

## 2001 CENSUS DATA NEEDED FOR FUTURE HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

### Introduction

1. This paper sets out the data which is likely to be required from the 2001 Census for the work of this group. Data will be required for three main purposes: (a) assessing the reliability of the council tax as a means of producing future estimates; (b) assessing the reliability of the 2000-based projections; (c) producing future household projections, and possibly also estimates.

2. Housing Statistics branch will be meeting with GROS in April to discuss the data requirements and to ascertain when the data are likely to be available. **Members of the group are invited to comment on the completeness of the attached data specification** which we would take to GROS.

### Data Required

3. The attachment sets out the data which would be required for 5 specific purposes – which are each discussed below.

To assess the reliability of the council tax register as a base for estimating household numbers - by comparing estimate derived from the 2001 register with the Census results.

4. Data from the 2001 council tax registers is already available (as at September 2001). There were two possible ways of using the data to estimate household numbers, as discussed in the meeting in June:

(a) Deriving a count of occupied dwellings from the council tax information, and adding a “sharing allowance” to the figures.

(b) Using simply the total dwelling count from the council tax information., and subtracting estimated numbers of vacants and second/ holiday homes, and then adding a “sharing allowance”.

5. In theory we could produce 2001 household estimates now using our current sharing allowance for each council (and our current method of estimating vacants and second homes for method b). It is proposed that we do this, and compare the results from each method, (a) and (b), to the count of households made by the Census when that information is available.

6. Actual dwelling counts will also be available from the Census (probably some time later than household counts). Once they are available it would be useful to compare the dwelling counts – both total and occupied – from the council tax registers with the counts derived from the Census results.

7. Sharing allowances and vacant/ second homes will also be available (again probably at a later date). Once these are available the estimates made using the council tax information could be refined and further comparisons made to the Census household counts.

8. **Members are invited to comment on this proposed way forward in assessing the reliability of the council tax registers as a basis for making household estimates.**

To produce future household estimates using the current method.

9. Household Estimates are currently produced annually on the basis of changes to dwelling stock. The group has discussed the possibility of moving away from this approach and using information directly from the council tax registers. However, until there is full agreement to use this approach, and we have assessed the reliability of the 2001 estimates using the new method, we perhaps should still plan on the basis of the current method. We are currently producing the 2000 household estimates. 2001 household figures would come directly from Census data. For producing the 2002 estimates using the current method we would require the data set out in the specification. **Members of the group are invited to consider whether (1) any of this data would still be required if we moved to a council tax base and (2) whether we should plan on the basis of producing estimates for 2002 using the old method as well as the new method.**

To assess the reliability of the 2000-based household projections - by comparing the projection for the year 2001 with the Census results.

10. In the summer we will be publishing the 2000-based projections, which will be produced by applying trends in household formation observed between (2 or more of) the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Census years to the latest population projections. Being based on very old trends, we should probably assess their reliability as soon as we can with the results of the 2001 Census. **Members are invited to comment on whether we should seek to obtain some provisional household level data at an early stage, if at all possible, to assist with the final adjustments to the 2000-based projections.** We will need to take account of the fact that students were counted differently in the 2001 Census, however – see below.

To produce future projections.

11. Given that the 2000-based projections will be based on very old data, we will probably need to produce updated projections as soon as practicable, i.e. as soon as the required data needed to calculate headship rates etc., and updated population projections are available. We will need to ascertain when this will be.

12. There are a couple of issues to consider here:

*(a) Changes to household type and/ or age groups*

The group may wish to change the household types and/ or the age bands by which the projections are broken down. If change(s) are made then we will need to obtain headship rate data for the new groups from earlier Census's as well as from the 2001

Census. This is probably a lot of work for GROS and we would probably need to give a long timescale for obtaining that data. **The group is invited to consider when we are likely to be in a position to advise GROS on possible changes to household type and/ or age groupings**

(b) *Where students are counted*

In the 2001 Census students were counted at their term time address, whereas previously they were counted at their home address. The household count in the 2001 Census will therefore not be consistent with the household count in earlier Census years. We will need to consider how to deal with this. We will need to make an adjustment to the headship rates for earlier Census years – possibly making assumptions about the proportion of students in each age group in 1991 (and 1981?) who would have formed separate households during the term – based on the proportion who were doing so on the 2001 Census day. For this we would need information from GROS on the number of students in each age band whose head of household was not a student. This will be discussed more fully in a future paper. However, **it would be helpful if members of the group would give some early consideration to how the headship rates for earlier Census years should be adjusted to take account of students – and if indeed this is the most appropriate way to deal with the issue.**

13. **Members are also invited to comment on whether there are any other issues for consideration in requesting data for future household projections.**

To Re-base Dwelling Estimates

14. The production of national tenure estimates is separate from the production of household statistics. However, members may wish to note that data will also be required for this purpose – and preferably before the end of the year if at all possible.

**Conclusion**

15. **Members of the group are invited to consider the specific points highlighted throughout the paper and more generally to comment on the completeness of the attached specification for data from the 2001 Census.**

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