

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Household Estimates Programme of Work

This paper outlines a programme of work and timetable for the production of local authority level household estimates for 2002 for Scotland.

Introduction

The last set of household estimates for Scotland published by SE housing statistics were provisional 2001 estimates published in Nov 2002. These were based on dwellings estimates which were rolled forward from the 1991 Census. Housing statistics are currently using the household estimates from the 2001 Census as the definitive source, with a proviso that they refer to a different reporting period.

There is a requirement to produce mid year estimates for 2002 and also to agree a methodology for updating these in future. It is planned to consult with local authorities through Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) on the following approach.

Establish 2002 household estimates

- Produce June 2002 dwelling count by updating 2001 Census counts using local authority returns on stock changes between April 2001 and June 2002.
- Estimate proportion of vacant dwellings and numbers of sharing households from 2001 Census
- Replicate the current system of producing household estimates using above assumptions
- Consult local authorities on proposed estimates and assumptions on dwellings, sharing and vacancy, and make changes

Agree Methodology for 2003 onwards

In discussion with HARG during 2004 we will aim to explore the benefits of one or a combination of three possible approaches to updating household estimates.

Approach 1: Current Methodology

- Update dwelling counts using annual returns from local authorities.
- Assume overall vacancy rate is constant, but allow local authority vacancy rates to vary depending on that reported in returns
- Assume a constant number of sharing households

Approach 2: Use of Council Tax Base

- Update dwelling counts using net changes in Council tax returns provided to the Scottish Executive by Local Government revenue officers.

Approach 3: Use of mid-year population estimates.

- Update counts using 2001 headship rates with mid year population estimates from GROS.

Timetable

	Deadline
Prepare and circulate paper on 2002 household estimates to local authorities and other interested parties through HARG	December 2003
Publish 2002 household estimates	February 2003
Consult with local authorities on options for household estimates methodology for 2003 onwards	April 2004

Forward plan

We also to explore the possibility of producing an update to the time series of 1991 – 2000 household estimates in light of 2001 Census results and resulting updating of population estimates.

Cecilia Macintyre
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