Any enquiries should be made through GROS Customer Services:

Phone: 0131 314 4243

Email: [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

#### **How to respond**

We are happy to receive replies, using our response template at the end of this document, by post or by e-mail. We are also happy to discuss with groups or individuals.

Please send responses to:

#### **Post:**

GROS Demography Statistical Work Programme

Demography Division

Ladywell House

Ladywell Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7TF

**Email:** [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## Next steps

Responses will be analysed by GROS and our work programme will be published in our business plan in the spring. A summary of responses will be published on our website. The response template asks whether you are content, or not, for your response to be made public.

## The GROS Demography Statistical Work Programme

### Background

1. The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is part of the devolved Scottish Administration.  
We are responsible for the registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces, and adoptions. We run the Census and we use Census and other data to publish information about population and households. We are the main source of family history records. We are a producer of official statistics and we provide a wide range of statistical outputs, analysis and advice on Scotland's population and households which are used extensively to enable informed decisions to be made by government, companies, individuals and other bodies.
2. The GROS budget settlement announced in the Scottish Spending Review 2010 is shown below. This represents a 12.3 per cent reduction to our resource baseline over the next year. The settlement includes funding to complete Census 2011.

#### General Register Office for Scotland, detailed categories of spending (Level 3)

	2010-11 Budget £m	2011-12 Draft Budget £m
Administration Costs	25.0	24.3
Depreciation Charges	1.2	1.2
Capital	0.8	0.5
Less Income	(5.1)	(7.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>DEL Resource</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>
DEL Capital	0.8	0.5

3. As we aim to meet the challenge of a reducing budget we need to review our working practices and our statistical outputs and services. GROS will follow three central principles in carrying out this exercise, which we believe must be observed and they are similar to those principles highlighted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their own consultation which can be found on their website at:  
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/work-programme-consultation/index.html>.  
GROS's consultation document is based on the format of ONS's to aid those users that may wish to respond to both. Users should note that ONS's consultation also has some bearing on this consultation, for example, ONS are proposing reducing the frequency of the national population projections which we need in order to produce our sub-national population projections for areas within Scotland which in turn feed in to household projections for Scotland.

### Principles

- Whatever we do, we should continue to do it well, without compromising quality.
- We must continue to fulfil our statutory obligations, in terms of the statistical outputs that we are required to produce to meet international and domestic legal requirements.



- Our budget reductions must not damage the core infrastructure (e.g., web developments etc) needed to produce statistical outputs both now and in the future.
4. In order that we are able to live within our reducing budget, while continuing to invest in the future statistical outputs that our users need, we must review our outputs and current level of service to find ways of reducing our costs.
  5. In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, we are seeking the views of users to help shape any changes that affect our statistical outputs.
  6. In particular we are seeking your views on:
    - a. which outputs you use and how you use them, and
    - b. of the outputs you use, what would be the impact on you if these outputs were no longer available from GROS or the scope was reduced.

This information will help us determine our future work programme.

### **Continuing efficiency**

7. GROS has a strong track record in delivering efficiency savings while maintaining the quality of statistical outputs.
8. GROS has made savings of around £1.1m in previous years (2008-09 & 2009-10) and is on track to meet its efficiency savings target in 2010-11 (£1.2m). An example of savings realised to date include the cost reduction from the introduction of an IT virtual environment.
9. GROS will make further efficiency savings over the coming years but, given the size of savings made over previous years, there is a limit to the amount of further savings that can be achieved.

### **The need to invest now**

10. Although the GROS budget is reducing, we must continue to invest in order to safeguard our core principles, deliver planned efficiency savings, and ensure the relevance and quality of our statistics in a changing world.
11. Over the coming years we plan, subject to funding, to continue investigating the feasibility of a new integrated system for producing population statistics after the 2011 Census. This will create opportunities for developing more effective and efficient ways for using data from a variety of sources.
12. In addition, there will be further emerging user needs and statutory requirements that we will need to meet, and we need to have the flexibility to invest in these areas.

### **GROS outputs**

13. GROS is required under European and UK law to produce a number of outputs. GROS must, by statute, continue to produce these outputs but will make efficiency savings where possible. These legally required outputs include: population estimates, births, deaths, marriages and divorces.
14. Many of these statistics play an important role in key policy decisions including monetary and fiscal policy and welfare as well as informing financial allocation mechanisms.
15. We also produce a number of outputs that are not required by statute. However, many of these are also critical for government policy and/or private sector decision making. For

example, our statistics about drug-related deaths are a key input to the work of the Scottish Government's Drugs Policy Unit, the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths, and others who are working to reduce the number of drug-deaths. Also our Settlement and Locality estimates feed into the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification which is in turn used by several policies and in allocation of funding. These outputs are also important for the decision making of other organisations including businesses, and they play a valuable role in the facilitation of academic research. Given the reduction to the GROS budget, we will need to reduce the resources for some of these outputs and the information from this consultation will help inform decisions about where the reductions would have the least impact.

16. These outputs are set out in section 6 of the response template. We are asking you to indicate the impact of reductions in these areas, by completing the response template, and returning it by 9 February 2011.

## Response to Consultation on the GROS Demography Division Statistical Work Programme

Interested parties are invited to respond using this template by 9 February 2011 via email or by post to:

Email: [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

**GROS Demography Statistical Work Programme**  
**Demography Division**  
**Ladywell House**  
**Ladywell Road**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH12 7TF**

We are also happy to discuss with groups or individuals.

*Please enter X or ✓ in the appropriate boxes to indicate your response.*

<b>1. Name</b>	
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<b>2. Please provide an email address and/or telephone number so that we are able to contact you if we need to clarify any points</b>	
a) Email address	
b) Telephone number	

<b>3. If you are representing a group or organisation, please provide details</b>	
a) Organisation name	
b) Organisation address	

<b>4. Please indicate the type of group or organisation (to assist in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached)</b>			
Central government department		Charity	

Government agency		International organisation	
Local government		Media	
Higher/further education		Other (please specify below)	
NHS			
Private/commercial organisation			

5. Below is a list of GROS Demography outputs. To help us understand the uses made of our statistics and services, please mark which of the outputs you use, and state how you use them.		
	Mark if used	Describe the use you make of the output(s), including decisions that they inform.
<b>Population Estimates</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/index.html</a>		
Mid-year population estimates		
Small Area Population Estimates		
Settlement and Locality Estimates		
Population estimates for other special areas built up from datazones i.e., Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS2), Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Urban Rural, Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (WPC).		
Centenarians		
Marital Status		
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality		
<b>Population Projections</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/projections/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/projections/index.html</a>		
Projected Population of Scotland		

Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas (council and NHS board areas)		
Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas		
<b>Life expectancy</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/life-expectancy/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/life-expectancy/index.html</a>		
Interim Life tables		
Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas (council and NHS board areas)		
Life Expectancy for Special Areas (SIMD, Urban Rural, Community Health Partnership Areas, Intermediate Zones, 15% most deprived of a council area)		
<b>Migration</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/index.html</a>		
Total Migration To or From an Area		
Migration within Scotland		
Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK		
Migration between Scotland and Overseas		
Local Area Migration Reports		
<b>Vital Events</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/index.html</a>		
Babies' First Names		

Births, Marriages and Deaths - Quarterly Figures		
Births, Marriages and Deaths - Preliminary Annual Figures		
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland		
Increased Winter Mortality		
Vital Events Reference Tables		
Vital Events Time-Series Tables		
Web sections on Alcohol-related deaths, Clostridium Difficile deaths, MRSA deaths and (probable) Suicides		
Weekly and Monthly data on Births and Deaths		
<b>Electoral Statistics</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/index.html</a>		
Electoral Statistics		
<b>Household Estimates and Projections</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/index.html</a>		
Estimates of Households and Dwellings		
Household Projections for Scotland, 2008-Based		
Household Projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Plan Areas and National Parks		

Small Area Household Estimates		
Dwelling counts at data zone level		
<b>Compendia and summaries</b> <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/at-a-glance/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/at-a-glance/index.html</a>		
Scotland's Population (Annual Review)		
Council Area Profiles		
High Level Summary of Statistics		

**6. Some GROS outputs are required by law, both UK and international. The areas listed below are not required by statute and therefore GROS has greater control over the extent of our involvement in these areas. We are particularly interested in the use you make of these outputs and services, and any adverse affect on you, your organisation, or your business, if these outputs and services were no longer available from GROS, or if the scope was reduced (for example, through reducing frequency or geographical disaggregation).**

**Please indicate in each of the work areas listed below, that you wish to comment on, the impact if these outputs or services were no longer available from GROS, or if the scope was reduced. Where there are possibilities for reducing scope, certain options have been described in the table. If the impact is likely to be high, please give further details. The Census and those outputs mainly funded by other bodies are not included.**

<b>Statistical Output:</b>	<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
NB: the 'potential savings' are <b>very rough estimates</b> of the likely savings in GROS staff time <b>per year</b> (unless another timescale is indicated - e.g., when an output is produced less often)	Please mark high (H) or low (L)	If marked high please explain the impact, the value you place on these outputs, and particularly any decisions that would be affected.

**Population and Migration Statistics**

1.	Combine Life expectancy outputs into one reduced publication, producing some tables every two years (potential saving 20 person-days)		
2.	Produce projections every three years (potential saving 100 person-days per edition for all outputs inclusive)		
3.	Stop producing Local Area Migration Reports and replace with an Excel spreadsheet similar to Council Area Profiles but focused on sources of migration data. Also produce a Scotland level migration report with some commentary. (potential saving 15 person-days)		
4.	Stop producing Martial Status estimates (potential saving 25 person-days)		
5.	Stop developing ethnic population estimates (potential saving 40 person-days)		
6.	Stop developing estimates of short-term migration/migrants (potential saving 40 person-days)		
7.	Stop organising and facilitating POPGROUP User meetings (potential saving 5 person-days)		
8.	Reduce the frequency of settlement and locality population estimates (if reduced to every three years a potential saving of 35 person-days per publication)		

**Household Estimates and Projections**

9.	Produce household projections every three years (potential saving 100 person-days)		
10.	Stop producing small area household estimates at datazone level (potential saving 100 person-days)		
11.	Stop producing dwelling counts at datazone level (potential saving 80 person-days)		

<b>Vital Events</b>			
10.	Stop producing 'Babies' First Names' (potential saving of 5 person-days)		
11.	Stop producing 'Births, Marriages and Deaths - Quarterly Figures' (potential saving of 25 person-days)		
12.	Reduced 'Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland' - to (say) only half the tables and charts, and much less commentary on the figures (potential saving 5 person-days)		
13.	Reduce 'Increased Winter Mortality' - to (say) only half the tables and charts, and very little commentary on the figures (potential saving 3 person-days)		
14.	Reduce the Vital Events Reference Tables - to (say) only half the tables (potential saving 25 person-days)		
15.	Reduce the Vital Events Time-Series Tables - to (say) only half the tables (potential saving 2½ person-days)		
16.	Stop publishing the Weekly and Monthly data on Births and Deaths (potential saving 3 person-days)		
17.	Do not develop any further the documentation of the Vital Events statistics on the GROS Web site (potential saving 10 person-days)		
<b>Compendia and summaries</b>			
18.	Reducing commentary in the Registrar General's Annual Review (RGAR) would save staff time in all branches. A very rough estimate of the total staff time spent on 'RGAR' is about 200 person-days per year.		
<b>Other statistics services e.g. ad hoc requests</b>			
19.	Reduce providing ad hoc material that is not readily available off the shelf for one customer in order to preserve outputs that are publically available to all (potential saving roughly 60 person-days).		
20.	Reduce other non –publication outputs e.g. special datasets (e.g., data for small areas for Neighbourhood Statistics, small area projections or research) (potential saving roughly 40 person-days).		



**7. For the areas that you have identified in section 6, please describe where, in your opinion/experience, withdrawal or reductions in scope of the statistical outputs could unlawfully discriminate against people in any of the following equality categories:**

- Age (younger and older people)
- Disability
- Gender (inc. male/female)
- Gender identity (including transsexual, gender reassignment)
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race (including Black and Minority Ethnic)
- Religion or belief (including belief and non-belief)
- Sexual orientation (including lesbian, gay, bisexual)

**8. Do you have any other comments that are relevant to this exercise? If you would like to comment on our development work (outlined in the section 'The need to invest now'), please do so here:**

**9. Are you content for your response to be made public on request?**

Please enter X or ✓ in the box to indicate your response:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes I am content for my response to be made public on request
<input type="checkbox"/>	No I want my response to remain confidential

Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis.

**Please tick ONE of the following boxes**

Yes, make my name and response available

**or**

Yes, make my response available, but not my name

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Please respond by email or post to:

Email: [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

**GROS Demography Division Statistical Work Programme**  
**Demography Division**  
**Ladywell House**  
**Ladywell Road**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH12 7TF**

Please submit your response by **9 February 2011**.

Please note that if you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, among other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation but we cannot give assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on GROS.

GROS will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

## **Annex B List of consultation respondents happy to have their name made available**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Respondent Type</b>
Helen Ross	Office for National Statistics	Central Government department
Jim McMenamin	Respiratory team, Health Protection Scotland	NHS
Prof. Sheila Bird	MRC Biostatistics Unit	Other
Erin Murray	Scottish Borders Council	Local government
Elaine Sutherland	School of Law, University of Stirling	Higher/further education
Robbie Coleman	Meningitis Research Foundation	Charity
Dr David Connolly	MVA Consultancy	Private/commercial organisation
Pat MacLeod	TNS-BMRB	Private/commercial organisation
Stephen Penneck	Office for National Statistics	Government agency
Andrew Ballingall	Fife Council	Local government
Andrew McCartney	Scottish Government	Central Government department
Joyce Epstein	Foundation for the study of infant deaths	Charity
Ada Yiu	City of Edinburgh Council	Local government
Gillian Edwards	West Lothian Council	Local government
Mel Greig	Aberdeenshire Council	Local government
Sandra Thomson	Perth & Kinross Council but an individual response	Local government
Suzi Macpherson	Equality and Human Rights Commission	Other
Peter McRae	Aberdeenshire Council	Local government
John Dewhurst	Dundee University	Higher/further education
Cameron Thomas	The Highland Council	Local government
Laura Jamieson	COSLA	Local government
John D'Souza	National centre for Social Research	Charity
Carolyn Hunter-Rowe	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	NHS
Jennifer Boag	Falkirk Council	Local government
Tony Champion	Newcastle University	Higher/further education
Andrew Sim	Samaritans	Charity

## Annex C Detailed comments on the use of outputs

**Note:** These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

### Mid-Year Population Estimates

- Absolutely key to support financial allocation and planning functions and to provide the denominators for performance measures
- Calculation of disease incidences
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Key data for Housing Need and Demand Assessment.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Estimation of demand for services, economic policy, housing & care strategy.
- To compare various performance indicators per 1000 population at authority level. Also, for projecting school rolls using estimates by age group.
- For tracking population trends and the migration components of change by gender and age for Council Areas and smaller areas.
- Mid year estimates are fundamental to our work. We use them in their own right for monitoring change in the local population, including the detailed age group data, but also as denominators for indicators. Used to calculate rates for age groups for comparison purposes.
- Needed to translate events by sex and age-group to sex and age-specific event-RATES (for example, estimated numbers of injection drug users by sex and age-group per 100,000 population)
- Very widely used for calculating comparative health statistics, rates performance to national targets (HEAT). Informs commissioning, planning NHS Board outcomes, service redesign.
- Used to update the base year assumptions in our traffic models. Current and historical MYEs are used extensively for planning purposes by a number of Council services. Results are analysed and presented in an annual Population Report
- Birth/death/ teenage pregnancy rates. Denominator for performance measures/Government targets. Planning. (Required at single year of age level).
- Use in survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning. A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, resource allocations, and for use in performance indicators. We also make considerable use in our "██████████" system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by ██████████ organisations, community groups and individuals.
- Data used in Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) calculations which are a central part of the allocation of local government funding in Scotland. GAE

calculations are carried out based on the timing of local government settlements (which depend on timing of Govt Spending Reviews).

- General Info, information bulletins, statistical enquiries from members of the public
- The [REDACTED] obtain mid-year population estimates from GROS in order to collate population estimates for the UK. Tables 1-10 detailed at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2009/list-of-tables.html> are supplied by GROS for this purpose, and these are required on an annual basis. UK level population estimates are used by Central Government for policy and are required for Eurostat (ONS has a duty to act as national co-ordinator in the supply of UK population data for Eurostat.)
- The [REDACTED] use GROS population estimates and marital status estimates in the calculation of rates for births, deaths, marriages, divorces and civil partnerships across the UK.
- [REDACTED] routinely uses GROS mid-year population estimates to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK - in particular for the national population projections and to inform assumption setting, but also for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.
- The [REDACTED] use mid-year population estimates from GROS in order to produce population projections for Scotland and the UK.
- ONS use mid-year population estimates from GROS in order to weight their household surveys.
- report writing, strategy and policy development, analysis of spending/costs per capita, comparison with other local authorities
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development, Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- We use population estimates to describe trends in per capita alcohol consumption based on sales data [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This is considered the most accurate measure of alcohol consumption. Alcohol misuse in the UK is a major problem, reflected in both current and proposed policies and strategies aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm. Monitoring per capita consumption in the future will be essential to assess the effectiveness of such policies. Mid-year population estimates enable this to be possible. Mid-year population estimates at national and sub-national level are also used to provide context and denominators for various public health statistics.
- Monitor change between census periods. Inform Local Development Plan(LDP) and Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Summarise data for use by all staff. Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries
- The mid year population estimates, along with Small area population estimates are very important indicators which [REDACTED] use to build up population estimates for our geographies. Population estimates are the basis for our analyses and policy making, particularly trends over time.
- Used to calculate rations within the general population

- Baseline; eg. for population forecasts, school roll forecasts, household forecasts, household requirement, HNDA. Statistical information for Council services.
- Used in a broad number of analyses, both in terms of examining population change itself, but also used as denominator data with other data sets.
- Use population stats as: input into formal documents such as Housing Need and Demand Assessment, SDP monitoring, to build up settlement and area profiles, support for the LDP process, to compare local and national trends, as inputs into local population projections using POGROUP, to inform other departments such as Social Work about possible future developments, to reply to queries, internal and external
- MY population estimates are used by analysts to estimate mortality and morbidity amongst the population of [REDACTED]. This is integral to the work of public health in [REDACTED] and these figures are used to plan future services and strategies within the NHS.
- Use in modelling Scottish Economy
- Use these in public health annual report, profiles and other intelligence related publications. Used in demographic statistics for calculating rates, life expectancy and population changes.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority
- Central input for assessing need for services and basis for projections.
- Funding bids. Service provision. Allocation of resources. Management of population levels. Used to calculate rates e.g. crime, health etc.
- We mainly use aggregated SAPE for bespoke areas of interest and then [REDACTED] overall - see below - but use Authority level figures for comparisons with other Authorities.
- Monitor population trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support. Baseline data for performance monitoring. Evidence for funding bids and GAE calculations etc. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- These estimates provide the most current picture of the population both at a Scotland as a whole and local authority level which is useful for informing our work on population. These statistics help local authorities to plan services and allows us to raise any potential issues that may arise that could impact on service delivery. The mid-year population estimates also feed into the new suite of Local Outcome Indicators that have recently been developed to promote joined up working across the public sector. Additional details of this are set out below under section 8.
- We use mid-year population estimates for weighting surveys. For each sex we need them cross-tabulated by single-year of age within health board and by single-year of age within LA. We also use estimates of the household population
- An essential component of the demographic information available for Scotland and its NHS board areas. Also crucial as the denominator for calculating rates (crude or standardised) for a wide range of health data produced [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for epidemiological and surveillance purposes e.g. vaccine uptake, prevalence of hepatitis and service monitoring. These data influence government and health board policies and underpin major decisions on

funding and service provision. One example of use: National statistics on the percentage of the population registered with an NHS dentist. Used for the Scottish Dental Practice Board papers and annual report, answering parliamentary questions and information requests.

- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info
- denominators for rate calculations
- Used in calculating pupil projections for analytical support of education system, particularly teacher workforce planning and local authority funding.
- This helps [REDACTED] Council plan services and monitor the increase (generally) in population.
- This is a key data set reflecting population structure and changes that influence health and health care needs. The data source underpins health care planning and resource allocation at national and NHS Board levels. Provides an event rate denominator for those exposed to risk that reflects the age and sex structure of the population.
- Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.
- For [REDACTED] comments on this, and other information areas, please go to Annex A and Annex B.

### **Small Area Population Estimates**

- When designing field-work for Operation [REDACTED] on recall of who meets whom, where and when in [REDACTED]; as social distancing precursor to pandemic influenza.
- Again the figures for datazones are fundamental to our work and are in almost constant use as they enable us to produce small area population estimates for our own geographies. They have also been used as a base for small area population projections.
- Crime rates, incidents - emergency and non emergency and also used for survey purposes - used for analysis of results for regular performance reporting purposes.
- For tracking population trends and the migration components of change by gender and age for Council areas and smaller areas.
- To estimate population dynamics at local level that will influence school rolls in the future.
- Area profiling, local area development plans.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Key data for Housing Need and Demand Assessment.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Calculation of disease incidences.
- Very important to support functions and to provide the denominators for performance measures.
- Used to update the base year assumptions in our traffic models (which use zones which are made up of groupings of datazones).
- Widely used for analysis e.g. SIMD, rurality, public health strategy, planning, evaluation, service redesign.
- The SAPE (data zone) estimates are used as the building blocks for generating population estimates for non-standard geographies. They are also necessary for analysing any data that is released at Data Zone (DZ) level, such as the SIMD.

- Various analysis - as above, but at small area level & SIMD denominator, aggregates to intermediate zone level. Aggregated to create part council/CHP areas (best fit).
- Various analysis - as above, but at small area level & SIMD denominator, aggregates to intermediate zone level. Aggregated to create part council/CHP areas (best fit). Planning, health inequalities, performance/ Government targets and resource allocation. (Required at single year of age level).
- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. The figures are also used to inform indicators in Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreements.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, resource allocations. We also make considerable use in our "██████████" system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by ██████████ organisations, community groups and individuals.
- General info, SIMD.
- ONS produce small area population estimates for England and Wales. Although ONS do not collate small area population estimates for the UK, estimates for data zones in Scotland produced by GROS provide some consistency in the provision of small area estimates across the UK.
- report writing, strategy and policy development, analysis of spending/costs per capita, comparison with other local authorities.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for ██████████. To inform the preparation of the statutory. development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- We use small-area population estimates to provide denominators for rates in relation to numerous valuable public health statistics, for specific geographies including Health Boards and Community Health Partnerships. For example, this is crucial in order to produce local health profiles that are of high value to service providers, planning teams, policy makers and the public as they enable them to make informed decisions to improve health and monitor trends over time. Small Area Population Estimates are also used in models of the impact of health interventions on population health and health inequalities. Such resources directly inform planning and resource allocation at local level. Datazone level data is of particular value as it affords the flexibility required to analyze statistics for a range of geographies.
- Monitor change between census periods. Aggregate to ad hoc areas where practical.
- As with mid year population estimates this data underpins our analysis and helps us produce local evidence based policy, highlighting where investment is needed and where progress has been achieved.
- These figures are used to provide us with information on estimates of changes in population at the local level, which is useful for work with a range of local level public authorities .
- Used to calculate rations within the general population.
- Statistical information for Council statutory duties and services: eg. Development plan, community planning.



- Used in a broad number of analyses, both in terms of examining population change itself, but also used as denominator data with other data sets- especially used as denominator data (to allow calculation of rates etc.). A vital resource for much of our work.
- Very useful to be able to produce population estimates for sub-authority areas. These are used in looking at housing market areas (part of planning and HNDA) and other settlement based areas. e.g recently I used them to provide population growth for larger settlement areas as input into [REDACTED] parking strategy.
- SAPE figures are similarly used to estimate morbidity and mortality but at a lower, more local level. These resulting figures are used to identify the local health inequalities that exist and to allow for appropriate planning of services.
- Used to analyse distribution of population.
- Use these in public health annual report, profiles and other intelligence related publications. Used in demographic statistics for calculating rates, life expectancy and population changes.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority - important that information is available on small area basis to monitor trends in population between datazones.
- Central input for assessing need for services and basis for projections.
- Funding bids. Service provision. Allocation of resources. Management of population levels. Aggregate to produce own bespoke geography estimates.
- SAPE is a basic building block and essential component for most Development Planning (including Housing Need and Demand Assessment) and business planning work, particularly once Census data becomes out of date.
- Monitor population trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support at the local level. Building block for calculating the populations of higher area geographies including non-standard areas. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- Used to monitor population changes in Data Zones since their creation and assess their fitness for use based upon the original data zone design criteria. Data zones are the key dissemination geography for Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics. This statistic is also well used throughout the year for various population queries that come from Scottish Government policy.
- An essential component of the demographic information available for Scotland and its NHS board areas. Also crucial as the denominator for calculating rates (crude or standardised) for a wide range of health data produced by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for epidemiological and surveillance purposes e.g. vaccine uptake, prevalence of hepatitis and service monitoring. These data influence government and health board policies and underpin major decisions on funding and service provision. One example of use: National statistics on the percentage of the population registered with an NHS dentist. Used for the Scottish Dental Practice Board papers and annual report, answering parliamentary questions and information requests, but at small area level e.g. local outbreak monitoring, susceptibility of small areas to disease due to low vaccine uptake. An essential component of the demographic information available for small areas within Scotland (e.g. ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles; Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics). Also crucial as the denominator for calculating rates (crude or standardised) for a wide range of health data produced by [REDACTED]. Local service and funding decisions require such data.

- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info
- denominators for rate calculations.
- If this includes local authority then used in calculating pupil projections for analytical support of education system, particularly teacher workforce planning and local authority funding.
- Helps with allocation of services at a small area level.
- This is a key data set reflecting population structure and changes that influence health and health care needs. The data source underpins health care planning and resource allocation at sub NHS Board level. Provides an event rate denominator for those exposed to risk that reflects the age and sex structure of the population.
- Essential to the calculation of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation publications. Datazone level populations are used as denominators for various indicators on Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS). We also aggregate these to obtain higher level geography populations. Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.
- used in calculating pupil projections for analytical support of education system, particularly teacher workforce planning and local authority funding.

## Settlement and Locality Estimates

- Useful supporting information to support planning functions.
- Local Area Development Plans.
- For tracking population trends and the migration components of change by gender and age for council areas and smaller areas.
- Will form a crucial part of a national common police performance platform (management information system) allowing us to generate community profiles which map crimes, survey results and other police and partner related data to local neighbourhoods.
- While we look at these figures we don't normally use them as we make our own estimates by aggregating datazones for the larger towns and villages and making our own estimates using other methods for the villages which are smaller than datazones. The settlement and locality boundaries do not match the ones which we use ourselves. This is particularly true of the settlements which we don't find at all useful as they are much too large. We would be more likely to use these if the locality definitions matched our own better.
- Use settlement sizes for descriptors of health board area. Used less frequently than SAPE's.
- Use Urban/Rural classification in survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- Biennial updates to settlement and locality estimates are required to feed into the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification. This classification is the basis for many grant schemes e.g. Scotland Rural Development Programme.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, resource allocations. We also make considerable use in our "[REDACTED]" system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by [REDACTED] organisations, community groups and individuals.
- Local area profiles.

- report writing, strategy and policy development, analysis of spending/costs per capita, comparison with other local authorities.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change between census periods. Answer queries
- General enquiries.
- The settlement and locality estimates are a useful indicator of settlement population between censuses.
- Statistical information for Council statutory duties and services: e.g. Development plan, community planning.
- Used occasionally (principally as denominator data).
- Very useful to be able to produce population estimates for sub-authority areas. These are used in looking at housing market areas (part of planning and HNDA) and other settlement based areas. e.g. recently I used them to provide population growth for larger settlement areas as input into [REDACTED] parking strategy.
- The estimates are used in spatial analysis for site location/relocation demographic analysis. Used in analysis to present evidence of QIS standards on sexual health.
- Often interest in specific areas that are not defined well by (groups of) datazones.
- Settlement used for [REDACTED] area.
- Other service users request stats at this level. Many of whom identify with the town/village - urban area only.
- Not used as we tend to build up populations for areas of interest from SAPE although we do sometimes refer the general public to the estimates.
- Monitor population trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support for local settlements and localities. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- The settlement data is useful as it helps to give a bit more information as to the spread of population. By being more specific as opposed to taking a local authority area as a whole, provides more robust information about the main settlement areas in a local authority. This also allows for the comparison of areas which are a similar size. These estimates are good for providing additional details about the population of an area and has proved to be a good resource when piloting our [REDACTED] either in a large or smaller authority.
- Used as an input to the Scottish Government Urban/Rural Classification. Aids policy development for transport, education, health issues etc. affecting rural areas. Also used as a standard variable for analysis, presentation and funding allocation. Applied to Scottish Household Survey and ONS, among others. Further, the Settlements (and in some cases Locality) data is also used by us to assess changes in built up areas which may have implications for Community Right to Buy.
- May not be often used directly in [REDACTED], but we do use the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification which is based on these estimates.
- Info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info
- One of the most frequent requests we receive from the general public. Helps us monitor increases/ decreases in population over time.

- Occasionally used as a reference source for the population size of a 'community'. However, definitions of settlement areas and localities not necessarily relevant to functioning of health service provision.
- Essential for the production of the 6 and 8-fold Urban Rural Classification. Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.

### **Population estimates for Special Areas built up from datazones (e.g. NUTS, Urban Rural, SIMD etc)**

- Used to calculate age group populations and to calculate rates for comparison purposes.
- We do this ourselves if required and would not normally use GROS data.
- Will form a crucial part of a national common police performance platform (management information system) allowing us to generate community profiles which map crimes, survey results and other police and partner related data to local neighbourhoods. Allows us to look at layers of information which may have a bearing on crime rates and people's perceptions of their neighbourhood as a safe place to live.
- For tracking population trends and the migration components of change by gender and age for council area and smaller areas.
- Use SIMD for targeted analysis at school catchment area level (based on pupil's postcodes/datazones)
- SIMD, Health deprivation Decile are used for monitoring our activities.
- SIMD – Very important to support planning and performance management relating to our priority equity strategy.
- We used SIMD for a variety of our research projects (which we undertake for a range of public sector clients).
- Rarely used as an aggregate SIMD, Urban Rural for Health Board areas from other sources.
- In [REDACTED], we use the DZ data to generate information for the 37 neighbourhoods in the city. The boundaries of these neighbourhoods reflect recognisable communities and the demographic/household data is used extensively.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. Annual population estimates by urban rural classification inform the debate on population growth and change within rural Scotland and assist policy consideration of relevant factors.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, resource allocations. We also make considerable use in our [REDACTED] system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by [REDACTED] Partnership organisations, community groups and individuals.
- Minor use of SIMD in GAE calculations
- Local level profiles, BID and LEADER applications for funding
- Funding applications in relation to the use of SIMD.
- We use small-area population estimates to provide denominators for rates in relation to numerous valuable public health statistics, for specific geographies

including Health Boards and Community Health Partnerships. For example, this is crucial in order to produce local health profiles that are of high value to service providers, planning teams, policy makers and the public as they enable them to make informed decisions to improve health and monitor trends over time. Small Area Population Estimates are also used in models of the impact of health interventions on population health and health inequalities. Such resources directly inform planning and resource allocation at local level. Datazone level data is of particular value as it affords the flexibility required to analyze statistics for a range of geographies. SIMD data is crucial to our work and to the wider health improvement agenda in Scotland as it provides a robust basis for understanding and describing health inequalities. Also, we are currently exploring the impact of using SIMD as a means to allocate funding in urban/rural areas. The urban/rural population estimates allow us to quantify the proportion of income deprived people living in these areas and the extent to which they are being excluded from resource targeting.

- The [REDACTED] is a very large and sparsely populated area. The size of the area means that the economy does not operate as a single cohesive unit and therefore data at NUTS II and III is essential for monitoring intra-regional differences. NUTS data is essential for use in European Programmes.
- The SIMD is used to inform discussions and engagement with local level stakeholders to show the links between economic inequality groups who are protected by equality legislation.
- Used to calculate proportions within SIMD
- Statistical information for Council services, particularly at SDPA level; informing decision on economic development.
- Yes, most of these are used (or have been used) for different projects and in relation to calculating different rates etc.
- Very useful to be able to produce population estimates for sub-authority areas. These are used in looking at housing market areas (part of planning and HNDA) and other settlement based areas. e.g. recently I used them to provide population growth for larger settlement areas as input into [REDACTED] parking strategy.
- These are used for various special analysis.
- Occasional use in examining population densities in areas of economic activity such as travel to work areas
- Technically not used. SIMD populations are created by aggregation of SAPE.
- Use these occasionally as required. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (WPC) not used as this covers the same area as the LA.
- Parliamentary Constituency information useful as an input to Factsheets. Population change by deprivation is a key input to urban regeneration strategies
- Not used as we tend to build up populations for bespoke areas of interest from SAPE..
- Monitor population trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support as well as funding support. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- [REDACTED] uses populations by SIMD and intermediate zone used as above, and the urban rural and SIMD population estimates for a wide range of analyses and publications. Example: HEAT Target H9: 3 & 4 year olds to receive 2 fluoride varnishes in a year. Measured against worst SIMD quintile. [REDACTED] sends out reports for NHS Boards to monitor their progress in achieving the targets.

- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning
- UK and international comparisons
- Informs council of the numbers of residents living in relative poverty (SIMD) therefore assists with allocating resources.
- Infrequently used in GRO(S) published format. However, datazone estimates are used to build populations for both these sorts of standard geographies and for bespoke areas.
- Used extensively by our users and on the SNS website. Many of whom may not realize that they are produced by the GROS. Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.

## Centenarians

- Research, publication, teaching.
- Of passing interest.
- Rarely used – general interest only.
- We do not make much use of this data.
- GROS produce single year of age mid-year population estimates for those age 90 and over. These are also used in the production of Interim Life Tables at the Scotland and UK geographic levels, and are also used in the aggregated UK population estimates of the very elderly.
- GROS population estimates of those 90 and over are used in the mortality assumptions setting process for the National Population Projections. These are also required to produce the projections at the Scotland and UK geographic levels.
- Not currently used as such but our ageing population means that better information on all over 90s (rather than just centenarians) will become increasingly important.
- Consulted. However, with population ageing resulting from increasing survival rates of older people this product and it's supporting methodology will be increasingly important.

## Marital Status

- Used for survey demographics.
- Equalities framework.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- [REDACTED] We use Scotland's marital status estimates to produce marriage and divorce rates for our quarterly reference tables. We also use the MS estimates for Scotland's civil partnership rates which are released quarterly and annually.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- We do not make much use of this data .
- The [REDACTED] use GROS population estimates and marital status estimates in the calculation of rates for births, deaths, marriages, divorces and civil partnerships across the UK.
- Although [REDACTED] only currently produce population projections by marital status for England & Wales, [REDACTED] have requested

that we investigate producing them for Great Britain instead - to do this, we would required marital status estimates for Scotland.

- Used in an analysis of breast feeding trends across Scotland using linked birth and breast feeding records. Marital status is an impt. predictive variable.
- Used for information purposes on socio-economic updates available to the public.
- Limited use only. Information purposes only.
- Analysis of household composition for policy planning.
- diversity reports .
- Not used - but nuptiality obviously recognized as an important piece of data for potentially understanding fertility trends and family/household structures.

## **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality**

- Useful supporting information to support planning relating to the equity strategy.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Equalities framework.
- To evaluate the needs for providing English as an additional language assistance for new pupils coming from abroad.
- Used for survey demographics.
- Not used so far as there has been no demand.
- Used for Public Health Strategy and planning services
- We haven't made much use of these estimates yet, but may include them in future annual population reports for [REDACTED].
- Survey Research.
- For use in Community Care Planning.
- Population figures by country of birth and nationality have recently been used in a literature review on factors affecting rural migration decisions in Scotland. This was a supporting paper for the recent Speak up for Rural Scotland consultation. These figures are also required for research purposes generally.
- We use this in work areas around equalities, migrant workers etc.
- Such data provide one means of analyzing data by population subgroups and ensuring that health and health care are equitable.
- Analysis using this variable with life expectancy used in the Commission's first triennial review - How Fair is Britain? - submitted to the UK Parliament in 2010.
- Used occasionally for various ad hoc analyses. Would also use more detailed break-downs within Scotland if this was ever available
- Background reading and to compare local and national trends
- One of the datasets used in identifying minority ethnic groups
- Used occasionally as above for socio-economic updates.
- Useful background information, given the increasing ethnic diversity of [REDACTED] population.
- Assists with migration estimates and associated allocation of resources in terms of educational support, community funding.
- Information not available at [REDACTED] level.
- Analysis of population for resource and service planning. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.

- These statistics are useful to the Migration Team at more of a top level to determine the percentage of the population who were born within and outside of the UK. As the data is broken down by local authority, this can show how the distribution of the population has changed over time and allows us to identify if migration is increasing or decreasing over a period of time.
- Require good data due to interactions between prevalence of certain diseases and ethnic groups. Data by country of birth has some use in equality and diversity work.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning .
- diversity.
- Helps us monitor the size of ethnic groups in the area and allocate resources accordingly.
- Consulted - there is currently little information available to understand the complex picture behind migration and family building. Used as an indirect indication of changing population diversity. Reflects potential additional demand on maternity related services.

### **Projected Population of Scotland**

- Only used for comparative purposes.
- To study national trends and local differences in population dynamics.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Key data for housing need and demand assessment.
- Important to support financial allocation and planning functions.
- Used as a control total in our land-use and transport forecasting model of Scotland.
- We don't use these projections in isolation, only as a comparator with the [REDACTED] projections.
- Used for comparison against our Health Board/Councils and CHP areas.
- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These figures are used for policy development, especially in the areas of housing, education etc.
- Mainly used as a comparator for the sub-national projections.
- The [REDACTED] supply population projections for Scotland and the UK to Central Government for policy and in order to meet Eurostat population requirements ([REDACTED] has a duty to act as national coordinator in the supply of UK population data for Eurostat.).
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Some of our work involves modelling or projecting health and other indicators forward, thus requiring population projections to provide appropriate denominators.
- Comparison to LA projections.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.



- These figures used to capture trends and predicted changes in population size and age profile in Scotland. Valuable data to inform a great deal of analysis on equality issues in Scotland.
- Used to calculate ratios within the general population. Reference point for population forecasts. Statistical information for Council services.
- Used occasionally for various ad hoc analyses. Would also use more detailed break-downs within Scotland if this was ever available.
- Background reading and to compare local and national trends.
- Used for comparing populations of other countries.
- Used to project affects of population change on the economy.
- To see if and how [REDACTED] differs from Scotland.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.
- Useful for comparison of projection results for [REDACTED] with projection results for Scotland.
- Comparison made with local authority level in terms of projected change.
- Benchmark for comparing projections at the local level where resource planning, policy planning and funding support is concerned.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- By showing how the population is going to change, this is a useful resource in planning for service provision and is particularly useful in identifying the local authorities who are likely to experience the most significant population changes. These statistics can be used to inform strategic planning and identifying what services have to be in place for the future given the changing nature of the population. It is also useful to be able to consider Scotland's position compared to the rest of Europe as well as the UK and appreciate the challenges that other countries will be facing. This helps to put into context discussions about the future of Scotland as well as being able to identify the impact that different variables might have on the population in the future.
- Used occasionally in ad hoc map requests.
- Projections are used in the modelling of susceptibility to certain diseases and for forecasting potential future trends in diseases/conditions. Also used in [REDACTED] estimates of projected healthy life expectancy.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.
- service planning.
- Used in calculating pupil projections for analytical support of education system, particularly teacher workforce planning and local authority funding.
- This dictates sub-national projections – Assists staff with estimating future service requirements e.g. the amount of new housebuilds or school places that could be required.
- This is a key data set reflecting population structure and changes that influence health and health care needs.

## Sub-National Projections for Administrative Areas

- Absolutely key to support financial allocation and planning functions.
- Key data for Housing Need and Demand assessment.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Forecasting demand for a variety of public services, including housing and care.
- To guide school roll projections at local level.
- For analysing projected population trends and the migration components of change by gender and age for council areas and smaller areas.
- Used for environmental scanning and planning purposes in terms of looking at potential demand on our resources to respond and ensuring we have the best information available with respect to how we resource local communities.
- Again these are fairly fundamental, but probably only because we accept that they are the best available and do not do our own projections. Currently the GROS projections fit in with our expectations of future growth in our area because GROS have accepted our suggested modifications to the migration assumptions in the last two or three rounds of projections. Thus the projections closely match our expectation for future growth and so are used for planning purposes such as in the Local Development Plan and the Local Housing Strategy.
- In calculation of rates for comparison purposes.
- Widely used for forecasting disease trends, service planning, commissioning.
- Used to inform/calibrate/sanity check our land-use and transport models of Scotland (National, Regional & Local).
- The council projections for ██████████ are used extensively by many services in ██████████ Council, e.g. planning the provision of services to pre-school children, school pupils, and the elderly population.
- Planning - Hospitals/child and elderly services, also maternity, pharmacy and dental, resource allocation.
- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- Used for service planning, and our own population projection work at smaller geographies than ██████. Also used with the ██████████ system in ██████.
- Data used in Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) calculations which are a central part of the allocation of local government funding in Scotland.
- Sub-national population projections for Scotland are used in updates of the ONS ageing mapping tool. Without this data we would not be able to display projected ageing indicators for Scotland.
- ONS use sub-national population projections from GROS in order to weight their household surveys.
- Strategy and policy development in relation to housing need of ageing population.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for ██████████. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Some of our work involves modelling or projecting health and other indicators forward, thus requiring population projections to provide appropriate denominators, our analyses are frequently at sub-national level.

- Housing land allocation within Development Plans. Summarise data for use by all staff.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- [REDACTED] use projected population figures to inform senior management decision making for future planning and resource priorities.
- These figures used to capture trends and predicted changes in population size and age profile in Scotland. Valuable data to inform a great deal of analysis on equality issues in Scotland, figures capture trends and predicted changes at sub-national level. Useful focus on migration in and out of areas. We use this information to provide valuable context for equality focused activities with NHS, local authorities and other public authorities working at local level.
- Used to calculate rations within the general population.
- Reference point for population forecasts. Statistical information for council services.
- Used occasionally for various ad hoc analyses. Would also use more detailed break-downs within Scotland if this was ever available.
- As input into Structure Plan Monitoring, as information for service departments, as a bench mark for our own projections which look at the effect of various migration levels.
- Current health indicators for [REDACTED] are used in conjunction with population projections to estimate what the future burden of disease will be. These projected figures are used to enable the accurate planning of future health services.
- Used to project affects of population change on the economy.
- To look at the changing structure of [REDACTED] population to inform strategies and policies to address population needs and aid planning of service delivery. Sub NHS board projections for CHP area would be extremely useful.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority. Essential that this is monitored.
- Useful for service planning. Assumptions useful for projections prepared by the Council and provides a benchmark to compare projection results.
- Used as main source in terms of population projections. Assists with Housing Need & Demand Assessments, other planning issues and subsequent resource allocations.
- Future projections are an essential part of all Development Planning and business planning work in [REDACTED]. Sub-national projections for the [REDACTED] area are the starting point for in-house population projections for areas within [REDACTED], which are controlled to the GROS projection as far as possible. The standard background data supplied by GROS - current and projected fertility and mortality rates - is also an essential component.
- Monitor population trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support. Baseline data for performance monitoring. Evidence for funding bids and GAE calculations etc. Local Housing Strategy.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- This is a useful resource as it gives the projected population change on a year by year level for individual local authorities. The projected age groups for each of the local authorities is helpful when discussing demography with local authorities and the potential impact on demand for services. The migration team used this when giving a presentation on [REDACTED] demography and the figures help to

highlight the extent of the population issues that they face in terms of an ageing and declining population.

- Used occasionally in ad hoc map requests.
- Included in ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles publications. It is important to consider future population sizes and their age/sex structure for planning services. Also used for modelling of susceptibility to certain diseases and forecasting potential future trends in diseases/conditions.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.
- service planning.
- Used in calculating pupil projections for analytical support of education system, particularly teacher workforce planning and local authority funding.
- Assists staff with estimating future service requirements e.g. the amount of new housebuilds or school places that could be required.
- This is a key data set reflecting population structure and changes that influence health and health care needs. The data source underpins health care planning and resource allocation at national and NHS Board levels.
- Used for estimating future burden of disease resulting from population ageing.
- This is a key data set reflecting population structure and changes that influence health and health care needs. The data source underpins health care planning and resource allocation at national and NHS Board levels. Used for estimating future burden of disease resulting from population ageing. Provides information on projected number of births to inform service planning that includes screening programmes. Component assumptions used as basis for undertaking sub Local Authority population projections.

### **Population Projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas**

- We do not have a national park in our area and so do not use these figures. Our local authority is a Strategic Development Pan area so we don't require these figures either as we use the local authority projections discussed above.
- Used for environmental scanning and planning purposes in terms of looking at potential demand on our resources to respond and ensuring we have the best information available with respect to how we resource local communities.
- Used to inform/calibrate/sanity check our land-use and transport models of Scotland (National, Regional & Local)
- The [REDACTED] Council area is not traversed by any NP or SDPA boundary, so these projections are of little use to us. But they are used in planning/housing strategies that are developed in conjunction with our [REDACTED] colleagues and with the joint SDPA team. (The [REDACTED] National Park lies partly in [REDACTED])
- Mainly used by our Planning related services.
- Could potentially be used for relatively small part of GAE calculations.
- Strategy and policy development in relation to housing need across a Strategic Development Plan area.
- For HNDA, the [REDACTED] and statutory development plans.
- Housing land allocation within Development Plans. Monitor change and compare with other sources.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries
- Reference point for population forecasts. Statistical information for council services

- As input into Structure Plan Monitoring
- [REDACTED] together with 7 other Councils are preparing a Strategic Development Plan for the Conurbation. Projections are an essential input.
- Used to compare the projections for the [REDACTED] National Park Area with in house projections for our [REDACTED] area which makes up some 80% of [REDACTED]
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- Assists staff with estimating future service requirements e.g. the amount of new housebuilds that could be required in [REDACTED] National Park area.
- National Park projections may be used as part of health needs assessments by [REDACTED]

## Interim Life Tables

- When considering impact of chronic infectious and other diseases (such as HIV and hepatitis C, or breast cancer ) and their screening/treatment on expected residual life-times
- Not used.
- Research, Publication & Teaching .
- Used for strategy and service planning.
- Don't use. Data that is for Scotland only, is of little interest to us!
- Used by our social services in service planning and work areas involved in tackling deprivation, equality and social justice.
- GRO-Scotland currently requests that Scottish Interim Life Tables are produced by ONS and sent to them for publication.
- Life expectancy figures were used with country of birth and nationality to capture trends in Scotland to inform the first triennial review published in 2010.
- Used for various projects examining health and health outcomes in different settings.
- Used in in-house [REDACTED] report relating to life expectancy at different ages.
- Important data for health improvement policies.
- We use the headline statistics for Scotland to inform our policy development work and to prepare briefings and position papers.
- Used in ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles (Scotland overview report). Also used in various analytical projects in [REDACTED] (measuring life time risk and for survival analysis).
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning, background on socio economic data and links with health.
- NHS outcome measures and reports.
- Key recognized and (mostly) understood summary measure of population health. Overall life expectancy at birth is a frequently used outcome indicator of population health used in many reporting frameworks. Interim tables used to illustrate how various aspects of mortality vary with age and sex. Used to calculate differences in chances of dying in specific populations. However, increasing importance of 'healthy life expectancy' type measures needs to be recognized given growing proportions of older people who live with serious disabilities such as musculoskeletal and sensory impairments that have

detrimental health impact but are not life threatening and are not recorded prominently in death records.

## Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas

- Important information to support planning relating to the equity strategy.
- We use this information for monitoring purposes and produce an annual local report on the figures.

These

figures are also a monitoring indicator in our Single Outcome Agreement.

- Demand for care and health services.
- Research, Publication & Teaching.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Used for strategy and service planning, comparative health.
- Useful time series showing historical trends that can reveal much about changes in health, environmental and lifestyle issues.
- Health statistics, reports, surveys - Planning etc.
- The figures are used to inform indicators in Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreements.
- Used by our social services in service planning and work areas involved in tackling deprivation, equality and social justice.
- Strategy and policy development in relation to housing need of ageing population.
- For service planning purposes.
- This is key health outcome and may be used in a variety of outputs.
- Life expectancy by sex and age at the local authority and NHS level is used to analyse life expectancy by age and gender at the local authority/NHS level.
- Used for various projects examining health and health outcomes in different settings.
- Background reading and to compare local and national trends
- Small area life expectancy is useful to make comparisons to NHS board and national level, which itself helps to inform health inequality work within
- Use these in public health annual report, profiles and other intelligence related publications.
- One of key themes in SOA. Poor life expectancy in men one of the island issues.
- Important data for health improvement policies.
- Allows improvement or worsening to be identified and assessed against actions taken. Allocation of resources for population groups.
- General use for comparisons & profiling.
- Health promotion and related policy planning.
- Used in ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles (NHS Boards). Will be used in future work related to quality of life for infections prevented.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning, background on socio economic data and links with health.
- NHS outcome measures and reports.
- Helps with planning for future social care provision.
- Key recognized and (mostly) understood summary measure of population health. Overall life expectancy at birth is a frequently used outcome indicator of

population health used in many reporting frameworks. Interim tables used to illustrate how various aspects of mortality vary with age and sex. Used to calculate differences in chances of dying in specific populations. However, increasing importance of 'healthy life expectancy' type measures needs to be recognized given growing proportions of older people who live with serious disabilities such as musculoskeletal and sensory impairments that have detrimental health impact but are not life threatening and are not recorded prominently in death records. frequently used summary measure of population health change over time and between groups in reporting and in illustrating health differences.

## Life Expectancy for Special Areas

- Important information to support planning relating to the equity strategy.
- Is used to identify areas where interventions can be put.
- We have occasionally used some of these figures and are likely to use the ones for intermediate datazones in future.
- Demand for care and health services.
- Research, Publication & Teaching.
- Used for strategy and service planning, comparative health.
- Life expectancy rates at DZ-level can help to highlight the discrepancies that exist within quite small geographical areas. They also underpin the results of the SIMD (Health Domain, especially)
- Compendium of health statistics/reports, health inequalities resulting in presentations - Lifestyle and health education at small area level. Planning - resource allocation etc.
- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. Life expectancy is a key indication of differences in general health between urban and rural areas.
- Used by our social services in service planning and work areas involved in tackling deprivation, equality and social justice.
- For service planning purposes.
- This is key health outcome and may be used in a variety of outputs.
- Life expectancy by sex and age at the local authority and NHS level is used to analyse life expectancy by age and gender at the local authority/NHS level.
- Used for various projects examining health and health outcomes in different settings.
- Small area life expectancy is useful to make comparisons to NHS board and national level, which itself helps to inform health inequality work within [REDACTED]
- Use these in public health annual report, profiles and other intelligence related publications.
- Important data for health improvement policies at local level.
- Allows comparison across the smaller geographical areas and target those areas in greatest need.
- Health promotion and related policy planning.
- Measure of general trends in health and welfare; key component of local sustainability indicators.
- Used in ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profiles (NHS Boards). Will be used in future work related to quality of life for infections prevented.

- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning, background on socio economic data and links with health.
- NHS outcome measures and reports.
- Informs us of any disparity within the council area.
- CHP and Intermediate Zone data is valued for monitoring population health status and geographic health inequalities.

## **Total Migration To or From an Area**

- Useful supporting information to help understand the local population.
- Used for monitoring.
- Lets us see any associated links to migration in crimes.
- Migration is my PRIMARY area of interest and expertise. Indeed the majority of my work for central and local government departments, as well as research funded by ██████████ etc., is focused on migration. So I strongly urge the retention of all the current outputs including data on international migration.
- To assist with school roll projections at local and school catchment area level.
- Projections of demand for housing and schools.
- Research, Publication & Teaching.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Key data for Housing need and demand Assessment.
- Used as only source of migration information for service planning.
- All data on the components of migration is useful. Having the origins and destinations of migrants is especially helpful for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English.
- For use in Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on rural migration issues.
- Used in population projection work areas, service planning, equalities and regeneration.
- General Info, Housing Need and Demand Assessment.
- strategy and policy development in relation to housing need of a mobile population; age of in-migrants and out-migrants also impacts on the housing required.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for ██████████. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and estimate/project impact.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Used in work we drive forward on migration and population ageing in Scotland. Helps us in projecting demand for services.
- Input for population and economic forecasts.
- Used occasionally for ad hoc analyses.
- We use local migration figures and reports for internal reports and to answer internal and external enquiries.
- Used to estimate migrant groups within the ██████████ area as not all migrants will be registered with a GP, the usual source of population data. These figures are used by ██████████ for planning appropriate services. The figures are also used to determine if there have been genuine health improvements in certain



areas or if these are just artefacts of migration to or from an area by certain groups.

- Useful in modelling filling of economic vacancies.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.
- It is essential to have a good understanding of current migration patterns and the various components. It also assists the selection of more realistic assumptions for projections.
- Monitor change and associated service provision.
- Analysis of trends for policy and resource planning, e.g. housing, services and related infrastructure provision.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations.
- These statistics are useful to the Migration team in terms of understanding the population in a little more detail due to the breakdown by age and sex per each local authority. This information can be applied to provide a more detailed analysis of how the population has changed over a number of years particularly as values have been given for in, out and net migration.
- general info.
- Helps us monitor population changes particularly as migration has the biggest influence.
- Migration is recognized as an important element in understanding population dynamics for health service planning - not simply in terms of volumes of new residents but in the health differences that new population groups may have from an existing population. The improving availability and quality of migration data is helping to support this key Community Planning function. The products now published by GRO(S) are an improvement on those previously available, and within the limitations of routine data collected in the inter Census period, increasingly important. Secondary use of data in this manner needs to be analyzed and published using consistent methodologies by GRO(S) to provide authoritative baselines/estimates for Local Authorities

## **Migration within Scotland**

- Useful supporting information to help understand the local population.
- Used for monitoring and information purposes.
- Lets us see any associated link to migration in crimes at national level – since criminal networks do not respect boundaries.
- Migration is my PRIMARY area of interest and expertise. Indeed the majority of my work for central and local government departments, as well as research funded by ██████████ etc., is focused on migration. So I strongly urge the retention of all the current outputs including data on international migration. I am especially interested in compiling UK-wide tables of inter-area migration.
- To assist with school roll projections at local and school catchment area level.
- Research, Publication & Teaching.
- Used as only source of migration information for service planning.
- All data on the components of migration is useful. Having the origins and destinations of migrants is especially helpful for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English.

- For use in Community Care Planning.
- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. Figures on migration in/out rural Scotland illustrate the movement in population between these areas at different life stages. This informs the debate on understanding push/pull migration factors.
- [REDACTED] receive monthly data on migration within Scotland from GROS. However, [REDACTED] only require the total number of moves within Scotland, and do not use the area breakdown. These are incorporated [REDACTED] internal migration datasets and then used to produce the [REDACTED] output. These data are also used to constrain annual mid-year to mid-year internal migration estimates, which in turn feed into mid-year population estimates and other outputs such as population estimates by ethnic group.
- Used in population projection work areas, service planning, equalities and regeneration.
- strategy and policy development in relation to the movement between neighbouring local authorities.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and estimate/project impact.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Input for population and economic forecasts.
- Used occasionally for ad hoc analyses.
- Background reading.
- Useful in modelling filling of economic vacancies.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.
- In recent years [REDACTED] has had a net inflow of migrants from overseas and a net outflow to the Rest of the Conurbation. Understanding this is of crucial importance for policy, e.g. the promotion of family housing in the City to retain families.
- Monitor change and associated service provision.
- Housing needs assessment and Local housing strategy.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations. - also helps to understand local housing and labour markets, flagging up potential issues and imbalances which may need to be addressed.
- The data on those moving about Scotland is particularly important as it is useful to be able to identify where people in the main are moving to if they are staying in Scotland. As this information is produced at local authority level it is good to be able to identify the most prominent areas people are drawn to. This information is particularly useful to the Migration team when supporting local authorities to use their Migration Toolkit.
- general info.

## Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK

- Used as a control total in our land-use and transport forecasting model of Scotland.
- Used as only source of migration information for service planning.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- To assist with school roll projections at local and school catchment area level.
- Migration is my PRIMARY area of interest and expertise. Indeed the majority of my work for central and local government departments, as well as research funded by ██████████ etc., is focused on migration. So I strongly urge the retention of all the current outputs including data on international migration. I am especially interested in compiling UK-wide tables of inter-area migration.
- Lets us see any associated links to migration in crimes since criminal networks do not respect boundaries.
- Background information only.
- All data on the components of migration is useful. Having the origins and destinations of migrants is especially helpful for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English.
- Occasional use in survey research.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on rural migration issues.
- Used in population projection work areas, service planning, equalities and regeneration.
- ██████████ receive data on migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK from GROS on a quarterly basis: a) moves from all Health Authorities in England & Wales to all Health Boards in Scotland; and b) moves from Northern Ireland to Scotland Health Boards. These are incorporated into ██████████ and then used to produce ██████████ ██████████ These data are also used to constrain annual mid-year to mid-year internal migration estimates, which in turn feed into mid-year population estimates and other outputs such as population estimates by ethnic group.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for ██████████. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and estimate/project impact.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Used in work we drive forward on migration and population ageing in Scotland. Helps us in projecting demand for services.
- Input for population and economic forecasts.
- Used occasionally for ad hoc analyses.
- Background reading.
- Useful in modelling filling of economic vacancies.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.
- It is important to relate the longer distance net migration flows to economic and employment change in ██████████.
- Monitor change and associated service provision.
- Housing needs assessment and Local housing strategy.

- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations. - also helps to understand local housing and labour markets, flagging up potential issues and imbalances which may need to be addressed.
- Although it is only at Scotland as a whole level, it is useful to identify if people, when they move are moving to England & Wales or Northern Ireland and vice versa. It is useful to be able to identify the number of people who have moved within the UK. – Although data is not available on a local authority level, it is still helpful to identify the number of people moving from Scotland to England & Wales and Northern Ireland. Like Migration within Scotland, this is useful data to utilise when supporting local authorities to use the Migration Toolkit.
- general info.

## Migration between Scotland & Overseas

- Used as only source of migration information for service planning.
- For context information.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- To assist with school roll projections at local and school catchment area level.
- I am especially interested in compiling UK-wide tables of inter-area migration. Vital to know the sub-national incidence of both immigration and emigration.
- Lets us see any associated links to migration in crimes since criminal networks do not respect boundaries.
- Background information only.
- All data on the components of migration is useful. Having the origins and destinations of migrants is especially helpful for services dealing with clients whose first language is not English.
- Occasional use in survey research.
- For use in Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on rural migration issues.
- Used less so than the other datasets in this category.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and estimate/project impact.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Used in work we drive forward on migration and population ageing in Scotland. Helps us in projecting demand for services.
- Input for population and economic forecasts.
- Used occasionally for ad hoc analyses.
- Background reading.
- Useful in modelling filling of economic vacancies.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.
- It is important to relate overseas migration to economic and employment change in [REDACTED] and to the growing ethnic diversity of [REDACTED]
- Monitor change and associated service provision.
- Housing needs assessment and Local housing strategy.

- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations. - also helps to understand local housing and labour markets, flagging up potential issues and imbalances which may need to be addressed.
- Although data is not available on a local authority level, the data provides a useful comparator to identify the numbers moving overseas and throughout the rest of the UK. In addition, the data is also broken down by age group so it assists build up a picture of why people have moved. This information is also useful as part of a general overview section when planning Toolkit sessions.
- general info.

## Local Area Migration Reports

- Used as only source of migration information for service planning.
- These are very useful. Inform policy and service provision.
- Projections of demand for housing and schools.
- To assist with school roll projections at local and school catchment area level.
- I am especially interested in compiling UK-wide tables of inter-area migration. Vital to know the sub-national incidence of both immigration and emigration. Useful as background, but I could do the analyses and write up the commentary myself.
- Background information only.
- We upload this report to the Stats and Facts page of the [REDACTED] Council website. Useful summary.
- For use in Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on rural migration issues.
- Used in population projection work areas, service planning, equalities and regeneration.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and estimate/project impact.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- [REDACTED] use local area migration reports to help understand population structure. [REDACTED] would require access to the data, however believe that presenting this data in spreadsheet form would be a suitable alternative. This would ensure that the data was available whilst reducing the time burden of analysis on GROS. Any users would then be required to undertake their own analyses.
- Used in work we drive forward on migration and population ageing in Scotland. Helps us in projecting demand for services.
- Input for population and economic forecasts.
- Used occasionally for ad hoc analyses.
- We use local migration figures and reports for internal reports and to answer internal and external enquiries.
- Used in understanding migration flows into and out of [REDACTED]. A very useful overview. Use the breakdown of locations of overseas migration.
- One of the key themes of the Single Outcome Agreement. Used to inform the document. Important as informs Councillors, colleagues and external bodies. Important issue for the Local Authority.

- Reports present data on migration from various data sources and this is useful as it brings together this data into a single document.
- Monitor change and associated service provision. However, more interested in the data than the report.
- Local Area migration data is vital in [REDACTED] - see comments at end of this form. The report itself is helpful in bringing information from different sources together but is probably not essential.
- Analysis of trends for policy and resource planning, e.g. housing, services and related infrastructure provision.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs land use allocations. - also helps to understand local housing and labour markets, flagging up potential issues and imbalances which may need to be addressed.
- These are extremely useful and comprehensive reports bringing together a variety of data sources and putting them into one document. A useful way of informing ourselves and others of the migration landscape of a particular area, and we know that they are also used by a number of local authorities. The Reports are useful comparators as they group neighbouring local authorities ie [REDACTED], encompassing the [REDACTED] and not only allow for the comparison between each other but also look at Scotland as a whole too. This is also helpful when engaging in Toolkit workshops as it allows one local authority to see how they differ from their neighbours.
- General info.
- Important briefing summary on migration that primarily allows joint understanding of available data sources for Community Planning partners.

### **Babies First Names**

- I'm interested in this information.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Of passing interest only.
- Not used to any great extent.
- Used for information in socio-economic updates available to the public.
- Interesting, but the council does not make significant use of babies' first names.

### **Births, Marriages & Deaths – quarterly figures**

- Key information to support the planning function and to provide the denominators for performance measures.
- We use the quarterly birth figures quite a lot at present. Our birth rate is quite high and we are monitoring births closely as input to school roll projections.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Regularly used for mortality trends, public health queries, comparative health, service planning.
- Quarterly figures for births are used to compile data for different reporting periods - e.g. mid-year to mid-year, financial year, and calendar year. These figures are then used for a range of purposes, such as calculating the number of children that are likely to begin pre-school and primary school education in the forthcoming years.
- Not used to any great extent.

- [REDACTED] uses a number of GROS outputs to compile UK vital statistics outputs on a quarterly basis (reference tables for Population Trends and Health Statistics Quarterly) for births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and divorces. Annual civil partnership statistics are also produced [REDACTED] on a UK basis. [REDACTED] supply annual (but not quarterly) UK data on vital events to Eurostat and other international organisations.
- [REDACTED] uses GROS births quarterly figures to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.
- Monitoring change.
- births and deaths data used/accessed frequently for various analyses/reports. Births by country of birth and parental marital status have been used.
- Use birth figures to calculate differentials for school roll forecasts, quarterly figures are useful because they can be summed to roughly reflect the school admission year.
- Useful for teaching purposes.
- To briefly check with in-house extracted figures.
- Used regularly for trend purposes and socio economic updates. The demographics of the islands are ageing, high death rate and low birth rate.
- Allows on-going monitoring of natural population change.
- [REDACTED] receives daily death data excluding cause. Quarterly data available through [REDACTED] data warehouse. Used to monitor excess deaths. Quarterly births and deaths on GROS website are used to run a few checks against. However, quarterly figures on website not absolutely essential as [REDACTED] also get data abstracts, and use the finalised figures when available.
- This product is not used - NHS [REDACTED] have direct access to weekly GRO(S) vital events files.
- On our behalf, [REDACTED] use annual deaths data to form Standardised Mortality Ratio indicator on the Health Domain of the SIMD. They also use annual births data to form the Proportion of Live Singleton Births of Low Birth Weight indicator. Both essential indicators.

### **Births, Marriages & Deaths – preliminary annual figures**

- Key information to support the planning function and to provide the denominators for performance measures.
- Numbers of deaths by cause/disease code. Use it to work out mortality of meningitis and septicaemia.
- Not used.
- Essential for the computation of school roll projections (it is actually the starting point for our national run of forecasts).
- Demand for bereavement services, children's services, income projections for registration offices.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Regularly used for mortality trends, public health queries, comparative health, service planning.

- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. Births and deaths by Urban Rural Classification, in conjunction with migration figures, help us to understand the changes in population levels and changes, year on year.
- Some uses in population projection work areas.
- The figures on unexplained infant deaths in Scotland provided to [REDACTED] annually are vital for decision making for [REDACTED] including in our partnership work with departments of health in the four UK countries. They are the best, and only, national means of gauging the impact of Scottish and other UK government efforts to reduce the risk of cot death. Cot death remains the main cause of death in babies over one month old throughout the four countries and so reducing this cause of infant mortality is of major importance. It is the most preventable cause of infant mortality, great progress has been made in bringing down deaths, which have dropped by about 70% in the past 20 years, but it is vital to monitor death rates comprehensively in order to continue to shape and focus health education efforts to get the death rate down even further. It is vital that GROS figures continue to be available to inform and guide the health education effort in Scotland to save babies' lives.
- [REDACTED] routinely uses GROS births preliminary annual figures to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.
- Monitoring change.
- Used for comparison.
- Background reading.
- To briefly check with in-house extracted figures.
- Used regularly for trend purposes and socio economic updates. The demographics of the islands are ageing, high death rate and low birth rate.
- Allows on-going monitoring of natural population change.
- Occasional use to update a time series in advance of the formal figures.
- These births data are used to compare against SMR02 maternity hospital records, and total births are compared with the number of births occurring in hospital. However, preliminary annual figures on website not absolutely essential as we also use the finalised figures when available.
- general info.
- public health reports.
- Births and death influence population change therefore worth monitoring trends.

## **Drug Related Deaths in Scotland**

- Key information to support the planning function and to provide the denominators for performance measures.
- Used as an indicator as substance misuse is one of our priorities and we have this as a measure against our interventions.
- Monitoring of the fatal impact of prevalent use of different illegal (or prescribed drugs) in Scotland - requires information jointly on demography and toxicity and GROS has taken a lead in its provision, initially on a requested basis & later incorporated into GROS tables.
- This information is used by our substance misuse officers.



- Critical to the police working with partners such as NHS and drugs agencies to gather intelligence, prevent the escalation of drugs and drugs dealers and target and deal with offenders.
- Look at the range and specific drugs that have been detected in Scotland to enhance our drug screening procedures and thus the service we provide.
- Community Safety reporting.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Used for service planning, research and ad-hoc queries.
- This data is used to monitor the effectiveness of substance abuse initiatives. Also relates to other areas of work, such as community safety, deprivation and regeneration.
- Used by addiction team specialists, Public Health Consultants, for reports etc.
- To inform the Substance Misuse Strategy.
- Used for a number of purposes in areas around community safety.
- Report writing in relation to drug and homelessness.
- This is used for an indicator of the Scottish adult mental health indicators set [REDACTED] - Deaths per 100,000 adults in the past year from 'mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use'.
- Provides useful contextual information to frame our work and understand trends in Scotland.
- Used to help inform practice within [REDACTED] practice & policy
- used fairly frequently in relation to monitoring drugs harm in, and within, Scotland.
- GRO(S) published figures are used to compare the rate of drug-related deaths in NHS [REDACTED] - produced using local data - with rates in other Boards and the overall Scotland rates. The web page itself is a useful information resource.
- Asked question from colleagues, so checked website for codes to discover process is more detailed than just selecting the codes.
- Used for information in socio-economic updates available to the public.
- Key information for the [REDACTED].
- Allows comparison between local and national position. Supports resource allocation.
- Useful background and context for funding bids and programme planning.
- Monitoring of health and social trends; input to sustainability indicators.
- These statistics are used to provide details for speeches and briefing papers.
- [REDACTED] cross-checks the National Drug-Related Deaths Database (NDRDD) records that are collected for a given year against GROS's drug-related death records for the same year, to see if there are any deaths that meet the NDRDD drug-related deaths definition for which a NDRDD record was not returned to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also cross-checks the NDRDD records that are collected for a given year against the wider GROS deaths records database to ensure that all returned NDRDD records are within the NDRDD definition of a drug-related death.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning, linkages with suicide and self harm and general health policies.
- as above and business cases for funding.
- Used by [REDACTED] to monitor trends in drug misuse related to substance type, age and sex.

## Increased Winter Mortality

- Useful information to support the planning function.
- Monitoring age-specific impact of seasonal influenza and climatic changes - increasingly important in wake of H1n1 and as climate changes loom.
- Background information only.
- Identification of trends in local communities, identification of vulnerable people/vulnerable areas, contributes to risk management and business continuity management plans.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Used for service planning, research and ad-hoc queries.
- This data may be used by our Social Care & Wellbeing service.
- Not used extensively.
- Report writing and analysis in relation to energy efficiency of homes and winter mortality.
- Provides useful contextual information to frame our work and understand trends in Scotland.
- Used occasionally.
- Used annually - important to highlight the areas affected.
- as above.

## Vital Events Reference Tables

- Used to inform Health Inequalities profiles and Poverty Inequalities profiles. Some information is also used in the Single Outcome Agreement.
- Population profiling.
- Regularly used for mortality trends, public health queries, comparative health, service planning.
- A few of the tables required : Require tables:- 6.4 (numerator for Scottish comparable death rates by age and COD against our Health Board/Councils/CHCPs. Analysis SMRs/rates, standardised against Scotland. Table 5.2 (crude rates/SMRs), Table 1.3 (Bths, SBs, PND, NND, Inf Dths) Used regularly reports, trends etc, Table 1.5 SMRs Used on regular basis, also good check for calculations from death data. Table 6.3 Dths by COD, regularly used also good check when analysing death data. Table 3.14 Require part of this table (Total Live Births & Total Stillbirths) for analysis by mothers age, as mother's age not on Birth & Stillbirth registration data.
- Not used extensively.
- Deaths data (table5.2) used in GAE calculations.
- The [REDACTED] uses a number of GROS outputs to compile UK vital statistics outputs on a quarterly basis (reference tables for Population Trends and Health Statistics Quarterly) for births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and divorces. Annual civil partnership statistics are also produced by [REDACTED] on a UK basis. [REDACTED] supply annual (but not quarterly) UK data on vital events to Eurostat and other international organisations.
- [REDACTED] routinely uses GROS births reference tables to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption

setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.

- Birth and death registrations data for Scotland are required for the production of annual Interim Life Tables at the UK and Scotland geographic levels.
- Birth and death registrations data are used in the mortality assumptions setting process for the National Population Projections. These are also required to produce the projections at the Scotland and UK geographic levels.
- Information on births and deaths, including on cause-specific deaths, may be used directly or to provide denominators and context for various health-related statistics.
- Monitoring change.
- Used for comparison with other death info.
- Births and deaths data used/accessed frequently for various analyses/reports.
- Background reading.
- GRO(S) published figures are used to compare the mortality rates in NHS [redacted] - produced using local data - with rates in other Boards and the overall Scotland rates.
- To monitor the demography of [redacted] look each year at births, deaths and main causes of death.
- Key theme in the SOA. Used regularly to inform the document and socio-economic updates.
- Useful for monitoring purposes and to set parameters for forward projections.
- Annual birth, death, marriage figures allow comparison between local and national position. Supports resource allocation.
- Used to confirm trends and give context to population projections etc.
- Provides insights into the various component factors affecting demographic trends. Helps to determine allocation of funding & other resources.
- We use these as a gold standard to check the validity of figures in our analyses. They are fundamental for quality assurance of deaths, births and stillbirths data. e.g. the births reference tables are used to compare against SMR02 maternity hospital records, and total births are compared with the number of births occurring in hospital. Stillbirth figures for the Scottish Perinatal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity Report are checked against the final annual published figure. 2. [redacted] often refers customers to these GROS births and deaths tables.
- Reports.
- Used for monitoring population health status. Key source of comparative data for other NHS Board and Local Authority area vital events.

### **Vital Events Time-Series Tables**

- Key information to support the planning function and to provide the denominators for performance measures.
- Referred to from time to time.
- Population profiling.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Regularly used for mortality trends, public health queries, comparative health, service planning.
- Births by maternal age by HB & council. Useful for ad-hoc enquiries. Planning & Public Health.
- Not used extensively.

- routinely uses GRO(S) births time series tables to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.
- Monitoring trends is vital to our work; again births and deaths may be used to provide various health-related statistics.
- Monitoring change.
- Births and deaths data used/accessed frequently for various analyses/reports.
- GRO(S) published figures are used to compare the mortality rates in NHS [redacted] - produced using local data - with rates in other Boards and the overall Scotland rates. The time-series tables are used to identify any trends in mortality.
- To monitor changes over time of the demography of [redacted] look each year at births, deaths and main causes of death.
- Key theme in the SOA. Used regularly to inform the document and socio-economic updates.
- Useful for monitoring purposes and to set parameters for forward projections.
- Annual birth, death, marriage figures allow comparison between local and national position. Supports resource allocation.
- Used to confirm trends and give context to population projections etc.
- Provides insights into the various component factors affecting demographic trends. Helps to determine allocation of funding & other resources.
- Reference, checking and background information. Used occasionally to look at time trends in deaths, this can save [redacted] having to do the analyses, or be used as a check.
- Reports.
- Used for monitoring population health status over time. Key source of comparative data for other NHS Board and Local Authority area vital events.

**Web sections on alcohol related deaths, Clostridium Difficile deaths, MRSA deaths and probable suicides**

- Useful information to support the planning function and support performance measures.
- Again alcohol related deaths is one of our priorities so we use this as an indicator against our interventions.
- I have not used these to-date but expect to pay them greater heed as we focus on the transition between addictions (drugs & alcohol) and because non-drug-related suicides are the second highest cause of death among drug treatment CLIENTS.
- Suicide data is a monitoring indicator for our Single Outcome Agreement.
- Identification of trends in local communities, identification of vulnerable people/vulnerable areas, contributes to risk management and business continuity management plans, re drug related deaths.
- Community Safety reporting.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Used for service planning, and ad-hoc queries.
- This data may be used by our Social Care & Wellbeing service.



## Weekly & Monthly data on births & Deaths

- WEEKLY DEATHS ESSENTIAL FOR monitoring acutely fatal epidemics; monthly data on births would probably suffice.
- Not used – quarterly is sufficient.
- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Only use weekly data files received by e-mail to maintain health boards local births, deaths data files.
- I don't see the need for this data to be supplied on a weekly or monthly basis. Quarterly and annually ought to be sufficient.
- Not used extensively.
- We use this data but a version that has NHSCR CHI inserted into it.
- [REDACTED] receives daily death data excluding cause. Quarterly data available through [REDACTED] data warehouse. Used to monitor excess deaths. [REDACTED] does not use the published weekly and monthly data on births and deaths on GROS website. We receive weekly extracts of provisional death records which are loaded into our data marts each month, to allow timely analyses of provisional data. These records are not just used in their own right but are linked to other health records to allow comprehensive research and analysis.
- This product is not used - NHS [REDACTED] have direct access to weekly GRO(S) vital events files.

## Electoral Statistics

- Used to inform members.
- We have used these as a quick reference source, but we would be interested in ward electorate which is not published <sup>1</sup>.
- Electoral Statistics have a fairly limited though specific use within the Council.
- Not used extensively.
- [REDACTED] electoral statistics from GROS in order to collate electoral statistics for the UK. Tables 1-3 detailed at [REDACTED] are supplied by GROS for this purpose, and these are required on an annual basis. Electoral statistics for the UK are used by the [REDACTED] in their work to ensure equal representation in Parliament. Aggregate outputs for the UK are of particular interest to MPs and discussed in Parliament.
- Compare with other data sources.
- We use electoral statistics for parliamentary purposes, including information on local and national elections and the profile of MSPs and MPs in Scotland.
- Used occasionally for analyses relating to voter turnout.
- Used occasionally.
- Useful Background information.
- Not generally used, we would use the in-house data supplied by [REDACTED] to GROS as the basis for their work.
- info for briefings, general info, organisational planning, support policy and campaigning work.
- Helps with facilitating elections. We can also compare the population estimate for 18+ year olds and identify if there are areas where there is a shortfall of residents registered to vote.

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent has been informed that GROS has published ward level electoral statistics since 2008

## Estimates of Households & Dwellings

- Used to inform/calibrate/sanity-check our land-use and transport models of Scotland (national, Region & local)
- Used for service planning.
- Key data for Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- Planning services, Housing services.
- Useful for my UK-wide analyses of household and housing change and the planning/policy implications of mismatches between the 2.
- Used as previously stated for planning resources against potential demand.
- These are in fairly frequent use.
- Very useful for planning and housing services. Also for more specialised services such as waste collection.
- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics feature in the annual National Statistics publication on Rural Scotland Key Facts. These statistics inform the picture of affordable housing in rural Scotland and policy consideration of issues such as second homes and empty dwellings.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, and resource allocations. We also make considerable use in our [REDACTED] system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by [REDACTED] organisations, community groups and individuals.
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment.
- No current use, but the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] plan to use GROS estimates of households and dwellings in order to compare the results from these to results from surveys such as the Annual Population Survey or Labour Force Survey. This work is required in preparation of a new [REDACTED] release on families. Only estimates for Scotland as a whole are required, and no lower geographic breakdown is required.
- report writing, strategy and policy development, analysis of housing need and demand, comparison with other local authorities, empty homes monitoring.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change between census periods. Inform Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan. Summarise data for use by all staff.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- [REDACTED] use estimates of Households and Dwellings to assist understanding of the workings of our regional and local economies.
- Baseline; e.g. for population forecasts, school roll forecasts, household forecasts, household requirement, HNDA. Statistical information for Council services.

- Used for various analyses (e.g. changes in particular household types)
- Input into Housing Need and Demand Assessment, SDP monitoring, support for LDP process.
- Used for projecting effects of household change on the economy.
- Used to inform the SOA. Also used to inform LA strategy documents e.g. Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Improvement Programme.
- Essential input for service planning and for land-use planning and housing policies. Council prepares its' own estimates as GROS does not provide household and dwelling estimates by tenure.
- Used for planning purposes, including Housing Needs & Demand Assessments. Also used as denominator.
- Not generally used, we would use the in-house data supplied to GROS as the basis for their work.
- Monitor housing and household trends for resource planning and policy support. Baseline data for performance monitoring. Evidence for funding bids and GAE calculations etc. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs housing land allocations.
- Used occasionally in ad hoc map requests.
- Potentially used for household based models of infectious diseases. ScotPHO uses information on number of single adult dwellings in the Health and wellbeing Profiles.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning
- target response rates.
- The general public often request this type of information.
- Changes in health service usage and therefore design relate not only to the health of the population but how and where people live. Used for informing strategic planning.
- Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.

### **Household Projections for Scotland 2008 based**

- Used to inform/calibrate/sanity-check our land-use and transport models of Scotland (national. Region & local).
- Used for service planning.
- Key data for Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- To guide school roll projections that contains an element of new housing forecasts for the local area.
- Useful for my UK-wide analyses of household and housing change and the planning/policy implications of mismatches between the 2.
- Since these match the population projections we use these as our source of household projections for planning purposes in our Local Development Plan and Local Housing Strategy.
- ██████████ Council makes significant use of the sub-national household projections. They are important in planning a variety of services - e.g. Housing



Need & Demand, Waste Collection, Local Development Plan, Services for Older People, etc, etc.

- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on housing issues.
- Mainly used as a comparator for [REDACTED] based data.
- No current use, but the [REDACTED] plan to use GROS '2008-based household projections for Scotland' in order to compare the results from these to results from surveys such as the Annual Population Survey or Labour Force Survey. This work is required in preparation of a new [REDACTED] release on families. Only projections for Scotland as a whole are required, and no lower geographic breakdown is required.
- report writing, strategy and policy development, analysis of future housing need and demand, comparison with other local authorities.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change. Inform Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan. Summarise data for use by all staff.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- Reference point for household forecasts. Statistical information for Council services.
- Used occasionally.
- Input into Housing Need and Demand Assessment, SDP monitoring, support for LDP process.
- Used for projecting effects of household change on the economy.
- Used to inform the SOA. Also used to inform LA strategy documents e.g. Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Improvement Programme.
- Essential input for planning and housing policies. Assumptions useful for projections prepared by the Council and provides a benchmark to compare projection results.
- Projections for Scotland and sub-area level used for planning purposes, including Housing Needs & Demand Assessments and other service provision.
- On the assumption that this includes projections for Authority areas, we use these projections but rely more on in-house projections based on headship rates calculated and supplied by GROS as part of this work. The local household projections are a crucial part of all Development Planning work, Housing Need and Demand Assessment etc.
- Benchmark for comparing projections at the local level where resource planning, policy planning and funding support is concerned. Local Housing Strategy.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs housing land allocations.
- Potentially used for household based models of infectious diseases.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.
- planning services.

- Ties in with population projections and helps council with future service planning.
- Changes in health service usage and therefore design relate not only to the health of the population but how and where people live. Used for informing strategic planning.
- Household Projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Plan Areas and National Parks
- Not used, see comments on equivalent population projections.
- Little use is made of these projections by [REDACTED] Council, but they are used by the joint [REDACTED] SDP team.
- Mainly used by our Planning related services.
- Housing need and demand on SDP level.
- Monitor change and compare with other sources. Inform Strategic Development Plan.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- Reference point for household forecasts. Statistical Reference point for population forecasts. Statistical information for Council services. Information for Council services.
- SDP monitoring.
- [REDACTED] Council together with 7 other Councils are preparing a Strategic Development Plan for the Conurbation. Projections are an essential input.
- Used to compare the projections for the [REDACTED] National Park Area with in house projections for our [REDACTED] area which makes up some 80% of [REDACTED].
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs housing land allocations.
- Helps with service planning provision for [REDACTED] National Park.

### **Small Area Household Estimates**

- Used to update the base year assumptions in our traffic models (which use zones which are made up of groupings of datazones).
- Key data for Housing Need & Demand Assessment.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- To guide school roll projections that contains an element of new housing forecasts for the local area.
- Useful for my UK-wide analyses of household and housing change and the planning/policy implications of mismatches between the 2.
- Like the small area population estimates these are an important source of information.
- The SAHE data is used in the same way as the SAPE data, i.e. to generate data for non-standard geographies by using DZs as our building blocks.
- Survey research.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on housing issues.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, and resource allocations. We also make

considerable use in our [REDACTED] system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by [REDACTED] organisations, community groups and individuals.

- Up to date information to inform area based funding applications.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and compare with other sources. Aggregate to ad hoc areas where practical.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- [REDACTED] use Small Area Household estimates to compile data for non standard geographies. This improves our knowledge of our area and aids policy development.
- Statistical information for Council services.
- Used occasionally.
- Used in putting together settlement profiles and information about small areas.
- Used in spatial analysis for demographic based projects. Used in needs assessments.
- Used to inform the SOA. Also used to inform LA strategy documents e.g. Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Improvement Programme. Important to monitor trends in small areas.
- input for service planning and for land-use planning and housing policies. Council prepares its' own estimates as GROS does not provide household estimates by household type.
- Aggregate data to produce own bespoke household estimates. Compare change over time.
- Not generally used, we would use the in-house data supplied by [REDACTED] to GROS as the basis for their work.
- Monitor household trends by age/gender for resource planning and policy support. Baseline data for performance monitoring. Evidence for funding bids and GAE calculations etc. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs housing land allocations.
- Used occasionally in ad hoc map requests.
- planning services
- These estimates are useful for service planning at a local level
- Used extensively by our users on SNS. Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.

### **Dwelling counts at Data Zone level**

- inform policy and service provision.
- Useful for my UK-wide analyses of household and housing change and the planning/policy implications of mismatches between the 2.
- Again these are an important source of information for dwelling counts at a small area level.
- The SAHE data is used in the same way as the SAPE data, i.e. to generate data for non-standard geographies by using DZs as our building blocks.
- Survey research.

- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These statistics are used for research purposes and to inform rural policy on housing issues.
- A wide range of services use this information for activities such as - service planning, funding proposals, and resource allocations. We also make considerable use in our [REDACTED] system, which is an interactive warehouse of both internal and external statistics and financial information that is widely used by [REDACTED] organisations, community groups and individuals.
- Up to date information to inform area based funding applications.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED] To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- Monitor change and compare with other sources. Aggregate to ad hoc areas where practical.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment General Enquiries.
- As with Small Area Household Estimates, [REDACTED] use Dwelling counts at data zone level to compile profiles of non standard geographies.
- Statistical information for Council services.
- Used occasionally.
- Used in spatial analysis for demographic based projects. Used in needs assessments.
- Used to inform the SOA. Also used to inform LA strategy documents e.g. Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Improvement Programme. There are a number of datazones within Local Authorities with specific problems that others do not. Information at datazone level gives more specific information at a detailed level.
- Essential input for service planning and for land-use planning and housing policies. Council prepares its' own estimates as GROS does not provide dwelling estimates by tenure.
- Aggregate data to produce own bespoke dwelling count estimates. Compare change over time, including difference between households and dwellings.
- Not generally used, we would use the in-house data supplied by [REDACTED] to GROS as the basis for their work.
- Monitor household trends for resource planning and policy support at the local level. Building block for calculating the household estimates of higher area geographies including non-standard areas. Information requests.
- Contributes to evidence base for local and strategic planning policy (statutory Local and Strategic Development Plans). Particularly informs housing land allocations.
- Used occasionally in ad hoc map requests.
- These estimates are useful for service planning at a local level.
- Used extensively by our users on SNS. Intend to use to weight and gross Scottish Government population surveys from 2012 onwards.

## Scotland's Population (Annual Review)

- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland
- Utterly vital to me Research, publication, teaching.
- To inform strategic planning at Council & service level (education).
- I particularly value the Migration chapter, but read it from cover to cover. Very useful for context and highlights and a good flag for GRO-S.
- Useful background information, but generally we are more interested in the detailed tables published on the website.
- Useful information to support the planning function.
- Interesting reference document, but don't make much use of it.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- This publication is used for research purposes and policy development.
- Useful as a source of information for more general enquiries.
- [REDACTED] routinely uses GROS births data from this annual review to calculate fertility rates for Scotland and the UK. In particular, these fertility rates are used for assumption setting and production of the National Population Projections, but they are also used for UK research and to respond to requests on UK fertility.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- May be used for reference but not crucial to our work.
- Comparisons and observations are helpful. Gives context.
- A great deal of the data in this report are used by the Commission to inform the triennial review (e.g. migration, population changes) providing valuable contextual information for a range of policy documents where we need to set out a picture of who Scotland's population are.
- For background knowledge, comparative research.
- Used occasionally.
- Background reading.
- Used for reading and background.
- Essential as background information. Gives an overview of recent demographic change for Scotland and for areas within Scotland.
- Allows national and local comparisons.
- Benchmark for local level policy planning.
- Provides important contextual information to aid understanding of demographic trends and implications of these trends.
- An extremely detailed report bringing together a great deal of information in one place. A useful reference in terms of Scotland's population as a whole.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.
- Reference.
- Accessible overview of Scotland's demographics is still a useful resource, particularly for those not familiar with the GRO(S) web site.

## Council Area Profiles

- Only used to sing-post colleagues to summary area statistics.
- Inform policy and service provision.
- To inform strategic planning at Council & service level (education).
- These are a useful source of basic information, probably of more use to other people than ourselves as we are generally looking at more detailed information. They should probably be more prominent on the GROS website as they are of general interest
- Summarises all information for our local authority as shows annual trends.
- Useful information to support the planning function.
- Would be of use to a 'casual' user of GROS output. We access the main data sources and don't use these profiles. Although we'll add the Aberdeen one to our website.
- Very useful for general enquiries. Planning.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- These are used for research purposes and policy development.
- Very useful for services as a quick summary of the main statistics relating to the area. Useful for dealing with ad-hoc and general enquiries.
- Useful information for quick and easy (occasional) reference - for example looking at trends in population by local authority.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for ██████████. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- May be used for reference but not crucial to our work.
- Useful for new staff or general enquiries.
- General enquiries.
- These data inform the triennial review offering local authority level data on cause of death by age and gender.
- Used to inform reports.
- For background knowledge, comparative research.
- Used occasionally.
- Background reading and very useful when asked for to provide general information about ██████████
- Used for briefings as well as CPD.
- I would have used these if I knew they existed.
- Useful for comparisons between Council areas in Scotland. Potentially reduces the need for the Council to prepare some of the ██████████ Factsheets.
- We are not aware of any corporate or systematic use although some individual officers may refer to them for information.
- Readily accessible profiles used for information requests as well as for policy planning and resource allocation.
- Use these for top level statistics. Compare a local authority with the rest of Scotland and are user friendly. Good for familiarising ourselves with a council area. The population projections are also contained in the profile so it is a useful resource when developing an understanding of a local authority whilst these statistics can also be used in demography work.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.

- Lobbying.
- A very useful online document that we can forward to our customers/ service users. This document contains answers to many of the information requests we receive.
- In redeveloped form these profiles are useful summaries for the non-specialist that provide an authoritative single stop reference point on general demographics and components of population change.

## High Level Summary of Statistics

- Estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland.
- Research, publication, teaching.
- To inform strategic planning at Council & service level (education).
- Not much used.
- Have not used this such.
- For use in calculating housing need within the local authority area. This informs strategies such as the local housing strategy and affordable housing policy. It is also used for Community Care Planning.
- Useful as a comparator dataset.
- General Info.
- Estimating housing need and demand, for planning housing and development. Information for [REDACTED]. To inform the preparation of the statutory development plan which guides future housing and development decisions."
- May be used for reference but not crucial to our work.
- Some of these are very useful for providing context and providing info to use in presentations.
- This publication offers a comprehensive picture on a range of topics noted above as relevant to the Commission's work. The summation and pulling together of a range of data is valuable in offering a summary of the issues relating to Scotland's population. We use this document to capture trends/change and also to provide a compendia of information together.
- For background knowledge, comparative research.
- Used occasionally.
- Used for briefings as well as CPD.
- Very useful as an up-to-date overview of demographic position and demographic change.
- Useful at-a-glance charts providing a useful summary of population and migration statistics.
- Reference, checking and background information.
- info for briefings, comparison with local/national enquiries, general info, organisational planning.
- Reference.

## Annex D Detailed comments on impact of proposals

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

### 1. Combine Life expectancy outputs into one reduced publication, producing some tables every two years (potential saving 20 person-days)

- Life expectancy is an important health outcome indicator
- But would mean we could not monitor this annually in our SOA
- Use this occasionally
- Not sure how you would define 'reduced' publication. Presented at small area level is useful. i.e. Intermediate Zone (IZ) level. Public Health, Health Inequalities
- Not applicable
- It would depend on what tables would only be produced every 2 years. Annual life expectancy statistics by Urban Rural Classification are vital to illustrate the changes to and differences in health and living standards between these areas.
- GROS currently ask [REDACTED] to produce the interim life tables for Scotland annually and then send them back for publication on the GROS website. If they only requested we do this every other year (or even not at all) in future, we would need to decide whether or not to continue producing it annually for publication on our own site. We would also need to keep an eye on the method used by GROS to produce their life tables and be ready to explain any differences to our own method.
- Potential impact on the use of trend data to inform and evaluate health improvement and health inequalities strategies.
- Support
- We make regular use of Life Expectancy (LE) figures and would favour a reduction in the number of tables produced over reducing the frequency of publication.

### 2. Produce projections every three years (potential saving 100 person-days per edition for all outputs inclusive)

- This could result in more Councils trying to do their own projections and more requests to the GROS for advice, data and assistance. So moving to a 3-year cycle could result in more person-days rather than less being spent on population projections.
- It is vital that population projections remain timely to ensure that financial allocations remain in line with the population demand on services
- This would be acceptable as long as there were no major changes taking place in current trends
- every 3 years OK for my purposes
- We have to refresh our school roll projections every year and population projections are a major check for the accuracy of our forecasts



- This is used regularly and very useful- used for policy and service delivery. It would be disappointing to go 3 years.
- It would be useful to have projections remain the same to inform [REDACTED], but appreciate the need to make savings
- Whilst used to underpin health board service planning coordinating all projections into a 3 year cycle would have minimal impact.
- Not applicable
- Less frequent population projections would mean less timely statistics on which to base housing, education etc rural policy decisions on.
- Projections are used in GAE calculations which are carried out every 1, 2 or 3 years (not fixed - based on timing of government Spending Reviews). Reducing frequency would make it more likely that projections used for calculations will be more out of date.
- Current 2 years isn't often enough so 3 years would be a backward step.
- Need to maintain frequency in order to keep pace with the changeability currently being experienced.
- Population and household estimates and forecasts are frequently used by me and others in our research team. They form the basis of a lot of the work we do and are of interest to senior management, planners, and Councillors. Population growth and age structure are important because they impact on many areas of Council responsibility and therefore on service planning. Having to use older data reduces people's confidence in the reliability of plans for the future.
- Population projections are used frequently in order to plan future services in NHS [REDACTED]. By reducing the production to every 3 years, it may result in projections being less accurate, thus affecting future services.
- We are frequently asked for population projections from a range of departments within NHS [REDACTED] and would favour still producing these every two years especially to monitor the ever increasing elderly population.
- This change has potential national impact on the process of distribution of the NHS resource allocation in Scotland. The National Resource Allocation formula uses rebased GRO(S) population projections to estimate the population in each Health Board area rather than MYEs.
- Beyond the systematic use of this product for the above purpose the move to a three year cycle would not impact greatly on use of this data for NHS Board planning.
- could be supplemented by Local Government / Community planning data to identify major changes in intervening years
- Development Plans and Housing Strategies need to be up-to-date. Potentially greater requirement to prepare own projections, rather than use GROS projections. This has important resource implications for the Council.
- A lot of emphasis placed on these projections. Development Plans etc. If changed to every three years, decisions would be based on projections produced using a base year four years earlier.
- All 32 Authorities follow different cycles and timetables for Development Planning and these plans need to be based on the most current information available. It is inevitable that a significant number of

Authorities would be adversely affected by a move to a three yearly cycle.

- Important that these are as up-to-date as possible given the volatility of these, e.g. notable impact locally as a result of the economic downturn. Important component in the assessment of local housing requirements.
- Used regularly in strategic planning. Three yearly publication would be reacting too slowly to changes. Even biennial figures are not really up-to-date enough given recent pace of economic and demographic change. In an ideal world, we would prefer annual projections.
- Suggest that if the frequency of projections is to be reduced, then they should be produced once every two years, meaning the figures would be released twice each Scottish parliamentary and Council term. The production of these statistics assists with being able to plan services and understand demographic trends.

**3. Stop producing Local Area Migration Reports and replace with an Excel spreadsheet similar to Council Area Profiles but focused on sources of migration data. Also produce a Scotland level migration report with some commentary. (potential saving 15 person-days)**

- Helpful supporting information only
- This would be acceptable
- happy with this proposal, as I am happy to use the spreadsheet. Migration report would be particularly valuable if the Annual Review is dropped.
- If the data were available in a easy to use format then it would be OK not to have the report.
- We use this information for survey sampling and analysis of hate crime etc.
- Local Area Migration Reports were used in reference to the production of the [REDACTED] Review.
- [REDACTED] believe that replacing the reports with an excel spreadsheet would be a great alternative
- Given the relative paucity of migration statistics and infancy of this branch of GROS work, the reports have key role to play in informing users.
- Low impact as long as the information is still available
- Would support removal but only if LA report produced
- Migration is a key policy concern for those providing public services in the NHS [REDACTED] area and the commentary accompanying the Local Area Migration Reports has been useful in widening understanding of the limits of current data collection to highlight this picture. Change to the published format would need consider carefully - particularly the suitability of an excel led approach to the complexity of data sources that need described.
- Note: A spreadsheet with [REDACTED] details would be sufficient for us to do our own interpretation/ reporting.
- Important to receive at Local Authority level especially in smaller, rural areas where migration is of great importance to balance population.
- It is essential that up-to-date data is provided. This is more important than having a set of reports. A Scotland level report with some



maintained

- We have a small ethnic population so only a small interest in this information
- but this would be a retrograde step in relation to equalities agenda and of England.
- Important for equalities monitoring
- This information is very useful and always asked for.
- The absence of this information would prejudice estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland
- Medium impact - whilst used infrequently is currently only source of such data.
- This would be extremely useful if tables became available at HB/Council level. Planning/Public Health
- We use this information for survey sampling and analysis of hate crime etc.
- Only occasional user of these, so overall impact low, but unclear of another source to replace these if asked to undertake research requiring estimates of minority ethnic populations
- This could impact upon our work into creating inclusive communities
- Ethnicity data is essential for work to ensure equity in health services and health outcomes, and there is already a paucity of useful information.
- These data on estimates on ethnic populations are critical to the work of the [REDACTED]. Knowing whether migration practices or other social trends are changing the ethnic mix in Scotland is a vital piece of intelligence to inform a range of our policy and influencing work.
- There is a lack of accurate ethnic minority population data: the production of these data will be important for a range of individuals and organisations
- Required for population risk estimates
- Estimates of ethnic population in the inter Census period would be really useful for supporting decision making related to equalities duties. However, without an understanding of the methodology and the level of statistical confidence in the estimates it is difficult to judge on the value of their potential application.
- Given the increasing ethnic diversity of [REDACTED] population, this is an important output. It is also required for equalities monitoring.
- Census is currently only source which can mean it is 10 years or more out of date.

**6. Stop developing estimates of short term migration/migrants (potential saving 40 person-days)**

- But information (presumably) required to support population estimates/projections
- it would be a retrograde step to stop outputs on short-term migrants, so soon after these have been officially recognised as being so important (including international labour migrants and students on shorter courses) at national scale and especially for certain localities.
- This information is regularly asked for and useful to inform service delivery.
- Medium impact - whilst used infrequently is currently only source of such data.

- Not applicable
- Statistics on short-term migration are important to inform the picture of employment in the agriculture sector in rural areas.
- Public authorities need this information to plan services in the absence of other data sources offering this information.
- Given the relative paucity of migration statistics, the short term is important
- Required for population risk estimates-and helps guide priorities for needs assessment
- Seasonal employment is already known as a pattern in [REDACTED] and additional evidence of short term migration rates would provide insight not only into the economic structure of the area but highlight issues for the health service around engaging with a group of people who may have different health needs than other migrant groups.
- However, confidence in the methodology and the level to which migrants could be profiled (age, sex, place of origin etc) would be needed to convince in terms of value to the organization.
- Need for more accurate migration data to inform population estimates.
- Short-term migrants can have a high impact upon services and the short-term migration estimates are useful in planning services and understanding the potential impact of migration.

**7. Stop organising and facilitating POPGROUP User meetings (potential saving 5 person days)**

- Not used
- Not applicable as we are not Popgroup users
- but I am sure that the value gained from these is worth a lot more than the GROS input
- Do not use
- Still need to have some sort of user interface.
- Value the advice and support available from GROS in population projection work
- Not a POPGROUP user though would like to be
- Increase reliance on POP Group for forecasting work.
- As the only person in the Council who uses POPGOUP I appreciate being able to meet up with other people who use it and the opportunity for discussion about some technical issues and future developments.
- Combine with another event e.g. Scottish Faculty of Public Health or RSS meeting.
- would need an alternative route for user involvement to meet Code of Practice requirements
- POPGROUP is a useful resource for Councils to be able to do their own analysis. It was welcome that GROS hosted a user group meeting. There is an issue, however, whether GROS may be seen to promote a particular software package, relative to other software available on the market. It may be more appropriate to pursue this via e.g. LARIA
- GROS have an important part to play as suppliers of the associated data. Many authorities have invested in this software and, in most cases, are in the early stages of producing their own projections. User meetings and updates are more likely to happen if GROS continue their involvement.
- Potentially high depending on our success in using POPGROUP for

small area projections.

- The support network in the developmental phase of POPGROUP work has already proved to be very useful.

**8. Reduce the frequency of settlement and locality population estimates (if reduced to every 3 years a potential saving 35 person-days per publication)**

- Rarely used
- We don't use this data, however this is information which is of interest to the general public - see comments above on the settlement and locality definitions
- 3 years OK for me
- This is used regularly and very useful- used for policy and service delivery. It would be disappointing to go 3 years.
- It would be useful to have estimates remain the same to inform ████████, but appreciate the need to make savings
- We typically need these estimates to match the assumed year within our transport models
- We use this data to map to analysis of crime trend and patterns.
- This could impact upon our work to improve housing quality and supply if we are unable to identify areas in which there is a demand for housing
- The settlement and locality population estimates feed into the Urban Rural Classification which is currently produced every 2 years. If settlement and locality population estimates were only produced every 3 years this would have direct implications for the timetable of the Urban Rural Classification. While the timing of the Urban Rural Classification is not vitally important, it is important that updates are made regularly to ensure that the classification and statistics based on the classification are timely and relevant.
- Prefer to have more frequent availability of this information
- We need up to date population estimates. The data is already a year behind for reporting. The 3-yearly update could mean estimates being 4 years out-of-date
- The settlement and locality estimates are a useful indicator of settlement population
- Increasing reliance on GROS for outputs at this level, as budget cuts force the Council to concentrate resources on the key outputs e.g. strategic forecasts.
- This would force a change on the timing and frequency of the Urban rural Classification.
- Members of the public frequently ask for this type of information e.g. for a leaflet distribution to all households in a locality. Ideally we would want these every year!
- Service providers rely on this information on a regular basis for planning. The more up-to-date it is the more effective planning will be.
- A direct input to the Urban/Rural (U/R)Classification, which cannot be created without it. A reduction in frequency for settlements would mean a reduction in frequency to the U/R classification. This would have a knock on effect to other projects which use the U/R, such as the Scottish Household Survey, etc.

**9. Produce household projections every 3 years (potential saving 100 person –days)**

- This could result in more Councils trying to do their own projections and more requests to the GROS for advice, data and assistance. So moving to a 3-year cycle could result in more person-days rather than less being spent on household projections.
- Rarely used
- See comments on population projections
- 3 years OK for me
- Use the small area / local authority level data.
- It would be useful to have estimates remain the same to inform HNDA, but appreciate the need to make savings
- Medium impact - whilst used infrequently is currently only source of such data.
- We typically need these estimates to match the assumed year within our transport models
- Not applicable
- undertake weighting for large scale population surveys annually that use these estimates. Without them would produce less accurate estimates for surveys which are designated national statistics
- This could impact upon our work to improve housing quality and supply if we are unable to identify areas in which there is a demand for housing.
- May prove beneficial for a truer reflection of trends
- Current 2 years isn't often enough so 3 years would be a backward step.
- Need to maintain frequency in order to ensure up to date plans and to keep pace with the changeability currently being experienced.
- Data likely to become out of date and less useful
- Population and household estimates and forecasts are frequently used by me and others in our research team. They form the basis of a lot of the work we do and are of interest to senior management, planners, and Councillors. Population growth and age structure are important because they impact on many areas of Council responsibility and therefore on service planning. Having to use older data reduces people's confidence in the reliability of plans for the future.
- The timing of this data is wedded to the production of population projections
- Development Plans and Housing Strategies need to be up-to-date. Potentially greater requirement to prepare own projections, rather than use GROS projections. This has important resource implications for the Council.
- Service providers rely on this information on a regular basis for planning. The more up-to-date it is the more effective planning will be.
- All 32 Authorities follow different cycles and timetables for Development Planning and these plans need to be based on the most current information available. It is inevitable that a significant number of Authorities would be adversely affected by a move to a three yearly cycle.
- Important that these are as up-to-date as possible given the volatility of these, e.g. notable impact locally as a result of the economic downturn.

Important component in the assessment of local housing requirements.

- Important that these are as up-to-date as possible given the volatility of these, e.g. notable impact locally as a result of the economic downturn. Important component in the assessment of local housing requirements.
- Used regularly in strategic planning. Three yearly publication would be reacting too slowly to changes. Even biennial figures are not really up-to-date enough given recent pace of economic and demographic change. In an ideal world, we would prefer annual projections.

**10. Stop producing small area household estimates at datazone level (potential saving 100 person-days)**

- Having DZ population estimates but not household estimates would be inconsistent. We tend to use the population and household data as the two component parts of a wider estimation and projection exercise.
- Rarely used.
- This information is sometimes used when working in small areas but would not affect work that much.
- We use this data quite frequently so we would resist these ceasing to be produced.
- The small area detail is important for deprivation-related analysis
- Do not use.
- Greatly reduces the ability to look at service demands at the local level
- This is used regularly and very useful- used for policy and service delivery. Please continue.
- Key data for Housing Need and Demand Assessment.
- We usually need the projections at datazone level (to enable us to combine them into our model zones).
- Useful for neighbourhood statistics and community policing profiles.
- This could impact upon our work to improve housing quality and supply if we are unable to identify areas in which there is a demand for housing.
- This may have implications for Rural Scotland Key Facts (Table 22) if the urban rural breakdown is reliant on the data zone level statistics being produced.
- Prefer to have more frequent availability of this information to ensure that our [REDACTED] system is up to date.
- Funding bids and investment decision are often based on small area statistics. Datazones are important for building up data for organisations such as community councils.
- A backward step. A good source for ad hoc aggregations.
- Not sure but would have thought that if we cannot get data down to datazone level this would make it difficult to get statistics for different geographies e.g. housing market areas.
- [REDACTED] use Small Area Household estimates to compile data for non standard geographies. Having data available at the lowest possible geography improves the effectiveness of resource allocation and policy decisions.
- Increasing reliance on GROS for outputs at this level, as budget cuts force the Council to concentrate resources on the key outputs e.g. strategic forecasts.
- Data likely to become out of date and less useful.
- Used for needs assessment.



- This would reduce our ability to accurately weight population survey data, which would have a multitude of knock-on effects across Scottish Government, public bodies and academia.
- One of the most useful types of information at datazone level and very useful for service planning.
- Important to monitor which areas are increasing and decreasing as trend is to move from rural to small towns.
- Household estimates are a necessary complement to population estimates. Apart from the direct use of the household estimates in planning and policy documents, they will also be important as an input to the validation of the population estimates.
- This data is needed to allow data for bespoke geographies to be created.
- Important that these are available to allow the authority to effectively plan and resource services at the local level, e.g. waste collection.
- If this were stopped, [REDACTED] would not be able to include it in the [REDACTED] again, but we could find a different measure to use instead.

#### **11. Stop producing dwelling counts at datazone level (potential saving 80 person-days)**

- Having dwelling counts at DZ level means that we can create figures for Housing Market Areas and other non-standard geographies.
- The dwelling counts would be even more useful if they could be part of a simple calculation: households+vacant properties=dwellings.
- Not used
- These are an important source of small area data which we use quite frequently
- Could probably manage without this, as long as data is available for a higher neighbourhood or planning zone level
- This is used regularly and very useful- used for policy and service delivery. Please continue.
- Useful for neighbourhood statistics and community policing profiles
- This could impact upon our work to improve housing quality and supply if we are unable to identify areas in which there is a demand for housing.
- This may have implications for Rural Scotland Key Facts (Table 22) if the urban rural breakdown is reliant on the data zone level statistics being produced.
- Prefer to have more frequent availability of this information to ensure that our [REDACTED] system is up to date
- If GROS ceased production of their quarterly data for births, marriages and deaths, this would: affect the quality of the national population projections if [REDACTED] were unable to use the most recent data possible for Scotland; affect the [REDACTED] data for Scotland would have to be shown as 'not available'.
- Funding bids and investment decision are often based on small area statistics. Datazones are important for building up data for organisations such as community councils.
- A backward step. A good source for ad hoc aggregations.
- Not sure but would have thought that if we cannot get data down to

<p>datazone level this would make it difficult to get statistics for different geographies e.g. housing market areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with small area household estimates, ■■■ use dwelling counts at data zone level to compile data for non standard geographies. This improves our knowledge of our area and aids policy development.</li> <li>• Increasing reliance on GROS for outputs at this level, as budget cuts force the Council to concentrate resources on the key outputs eg. strategic forecasts.</li> <li>• Used for needs assessment</li> <li>• This would reduce our ability to accurately weight population survey data, which would have a multitude of knock-on effects across Scottish Government, public bodies and academia.</li> <li>• One of the most useful types of information at datazone level and very useful for service planning.</li> <li>• Important as source for producing Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Improvement Plan.</li> <li>• Dwelling counts and number of vacant dwellings are important for planning and housing policy documents and to monitor change.</li> <li>• This data is needed to allow data for bespoke geographies to be created.</li> <li>• Important that these are available to allow the authority to effectively plan and resource services at the local level, e.g. waste collection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Stop producing ‘babies’ first names (potential saving of 5 person-days)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not used</li> <li>• This is interesting</li> <li>• Not applicable</li> <li>• Support</li> <li>• this is your best publicity with the media! Cheap at the price</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Stop producing ‘births, marriages and deaths – quarterly figures (potential saving of 25 person-days)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As mentioned above, having quarterly data allows us to produce figures for calendar years, financial years and mid-years.</li> <li>• Important information for finance, services and performance</li> <li>• We find the quarterly birth figures a useful way of keeping track of birth trends which are important for our school roll projections</li> <li>• The absence of this information would prejudice estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland</li> <li>• Not applicable</li> <li>• Use to monitor likelihood of projections being on track.</li> <li>• Affects school roll forecasts</li> <li>• Support</li> <li>• This is useful information, but not essential</li> <li>• Nice to have but annual figures are suffice</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Reduced ‘ Drug related deaths in Scotland’ to say only half the tables &amp; charts, and much less commentary on the figures (potential saving 5 person – days)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important data which is complex and requires explanation</li> <li>• Only use the number of deaths and causes the most but would still require it at local authority.</li> <li>• We have not yet solved the crises of drugs epidemics in Scotland</li> </ul>

which are a major killer of young people. Now is not the time to take eye off this issue, especially as there is now [REDACTED] strategic focus on Addictions, developments in understanding of brain diseases expected in next decade and MOST IMPORTANTLY 2011 sees the start of Scotland public health policy on take-home Naloxone to reduce DRDs. It would be madness to reduce monitoring at such a crucial time, especially as the person-days saved are so FEW.

- Tables are the most important part of any of the datasets which you publish so we would want the data to be made available. Graphs and commentary are less important
- The reduction in information would reduce our ability to target novel drugs and new drug trends that are found in Scotland.
- Do not use
- It is more important to have the data available
- Useful to identify policing priorities and inform our control strategy
- This could impact upon achievement of the corporate objective of having healthy, caring communities
- See above - it is of vital importance that data used for an indicator of the Scottish adult mental health indicators set (Deaths per 100,000 adults in the past year from 'mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use' ) are preserved
- The breakdown of data into constituent LA and HB is imperative for my work
- Key publication that helps drive local and national policy
- We feel that the number of some of these table could be reduced but further consultation would be needed to gauge which are used most frequently as removal of some would have greater impact than others so more details would be needed for us to be specific on the impact it would have on our work. Less commentary may be acceptable if the remaining text can still aid interpretation of the figures.
- data needs to be available for others to use. isn't this part of SCOTPHO work? is it appropriate for official statisticians to cut commentary?
- This is useful information, but not essential.
- A useful resource when writing briefings and speeches. Members of the Health and Social Care Team only utilise this resource on an occasional basis so a less frequent publication interval is unlikely to have a high impact.

**15. Reduce 'Increased Winter Mortality' to say only half the tables and charts, and very little commentary on the figures (potential saving 3 person-days**

- Again, this issue is of current and future immense topicality & GROS would seem out-of-step were lesser, rather than more, attention to be paid here.
- Do not use
- It is more important to have the data available
- [REDACTED] enjoy a fruitful collaboration with GRO(S) in describing increased winter mortality the output of which is used by Scottish Government, NHS boards and Local Authorities. The absence of this information would prejudice estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the

population of Scotland

- Not applicable
- Scotland's level remains higher than necessary and there are concerns that recent progress will slow or be lost because of the economic situation
- We feel that the number of some of these table could be reduced but further consultation would be needed to gauge which are used most frequently as removal of some would have greater impact than others so more details would be needed for us to be specific on the impact it would have on our work. Less commentary may be acceptable if the remaining text can still aid interpretation of the figures.
- data needs to be available for others to use. isn't this part of SCOTPHO work? is it appropriate for official statisticians to cut commentary?
- Important to monitor the effects of weather and fuel increases etc, if there are any, on the elderly.

**16. Reduce the Vital Events Reference Tables – to (say) only half the tables (potential saving 25 person days)**

- As long as information at local authority level was available
- Do not use
- It is important to have the data available at local authority area.
- These reference tables are vital source of mortality data used for service planning.
- Would hope that the tables listed in section 5, would still be published, especially table 6.4
- Not applicable
- If GROS reduced the vital events reference tables, [REDACTED] would need to make ad hoc requests for data no longer available via the GROS website
- This breakdown is imperative for my work.
- Difficult to comment without knowing which parts of the publication/data you intend to remove. But a lot of the data are very useful.
- Assuming high – level mortality figures will continue to be produced
- We feel that the number of some of these table could be reduced but further consultation would be needed to gauge which are used most frequently as removal of some would have greater impact than others so more details would be needed for us to be specific on the impact it would have on our work.
- The vital events registration tables are in many ways the most valuable resource (along with population estimates and the projection series) published by GRO(S) and provide key comparative data in aggregate form for administrative areas that is not available directly to individual NHS Boards. Reducing the content of published may result in more 'ad hoc' request to GRO(S) for comparative data. These tables are a resource for all those concerned with public health and involved with understanding change in health status of the population overtime. Rather than retrenching commitment to this product it should be seen as a 'crown jewel' that should be expanded. Particularly the need to provide more age and sex standardised rates should be recognized.
- Consideration should be given to delivering these types of tables using an interface that allows the user to select content for download and to

assemble the data they want to extract.

- Depends on which tables
- Potentially high - would need further consultation on the tables to be discontinued.
- Impact depends on which tables. The tables we use regularly include Tables 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 6.1, 6.4 and 6.11. For example, Table 6.4 saves us carrying out certain mortality analyses and is also essential as a quality control check on our analyses of deaths by particular causes. We would request that these tables are retained.

**17. Reduce the Vital Events Time Series Tables to say only half the tables (potential saving 25 person-days)**

- These are the most important of the vital events table. As in the comment above of drug related death, for us access to the data is the most important thing
- Do not use
- It is important to have the data available at local authority area.
- These reference tables are vital source of mortality data used for service planning.
- Not applicable
- If GROS reduced the vital events time-series tables, this would have little impact upon [REDACTED] providing the existing tables are kept on website and could be updated by user if needed from annual tables.
- Difficult to comment without knowing which parts of the publication/data you intend to remove. But a lot of the data are very useful.
- Assuming high – level mortality figures will continue to be produced
- The vital events registration tables are in many ways the most valuable resource (along with population estimates and the projection series) published by GRO(S) and provide key comparative data in aggregate form for administrative areas that is not available directly to individual NHS Boards. Reducing the content of published may result in more 'ad hoc' request to GRO(S) for comparative data. These tables are a resource for all those concerned with public health and involved with understanding change in health status of the population overtime. Rather than retrenching commitment to this product it should be seen as a 'crown jewel' that should be expanded. Particularly the need to provide more age and sex standardised rates should be recognized.
- Consideration should be given to delivering these types of tables using an interface that allows the user to select content for download and to assemble the data they want to extract.
- Depends on which tables
- Time series data is important to monitor trends and some of the detail is important, e.g. deaths by age band for Council areas.
- Potentially high - would need further consultation on the time series to be discontinued.

**18. Stop publishing the weekly and monthly data on births and deaths (potential saving 3 person – days)**

- Rarely used
- Stop on weekly publication re births may be OK but NOT deaths, please see above.
- Do not use
- The absence of this information would prejudice estimates of the

impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland

- Not applicable
- Weekly births data not used by [REDACTED]
- Population at risk for comparison with own data
- We do not need these publications on GROS website, but need to keep receiving the data extracts to keep our files as up-to-date as possible. These files have a wide range of uses and customers are very keen to have up-to-date data on which to base decisions

**19. Do not develop any further the documentation of the Vital Events statistics on the GROS web site (potential saving 10 person – days)**

- Important that the documentation is reliable and kept up to date
- Not applicable
- Could shift all Vital Events(VE) stats to website rather than produce reports
- We are not clear what is meant by this
- Explanatory text and particularly the addition of meta data has increased the accessibility and relevance of this product. Particularly, if the commentary in the RGAR is reduced the text content of the Vital Events tables should be increased. An additional comment would be that the Vital Events tables and RGAR were at one time one product. This link has been increasingly eroded and there needs to be greater cross-referencing from the RGAR. Currently the Vital Events Reference Tables are being buried in the bowels of the Statistics section of the web site when they are actually a core product.
- if outputs are to be cut then essential that metadata is available for others to reuse data and request adhoc
- Documentation and meta data are important for the interpretation of the statistics provided.

**20. Reducing commentary in the RG's Annual review (RGAR) would save staff time in all branches. A very rough estimate of the total staff time spend on RGAR is about 200 person –days per year**

- Depends on how drastic the reduction is!
- as I mentioned in my answer in section 5:
- I particularly value the Migration chapter, but read it from cover to cover. Very useful for context and highlights and a good flag for GROS. If necessary, subcontract the work under competitive tender.
- Do not use
- More often the data is needed - with 'clarification' comments
- Not applicable
- We have appreciated the interesting commentary on statistical issues contained in the Registrar General's Annual Review. However, it is not vital to have it for the purposes of rural policy development.
- [REDACTED] refer to the fertility chapter within the Annual Review when setting fertility assumptions for the National Population Projections
- Ability to produce authoritative independent commentary is one of the highest priorities - the stifling of this right in England during the 1980s and early 1990s was a major cause for concern.
- The RGAR for many is the 'display window' for what GRO(S) produce. Reducing the text content here is acceptable if there is better integration / flagging of website content and reinvestment of time saved in improving access to data with the addition of text commentary on the

web site.

- Depends on tables to be dropped
- It is important to have the right national context for demographic change, as it influences views for local areas.
- Nice to have but not essential.
- An effective summary would be as useful to us as the depth of current commentary.

**21. Reduce providing ad hoc material that is not readily available off the shelf for one customer in order to preserve outputs that are publically available to all (potential saving roughly 60 person-days)**

- If the GROS has some 'high maintenance' clients, some consideration should be given to reducing the amount of time that is spent with them. On the other hand, it is useful to have the option of approaching the GROS for assistance with one-off, ad hoc requests.
- Rarely (if ever) used.
- It is important for our charity to be able to ask for cause of death data specific to disease codes/ cause of death text. It informs our awareness, campaigning and teaching activities.
- Although I have not personally used this I think it is a good service as sometimes people do have specific pieces of work to do that might need specialist information that is not yet readily available
- Having been a requester of adhoc material on DRDs that GROS subsequently incorporated into its own tables, these inquiries - especially from subject-matter specialists or statisticians - help to keep GROS in tune with leading-edge research. and are therefore important both to medical research and for GROS.
- It is always useful to be able to get access to data which is not currently published so we would resist significant reductions in this service. You may care to consider charging for requests which put larger demands in terms of time or to refusing requests which would be particularly time consuming.
- Charge for ad hoc material and recoup the cost of the 60 person days, or less if charging puts some customers off.
- However, the ad-hoc request service is greatly valued.
- The absence of the potential adhoc analysis time for unanticipated problems could prejudice estimates of the impact of respiratory infections on the population of Scotland
- We might not need any such 'tailored' data, but when we do need some then GROS flexibility/helpfulness is important and valued
- Not applicable.
- In order to ensure that GROS is able to meet customer needs it is imperative that ad hoc requests can be met.
- We are likely to have some specific requests relating to updating indicators based on Census 2001 data.
- Figures obtained by [REDACTED] from GROS annually on the number of sudden unexplained infant deaths are vital to monitor progress in the four UK countries in fighting this leading cause of infant mortality. There is no other source for this information. It is inconceivable that Scotland alone, among developed countries throughout the world, should fail to provide annual figures on sudden infant deaths.
- The [REDACTED] ask GROS for ad

hoc data from time to time for UK research purposes (for example, to calculate fertility rates for UK born or non-UK born women, or to answer Parliamentary Questions (PQs)). A reduction in GROS's capacity to answer ad hoc requests from █████ would reduce our ability to answer PQs or provide briefing on demographic issues for the UK as a whole.

- We have not asked for ad hoc material before.
- Depends what “reduce” means? I haven’t used this service that often but wouldn’t like to lose it .
- The ability to contact and review ad hoc material with staff is very important in my work.
- Bespoke variations in population projections, for example, will be useful often, particularly in the North East because of the significantly different circumstances that pertain here.
- Ad hoc requests are an extremely important resource. This would impact on various projects/analyses etc.
- High, but it really depends what ad hoc material you mean. When I do request ad hoc material it's for a specific need, usually to do with input into official reports/plans.
- Production of population at risk data for research and public health purposes is vital but charging for private sector use could be reviewed/existing costs revised.
- Quite reassuring to know that data can be provided even if it is not published.
- We have used the adhoc service on a number of occasions this year and feel it is vital to enable users to get the most from the information collected and disseminated by the GRO as not everything can be covered in routine publications.
- Could this be made a fee paying service to cover staff time.
- GROS have been excellent in providing data on request for local analyses. This is a service, provided by GROS, which is highly valued.
- If withdrawing any of the above, there may be a increased need for ad hoc requests.
- Impact of discontinuing local migration data very high - see comment at end of this form
- Would like to retain ad hoc request system provided the data is already in existence and doesn't require significant additional work to get it into a usable format, e.g. single year of age population data at datazone level is very important for pre-school and school planning purposes.
- Instead of reducing the production of ad hoc material, perhaps a prioritisation system could be developed and put into place. We have found this service invaluable particularly when developing the Policy Toolkit and the work that was done around population mapping. In our experience we pass on the information from the outputs and it is well received
- We use estimates of the household population for weighting the Scottish Health Survey. For each sex we need them cross-tabulated by single-year of age within health board and by single-year of age within LA.



**22. Reduce other non-publication outputs e.g. special datasets (e.g. data for small areas for Neighbourhood Stats, small area projections or research (potential saving roughly 40 person-days)**

- The issue of non-publication outputs is difficult as the only people who know about them are the provider and the recipient. We rarely approach the GROS with this type of request.
- Only reliable source of such information.
- SMID and HDD are important neighbourhood statistics to have.
- Although I have not personally used this I think it is a good service as sometimes people do have specific pieces of work to do that might need specialist information that is not yet readily available
- Same considerations as above may apply.
- Small area data is vital for local authorities so we would resist any reductions in what is available through neighbourhood statistics
- This seems quite a wide-ranging area and it would be a great shame to lose all of this to save 40 person days. Maybe a more selective cull following more detailed consultation?
- As long as it does not affect the output of Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics products.
- Information at small areas for Neighbourhood Statistics is used regularly for policy and service delivery.
- Need to maintain input to SNS as used regularly for service planning/research.
- We often use Neighbourhood Statistics and would like to assume the demographic data (which is vital for deriving per capita indicators etc) is up to date.
- Useful for neighbourhood statistics and community policing profiles
- There is a lot of value, and a lot of use made of, in small area statistics published on SNS.
- Neighbourhood statistics will become more and more important, especially on community capacity building and prioritisation of investment.
- These are useful for statistics for understanding local population profiles
- Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics is a hugely important resource for the work that we do. It provides information for our own analyses but most crucially it is also the mechanism by which our customers (planners, services providers, public health consultants) access up to date information themselves. GROS data form a key part of this resource. In addition, GROS data are promoted and used through SNS as part of the Menu of Local Outcome indicators (see below).
- Wouldn't want to lose any source that gives us small area data as it has taken a long time to get this far with it.
- Data zones are used extensively by [REDACTED] to compile data for relevant geographies below the Scotland geography. Data is collated to examine socio-economic trends across these geographies. Reducing these outputs would result in [REDACTED] having less understanding of changes to the social, economic and geographic dispersion of the regions communities.
- Would not wish to see the high standard of work with special datasets - from which the Council benefits - compromised.

- Again, difficult to comment without more precise details, but a lot of these data are useful.
- Again, difficult to comment without more precise details, but a lot of these data are useful.
- Would not like to see SNS weakened – it's a frequently used resource for us.
- Production of population at risk data for research and public health purposes is vital but charging for private sector use could be reviewed/existing costs revised
- Provision of these datasets is key to the survival and continued use/development of SNS and in [REDACTED]. If this data were not to be provided it may lead to increased number of adhoc requests to the GRO as in many areas data for small areas are combined to make local geographies that are not routinely available.
- Rather than retrenching activity from SNS, GRO(S) should be more central to the development of a small area national data product. There needs to be better alignment between a number of national data providers (ISD, ScotPHO, SNS) who need to establish better joint working in this and other related areas. Adding value by examining cross cutting outputs would be better business practice in terms of potential cost savings.
- GRO(S) input on things like providing migration flows by data zone for Local Authority population projections is highly valued. Stopping this type of help (that is often a by product, rather than a completely new request) may perversely result in greater pressure on GRO(S) to formalise undertaking work that has been carried out at local level.
- SNS is one of the main ways that Local Authorities and other external users access this data.
- Non-publication outputs must remain. SNS in particular so that data can be reused on a self service basis. GROS should not cut research - essential that GSS staff keep up to speed with new methodologies. Should be 5% of resources in any organisation
- SNS important resource for Local Authorities as source of information. Small area information is now increasingly required, not less so.
- GROS have been excellent in providing data on request for local analyses. This is a service, provided by GROS, which is highly valued. Priorities need to be set here. Given the availability of software, GROS could leave small area projections to Councils and other institutions.
- This is the data that service providers require
- Potentially high - would need further consultation on the datasets to be discontinued.
- Would like to retain ad hoc request system provided the data is already in existence and doesn't require significant additional work to get it into a usable format, e.g. single year of age population projection at datazone level is very important for pre-school and school planning purposes.
- Planning makes extensive use of neighbourhood data from NS and SNS
- Not sure what exactly is included here - though if it is such things as the special Postcode Extract provided to Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics than this would have a high impact on maintaining the SNS website.

## Annex E Detailed comments on Equality Impacts

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

### 7. For the areas that you have identified in Section 6 please describe where, in your opinion/experience, withdrawal or reductions in scope of the statistical outputs could unlawfully discriminate against people in any of the following equality categories:

- Age pregnancy & Maternity
- Disability Race (incl. B & ME)
- Gender (incl M/F) Religion or belief
- Gender identity Sexual orientation
- Marriage & civil partnership
  
- Not necessarily relating to unlawful discrimination but would greatly reduce the ability to build neighbourhood profiles in order that we can tailor our policing services at local level to meet local needs and concerns.
  
- The proposal in Q6 to reduce reporting on estimates of ethnic population poses a problem against the rising demand for report on equalities issues.
  
- The GRO(S) statistics, estimates and projections are necessary to inform policy and service delivery and is used as the baseline for understanding the “numbers” related to fulfilling equality duties and responsibilities.
  
- Councils have a duty under the Equalities Act 2010 to promote equality and tackle discrimination. This sound evidence to enable Councils to identify local need and take action accordingly. Part of that evidence comes -directly and indirectly - from the GROS.
  
- Withdrawal of Ethnic Population Estimates could possibly lead to inequalities in service provision due to a lack of knowledge about a particular group of people.
  
- Ceasing production of ethnic population estimates, and a reduced evidence base on this section of the population, could discriminate against the minority ethnic communities.
  
- Age (younger people).
  
- Sudden unexplained infant death is the main kind of death in children over one month of age. The deaths of these children deserve to be recognised, counted and monitored as closely as possible, as the most vulnerable of all populations. The vast majority of these deaths are due to natural but as yet unknown causes, the statistics on deaths help inform research into prevention, and the parents of the children who have died so mysteriously deserve to be told by the research, in due course, why their baby died.

- Although the withdrawal of statistical outputs might not directly discriminate against equality groups, it could hamper monitoring of equality issues. It could also reduce the information used to support policy development and funding applications for equality groups.
- This information is used to help inform Equalities Impact Assessments and it may be more difficult to make assessments if this information is not available.
- [REDACTED] believe that providing data at a local level ensures there is no unlawful discrimination in any of the equality categories.
- My role is as an information provider, disseminator and interpreter so I do not work directly with areas/projects that would give me an insight into whether any discrimination would take place. I am also not usually that involved in the decision making process.
- Data relating to equality groups is essential for work to ensure equity in health services and health outcomes, and there is already a paucity of useful information. Any reduction in the production of such data will adversely affect this agenda. As stated above, withdrawing ethnic population estimates would be problematic.
- The Equality Act 2010 came into force on 1 October 2010. This legislation replaces a large number of previous legislation with a single legislative tool. The Equality Act includes a new public sector equality duty which provides legislative tools relating to eight protected characteristics. This duty is due to come into force in April 2011. As part of the new public sector equality duty (PSED) a range of public authorities will be required to set equality outcomes and measure progress towards achieving these over time. Evidence gathering is an integral part of the process that public authorities working at national and local level will be required to undertake to ensure that they have considered equality issues in the development of their policies and practices. The population data that are currently offered by GROS and disaggregated by age, gender, marital status (including civil partnership) and ethnicity support the work of public authorities to meet the new PSED through the provision of a range of valuable evidence to inform their decisions and equality outcomes. GROS data are also invaluable in providing knowledge on migration in Scotland. These data inform a range of our work in relation to our remit in relation to the above protected groups, notably issues relating to ageing in Scotland, ethnicity and religion or belief.
- All of the data sets/reports identified in our response are focused on the public health responsibilities to improve the health of the population and reduce inequalities.
- We have already commented that population estimates by ethnicity are important for equalities monitoring.
- Withdrawal or reduction of estimates/projections of population split by age/gender, as well as projections of households split by house type, could prevent relevant service provision for some of the demographic groups listed above, including all age groups, disabled people, male and female.

- Planning Service obliged to consider impact of all actions on equality issues. Any diminution of data provision would inevitably have a negative impact.
- The information above helps local authorities to plan and meet all equalities duties. By providing data at local authority level, councils can understand their population and how this translates into ensuring that all duties are addressed.
- I see no obvious discriminatory effects.
- Existing GRO(S) data describing population characteristics such as age and gender are fundamental to support those involved in policy, planning, monitoring and evaluating health care and health service needs. The development of data to support ethnic monitoring of populations would be valued. Whether GRO(S) dropping workflow that at a population level illustrates diversity and potentially promotes equality is not clear.
- needs to be fully assessed by staff who know what alternatives are available from other official statistics - and that are not also to be cut!

## Annex F General Comments

Note: These comments only relate to those respondents who specifically agreed to their response being made public. Names of organisations or geographical areas have been blanked out.

In some cases obvious typing errors have been corrected.

### 8. Do you have any other comments that are relevant to this exercise? If you would like to comment on our development work (outlined in the section 'The need to invest now'), please do so here:

- We have been working with GROS to arrange shared access to the Postcode Address File, which is essential to the survey sampling work that we are developing, and very much hope that any changes to the GROS work programme will not have any adverse effect on this.
- Alternatives to the Census must be developed. Increase linkage of administrative data sources under the UK Statistics Act should progress
- Yes, GRO-S in conjunction with the other UK census agencies really do have to work hard to see how closely a new integrated population system can replicate the census output for 2011 at all geographical scales and for all topics (including migration and commuting and calculating change 2011-2021) and, especially, what would be lost if users had to rely on such a system instead of a census in 2021, so that an informed discussion on the need for a 2021 census can begin as early as 2014.
- Increasingly, it is small area data which is required, so in addition to data at a local authority level, we would like priority given to producing as much small area data as possible (within the limits of confidentiality). Improvements could be made in areas such as the settlement and locality estimates which might perhaps be integrated with the other small area work. On website developments, these is perhaps an opportunity to provide easier access for the public to data of particular interest – such as improved settlement and locality estimates and the council profiles which hare good, but rather hidden away.
- Referring to para.11: "Over the coming years we plan, subject to funding, to continue investigating the feasibility of a new integrated system for producing population statistics after the 2011 Census. This will create opportunities for developing more effective and efficient ways for using data from a variety of sources": ██████ would wish to comment that if the Census is discontinued after 2011, there is a grave risk of the loss of valuable population, demographic, social, disability and health data, which for many topics has spanned several decades allowing crucial comparisons over time. Whilst other data sources may be able to make up some of the deficit in future, it is difficult to see how sources such as Scottish Surveys with relatively small sample sizes can compare with the coverage achieved historically by the Census.
- ██████ has been involved in a ██████ led piece of work to develop a Menu of Local Outcome Indicators and we have been working alongside the Improvement Service, Audit Scotland, Community Planning partners and the Scottish Government to bring this work together. This has been developed to ensure that the indicators provide an enhanced outcomes focussed approach with some of

the statistics from the mid-year population estimates feeding into them. These new indicators aim to provide more robust and useful information and seek to enhance the development of joint working within the public sector. There has been buy in and considerable commitment from those involved in developing these indicators and we are keen to voice then when decisions are being made on the future of the suite of statistics that GROS produce, that this piece of work we have been involved in is considered particularly in the relation to the impact and importance the GROS statistics have in ensuring the Menu of Local Indicators can meet its aims. A change to the production of the relevant indicators is likely to have an adverse impact on this work.

- [REDACTED] Council serves around a third of the geographical area of Scotland and there is a significant variation in the demographic characteristics of our communities, which range from deprived inner city areas to the most remote rural communities in Scotland. Service delivery presents a particular challenge and we need a good understanding for areas within [REDACTED] as well as for [REDACTED] overall. The Census and SAPE provide a good platform for this and we produce in-house population projections for eight areas within [REDACTED] (the eight former District Council areas) which build on the GROS projection for [REDACTED] overall. NHS [REDACTED] are able to supply fertility and mortality rates for these areas which aggregate up to the GROS figure for [REDACTED] overall, but we are heavily dependent on bespoke migration data from GROS. This gives in, out and net migration by gender and five year age band for each of the eight areas. We understand that the work uses existing protocols and coding and is therefore a relatively easy task. The impact on [REDACTED] of withdrawing this service would be very high and hope that it will continue to be given a high priority.
- It is agreed that, following the 2011 Census, effort and time is invested in the development of demographic estimates using administrative data sources. There may not be a Census in 2021. Apart from that, even if there were a 2021 Census, there is a continuing need for up-to-date estimates for the inter-census period, at small area level (particularly data zones). In our view it would be most useful if GROS could provide population estimates by Data Zone, split by population in households and in communal establishments. Apart from this information being useful in itself, it would assist in achieving greater consistency between population and household estimates by Data Zone, as part of a validation process. For the Council's planning and housing policy work, it would be useful to have dwelling stock and household estimates by tenure, initially at Council area level, but later at Data Zone level. This would be a useful area of development for GROS. We have already commented that GROS should do further work on population estimates by ethnicity. As a general observation it is commented that GROS should not see its' role as mainly a provider of data. It is also important to have a commentary of demographic trends (the link with the Centre for Population Change is important for this) and to relate demographic change to economic and social change. The latter requires a closer link with work undertaken in other Scottish Government departments.
- GROS and SNS are our main sources of statistical information. Resources are not available within the Local Authority to provide these services. It is also important to have information at datazone level where possible as this is information which is increasingly requested and required. Small area information is vital to our Local Authority given the trends that we are experiencing and that if

services are to be cut there should be some resource to do more detailed work for those Local Authorities which are most vulnerable and sensitive to declining population to help inform policy decisions at local and national level.

- Please note: I would rate as valuable any information GROS provides to POPGROUP for its standardised tables or other information, but I haven't separately identified it above.
- Any effort to reduce the information contained within the population statistics and vital events reference tables could have a large impact on the work I do. Please do not cut this as an efficiency saving!!!
- As noted above, the need for a range of evidence on the Scottish population - including Census data and projections based on the Census - is vital to support the work of a range of public authorities in Scotland. GROS data support public authorities to meet their PSED and assess impact from their work.
- Continuing and widening the scope of equality data collection and analysis to provide as much population level and high quality data relating to the protected characteristics listed in Section 7 - widening the scope to include religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy and maternity - would very much be welcomed by the [REDACTED] to provide vital support to public authorities assessing impact on tackling discrimination and promoting equality.
- An aspect of our work involves working with various partners to improve and promote the Menu of Local Outcome Indicators, which has been developed following extensive consultation and input from the full range of Scotland's Community Planning partners. The work is led by [REDACTED] and, in addition to the statutory Community Planning partners, other key stakeholders include [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The work has been undertaken to support joined-up, outcomes-focused working across the public sector. The Menu itself comprises the indicators that have been judged to be the most robust and relevant available for use in promoting an outcomes approach. The Menu of Local Outcome now includes two indicators sourced from GROS demography statistics: total population and dependency ratio, both from mid-year population estimates and presented at local authority level. Furthermore, a number of other indicators including those relating to health use population estimates as the denominator to create the appropriate rates. Users of the menu are directed to Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics in order to access the appropriate up to date information. For these reasons, it is of considerable importance that the relevant GROS population estimates, their time series, and their availability through SNS, are maintained.
- I have filled this response in from my own point of view, i.e. the data that I currently use. There may well be others within the [REDACTED] who use other data for other purposes.
- Continuity of statistics enables [REDACTED] to monitor socio-economic trends over time and to measure the impact of specific interventions at a very local level. It is important that continuity is maintained as far as possible. [REDACTED] would be keen to



have access to raw data where possible, which would enable us to undertake our own interpretation, whilst reducing

- For any forward planning, a sound statistical basis is required and we consider the statistics provided by GROS to be very important in regard to this.
- GROS demography division provides key parts of the data used in the allocation of local government funding (Grant Aided Expenditure total is around £9bn). In addition to the data described above, Census data is also used in many Grant Aided Expenditure “lines”, and it will be important to update many of the 2001 Census indicators after the 2011 Census results are available. Census data used includes measures of : Limiting Long-Term Illness; urban settlement; rural settlement; population dispersion; living alone; family stress; lone parents; island populations.
- Our preference would be to continue with the same frequency and geographical breakdown for the population and household estimates, and to get things like the population projections, and high level statistics less frequently.
- Many of the GROS statistics we have indicated that we make use of, feature in the annual National Statistics publication Rural Scotland Key Facts. The purpose of Rural Scotland Key Facts is to summarise key facts related to the main policy areas, to inform mainstreaming of rural policies. Improving the evidence base on rural Scotland will assist us in understanding the issues affecting rural Scotland. We recently undertook a consultation on the use made of the statistics published in Rural Scotland Key Facts. Results from this consultation indicated that the section in Demographics was the most useful section of the publication (89% of the 45 respondents indicated that they found this section useful).
- I can only comment on the tables that I regularly extract on an annual basis on behalf of Information Services at our HB headquarters. I would probably not have been aware of the Consultation Document, had I not received your e-mail. There will be a number of people within [REDACTED] who access your demography statistical outputs independently.
- The GROS will be aware that budget reductions (and most probably job cuts) will affect users of their products, especially LA's. Over the next 5 years, there will be a significant reduction on [REDACTED] research & Information function, which is the GROS main point of contact. In future, the nature of the GROS-Council relationship is likely to change.
- Focus on providing and maintaining the data, rather than the reports
- While I understand the need to look at possible savings, I do hope that GROS will not be hit too hard. The work you do is invaluable to researchers and teachers. I might add that the possibility of telephoning your office to seek help on specific point has always been of immense help in my work. Do hope that feature can stay.
- The population estimates and projections for Local Authority and Data zone level is essential context information – informing policy and service delivery.

- On a personal level, as I work for a local authority I am very keen to ensure that information is still made available at this level as it has a direct impact on the work that I carry out regarding analysis – especially when comparing our local authority with other areas and calculating rates.
- I commend the helpfulness of successive GROS senior staff and the admirable speed & accuracy with which well-posed requests are met.
- Despite any financial pressures and its impact on service delivery [REDACTED] look forward to a continuing fruitful collaboration with our GRO(S) colleagues.
- In terms of geography, the local authority organisational structure for the national police performance management platform will be based upon data downloaded from the SNS (Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics) website.
  - The structure contains 5 levels: -
    - Level 1 National (Scotland)
    - Level 2 Force (8 forces)
    - Level 3 Local Authority (32 LA's)
    - Level 4 Multi Member Wards (353 MMW's)
    - Level 5 Datazones (6505 Datazones)
- In addition, a national command and control application will be rolled out across Scottish forces. In order to manage resources to meet demand and report on subsequent performance, the police need to utilise data beyond that which is available in force source systems and that is where GRO(S) data is valuable. The SNS data is now imported into the national infrastructure and is available to our analysts through [REDACTED] have started a process of redefining their beats in line with Data Zones the intention of this is to allow useful public facing information regarding communities to the public. Some Data Zones are not helpful in the process and the Force would wish to assist SNS in any redefining of the beats after the coming census. The force would like to work closer with GROS to receive some more secure data - faith groups etc which would help support our policing of communities and influence our engagement strategies. The [REDACTED] is currently working on a daily upload of crime and incident data to assist supervisors to make deployment decisions and to give officer some demographic information regarding their beats. This info which currently consists of a rolling year may be useful to SNS to give more up to date crime / incident information and GROS data would complement this.