

HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS USER SURVEY: SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM NON-LOCAL AUTHORITY USERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Introduction

The purpose of the paper is to summarise the results from the household estimates and projections user survey to non-local authority users. HARG group members are invited to note the findings.

Background

After the consultation with Local Authority contacts in the spring and summer of 2001 about the development from household estimates and projections, a survey was sent to non-local authority users in January 2003 seeking their comments on our developments. It was sent to just over 300 users including Registered Social Landlords, Health Board Chief Executives, Scottish Water, Communities Scotland, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Chartered Institute of Housing, Homes for Scotland and academia. We received 5 responses.

SURVEY SUMMARY

Overall use of Scottish Executive household estimates and projections

All five responses said that they used our estimates and projections. Main uses were for business planning or forward planning such as the Joint Health Improvement initiatives and also statistical analyses. Most of them used a mixture of Scottish Executive data and other data such as local authority data and UK statistics. Most of them would obtain Scottish Executive statistics through the website and bulletins.

Priorities for development of household estimates

All 5 said there was a need for household estimates at smaller levels than at council level. Some of the suggestions for area levels were:

- Postcode
- Street
- Postcode sectors
- Localities
- RSL area
- Local structure plan zones

Most of the responses said that it would be useful to have estimates split by household type and/or by tenure. One said that it might be useful but not essential while another said it would be extremely useful. One suggested using the Census definition of household type.

The uses if the estimates were developed would still be mainly for business planning and strategic plans. It would also allow users to target resources at households where it was needed.

Priorities for development of household projections

The time period for the projections that was useful to the respondents varied from 1-3 year to 5-10 years to the 16 year projections that GROS use. Most of the responses found the household types we project sufficient for their needs but one mentioned that it would be better to use the Census definitions. Similarly to the household estimates, the respondents thought that projections at smaller areas would be useful but accepted that the quality could be problematic and one said that effort would be better put into expanding other areas.

CONCLUSIONS

There were not many responses from non-local authority users and therefore it is hard to draw definite conclusions. From the 5 respondents it is clear that Scottish Executive estimates and projections are used mainly for planning in Health Boards and Housing Associations and for statistical analyses by academia. They would welcome improvements to the data either by developing estimates and projections at smaller area levels and/or by including household type and tenure for household estimates.

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