

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE STATISTICS WORKPLAN

At the last meeting, GROS asked for comments on the Statistics Workplan (PAMS (01)(02), which was discussed at the meeting. Since then some comments have been received from Jan Freeke. His comments are, I think, wider than the Statistics Plan but are important in terms of identifying areas of improvements in the Population and Migration Theme, and helping to clarify how the new set-up of the PAMS committee will work in future. Therefore, GROS has prepared a response (attached at Annex A) to each of Jan's comments and provided a suggested action point for each of Jan's comments.

PAMS Members will see that some of the comments require action from PAMS members. In particular item 2 would require a commitment for GROS to undertake considerable development work. In order to implement the development work, GROS needs to be sure that there is broad user support for the requirement and if so with what priority. In future, it may also be necessary for PAMS members to prioritise requirements where resources to fulfil requirements are not immediately available.

Given the GROS responses to the comments, GROS have not amended the statistics plan to take account of these comments. However, they provide a useful basis for further discussion.

GROS
May 2002

Annex A

	Comment from PAMS member	GROS comment/response	Action
1	Improved reporting on international migration. At present net migration data by council area is significantly different from net migration data by health board area from NHSCR. It would be useful if the components of population change by administrative area (Table 2.4 of GROS Annual Report) the estimated net civilian migration could be split into internal and international net migration.	<p>The suggested change would not be possible under the current methodology. Migration is estimated in a 'top down' approach, i.e. net migration for Scotland is finalised (which can be broken down into international/internal UK split), then a total net figure at the health board is agreed consistent with the Scotland total, and finally a council level net migration is estimated consistent with the relevant health board. Therefore, the split of international/internal UK is only available at the Scotland level as presented in Table 2.3 of the Annual Report.</p> <p>However, as part of our investigation of using the CHI to estimate migration at council area level, this issue will be addressed. This review will need to address the allocation of international migrants below Scotland level. Therefore, dependent upon the recommended methodology from that review this proposed change may be feasible.</p>	GROS to address as part of migration methodology review.
2	It would be very useful if the Mid-year estimates of population could be split into population in households and institutional population. This would make it easier to relate changes in population to changes in the number of households. This would be of great interest to the Household analysis review group.	This would require a substantial piece of methodological work to be able to split the population as suggested.	PAMS members are asked to comment on the need for this and whether this should be progressed at the expense of other work.
3	Available population projection software for use by councils. Recently I saw a demonstration of the POPGROUP model by Ludi Simpson. To me it appeared very focussed on the needs of authorities in England and Wales. This is particularly true for the household projection component. I heard that south Lanarkshire Council has already bought the POPGROUP model. If there is a wider interest in this model among councils and other users, it may be possible to get Bradford Council and Andelin associates to develop a version of that model which is more usable for Scottish users.	It is not clear what role the statistics plan or GROS would play in taking this forward.	Jan Freeke to clarify the suggestion and the role requested of GROS or the statistics plan.
4	The longitudinal survey in Scotland. As you know, I mentioned this at the last	This seems reasonable and was agreed at the last meeting.	Paul Boyle, St Andrews

	<p>meeting. It is a potential useful datasource and I think it would be useful for PAMS to be kept informed of progress.</p>		<p>University, to provide regular updates on progress with developing the SLS.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Additional Census Topic Tables/Reports. I wish to propose that PAMS ask for a topic report on "Refugees in Scotland".</p>	<p>The 2001 Census will not be able to specifically identify refugees as this was not asked. As an alternative, it will be possible to identify country of origin, usual address one year ago, ethnicity and religion. Information which may provide a proxy count.</p> <p>Under quality improvements in the statistics plan, the Home Office has stated an aspiration to improve the information on the geographical location of asylum seekers.</p>	<p>PAMS/Jan Freeke to provide a more detailed requirement, restricted to what the Census can deliver.</p>