

Household Estimates publication

Purpose

1. To agree the format for the 2005 household estimates publication, which will be published in December.

Background

2. At the last HARG meeting in May, HARG members agreed that future household estimates should be based on Council Tax figures, and we discussed the format of this publication. GROS then put together the draft figures and publication, based on this discussion, and circulated it to HARG members for comments, in July. The final publication was published on August 30th, and is available from the GROS website: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/household-estimates-projections/index.html>. There was a great deal of favourable media coverage of the publication.

3. The 2005 Council Tax figures are now available, and GROS has compiled the draft of the 2005 household estimates publication – the final version will be published in December. This draft is attached, and we would welcome any comments about the format and content of the publication, or ways in which we can improve it. The 2004 publication contained a detailed description of the methodology, and this draft contains a briefer description with a link to the 2004 publication for those looking for more details. The aim is to make the publication more readable, while still ensuring that anyone who wants to know about the full methodology can find the information they need.

4. Each council has been sent a copy of the draft figures, for quality assurance purposes, and to provide an opportunity to explain any changes that have occurred.

5. These are annual statistics - the reason we are ready to publish again so soon, is because we were reviewing the methodology, which delayed the publication of the 2004 household estimates. From now on, it should settle down into an annual cycle of publishing each year, around December.

Conclusion

6. HARG members are asked to read the attached draft publication¹ and say whether they are happy with the way it is presented, or whether they can suggest any improvements.

GROS: Household estimates branch
November 2005

¹ The draft publication cannot be made available on the website through this document until the figures have been published (13th December). From the 13th December on, household estimates for Scotland by local authority for 1991 to 2005 will be available from GROS website, under the Household Estimates and Projections section:
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/household-estimates-projections/index.html>