

MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 2 December 2004

Present:

Peter Scrimgeour	GROS, Chair
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Laura MacDonald	East Dunbartonshire Council
Gordon McAdam	Communities Scotland
James Croane	Edinburgh University
Alistair Harvey	City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Boyle	St Andrews University
Jennifer Bishop	ISD
Jo McLure	Midlothian Council
Robert Williams	Scottish Executive
Frank Thomas	GROS
Ian Máté	GROS
Cecilia Macintyre	GROS
Esther Roughsedge	GROS
Ganka Mueller	GROS
Gillian Miller	GROS
Bryan Cunningham	GROS
Esta Clark	GROS, Secretary

1. Introductions and membership

(a) Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from, Tim Riley Edinburgh University *represented by* James Croane, Catriona Hayes Scottish Executive, Julie Wilson Scottish Executive *represented by* Robert Williams, Ruth Gordon Clackmannanshire Council *represented by* Jo McLure Midlothian Council, Ian White ONS, Joy Dobbs ONS and Ross Brown Scottish Enterprise.

(b) New Members

1.2 Peter Scrimgeour introduced himself as the new chair of the group and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and a membership list was circulated.

2. Minutes of the PAMS meeting held on 26 May 2004 – PAMS (04) 8

2.1 The previous meeting's minutes were approved with a couple of minor amendments. Jan Freeke asked that: section 3.2 was changed to say "...in light of the decision to transfer small area household estimates and household projections to GROS.", and section 4.3 to say "Some members also suggested that the questions on central heating and amenities could be dropped."

3. Update on action points from the last meeting - PAMS (04) 9

3.1 Action point 2.1: Graham Jackson to pursue work with ONS to agree recommendations for appropriate use of SMR's. Ongoing: discussions to be held with ISD early in 2005.

Action Graham Jackson

3.2 Action point 2.7: Cecilia Macintyre to produce a paper in consultation with ONS on sub-national allocations of international migrants. Ongoing: work being led by the ONS project on Implementation of the National Statistics Quality Review of International Migration. Cecilia Macintyre is on the advisory group and will report back the progress of the group in due course.

Action Cecilia Macintyre

3.3 Other action points from the previous meeting had been completed.

4. SCOTSTAT

(a) Board meeting update (6th meeting 16 June 2004) - PAMS (04) 10

4.1 Richard Belding represented PAMS at the SCOTSTAT board meeting as the usual representative (Jenny Boag) was unable to attend. Richard highlighted the following points from the meeting:

- The structure of the SCOTSTAT committees was discussed highlighting that all the committees have different histories and that some topics are not as yet represented. Members of the SCOTSTAT board support group have talked to all committees to prepare a paper about the current situation.
- The consultation for the 2006 Census test and the 2011 Census should involve the SCOTSTAT board and committees directly in order to disseminate the consultation more widely.
- Freedom of Information (FoI) was not thought to be a major problem for the Scottish Executive (SE) Statistics group as most of its information is already published. However, it was noted that it may be an issue for other areas in the SE.

4.2 Robert Williams reported that hopefully in the next couple of weeks an update would be placed on the SE Statistics website about how the SE statistical service would be dealing with FoI requests. It was noted that the guidance on the Information Commissioner's website was very detailed.

4.3 Jenny Boag reminded the group that a report would need to be prepared for the next board meeting on the 19th of January which she would be attending.

(b) Preannouncement arrangements for National Statistics

4.4 Cecilia Macintyre introduced this item and explained the background and said that Richard Belding had asked for this to be put on the agenda. Richard said that there were three issues:

- 1) Arrangements for telling people about publication dates;
- 2) How uniformly statistics branches distribute statistics;
- 3) Early sight of the mid-year estimates, population and household projections so that briefing can be prepared to answer local press queries on the day.

4.5 Cecilia Macintyre replied that the GROS and the SE publish a list of future publications for the year by month on their websites and that specific dates are put in one month before publication. In the past she had used the SCOTSTAT register to let people know statistics had just been published, or that they were about to be published. From now onwards the register would be used to inform people about future publication dates and times.

Action Cecilia Macintyre

4.6 Robert Williams, from the Office of the Chief Statistician in the SE, said that it was up to Duncan Macniven as Head of Profession for GROS to decide the procedures for pre-release access to GROS statistics, in light of the National Statistics Release procedures. Peter Scrimgeour asked for views from members and said that this would be taken away for further consideration.

Action Peter Scrimgeour

5. Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website and the Scottish Index of Deprivation

5.1 Robert Williams from the Office of the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Executive gave a presentation on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website and the Scottish Index of Deprivation. Robert mentioned that he had also been presenting this to the other SCOTSTAT committees. The discussion during and after the presentations covered the following main points:

- It was reported that some Local Authorities had problems with the current DataZone boundaries because the time they were given for consultation was not long enough and the resulting areas were not meaningful.
- Paul Boyle mentioned that he would be concerned about changing DataZones, and said that he favoured consistency in DataZone definition through 2011.
- Robert Williams replied that previously there was not a consistent small area geography and that DataZones were statistical units rather than communities on the ground. Members were asked to send Robert examples of "pointless" DataZones.

Action Members

- It was mentioned that some Local Authorities have named their DataZones and it was asked whether there were any plans for the SE to name them, as it was often useful to have meaningful names rather than an number.
- Robert Williams said that there were no current plans to name DataZones, however, they were planning on naming the new intermediate geographies.
- Robert said that he would circulate his slides to members, and added that he was happy to repeat the presentation to local groups.

Action Robert Williams and Members

- Gordon McAdam mentioned that Communities Scotland were conducting a series of road shows across Scotland starting this month covering SIP evaluation, community planning for the future and how the Index of Multiple Deprivation fitted in.

6. Census

(a) 2001 Census: Progress and Plans – PAMS (04) 11

6.1 Frank Thomas introduced the paper highlighting the work completed since the previous meeting and the plans for the release of the remaining data. Frank mentioned that they would be concentrating on getting final versions of the Area Statistics out i.e. the SCROL CDs and DVDs. Frank also reported that the origin-destination statistics on moving groups should be available from 16 December.

6.2 Frank informed the group that the University of Leeds have software which they use to disseminate origin and destination statistics, and explained that they have offered use of the software with or alongside the SCROL website. Frank asked members to let him know, in the next couple of weeks, whether they would like to see such a development take place.

Action Members

6.3 Jenny Boag and Richard Belding said that in principle they would like this software to be available on SCROL. Paul Boyle added that the origin destination software was a joint venture between the University of Leeds and the University of St Andrews, and that, among other things, it used modelled data from re-estimated 1991 flows. Frank Thomas also mentioned that it was hoped that actual data for 1991 would be available (once the current problems with software had been sorted out) and that he would let members know the timescale for this in due course.

Action Frank Thomas

6.4 Frank Thomas went on to report that the downside of not using small area cell adjustment in tabular output in Scotland meant that there was a problem to be solved for the household SAR, in that it may be possible to identify a particular household. However, it was hoped that this problem would be solved and that Scottish data would be in the household SAR. The corresponding problem had been resolved with the individual SAR. Paul Boyle said that academics were very interested in the household SAR and would like it to contain Scottish data.

6.5 Jenny Boag asked about progress on the occasional paper on migration and report on Gaelic. She asked whether the Gaelic report could be given a higher priority. Frank replied that the migration occasional paper should be published early next year and the Gaelic report was next on the list.

(b) Census Data Collection and Consultation - PAMS (04) 12

6.6 Ian Máté introduced this paper and mentioned that Census Consultation meetings were currently being held. Ian explained that the paper had three main parts and he highlighted the following main points:

- Another step had been added to the timetable for the 2011 Census for Parliamentary consultations;
- The website consultation was concerned mainly with question consultation and the consultation meetings focused more on methods e.g. the definition of the population base;
- Members attention was drawn to the 1st quarterly summary of the responses to the question consultation and the fact that the 2nd summary should be available in February;
- The 2006 Census Test would be run in three main areas: ethnically diverse areas of Glasgow, public sector estates with high unemployment in West Dunbartonshire and rural areas with holiday homes between Pitlochry and Fort William, taking in parts of Highland, Argyll & Bute, Stirling and Perth & Kinross;
- Two phases of letters were going to be sent: one to all Council Chief Executives, and another to councils where the 2006 Census Test was going to run. Jenny Boag asked that copies of these letters should be emailed to the Local Authority side members of PAMS and said that she could provide an email list for this.

Action Jenny Boag and Ian Máté

6.7 Peter Scrimgeour explained that the other SCOTSTAT committees would also be consulted.

7. “Fresh Talent” & Research Population and Migration – links with Scottish Executive

7.1 Peter Scrimgeour reported that GROS were involved in policy meetings about the “Fresh Talent” campaign and were involved in advising and providing demographic information for demography policy in general. He noted that GROS news releases were more in the spotlight than previously, for example, the press focused on Scotland’s population falling below 5 million in 2017 for the recently released 2003-based national projections rather than 2009 for the previous 2002-based projections. Peter stressed that GROS was involved in making sure that policy colleagues understood what these changes actually meant.

7.2 Peter updated the group on progress with the ESRC call for research bids on demography topics. Fifteen bids had been received. Peter noted that the timescales would be tight and expressed the hope that new findings would come from this research. He undertook to keep members informed. It was mentioned that Local authorities were happy to co-operate with any research projects funded by ESRC.

Action Peter Scrimgeour

8. Non-Census Issues**(a) Population estimates and projections - PAMS (04) 13**

8.1 Cecilia Macintyre presented the paper and highlighted the main points. Jan Freeke asked whether having Quarterly Population Estimates would help to avoid surprises in the mid-year estimates. Cecilia replied that it was not yet decided whether GROS would produce QPEs for Scotland, and so there was no clear answer on this at present.

8.2 Cecilia referred to the research which is to be commissioned to look into existing methods and software for making household and population projections. Jan Freeke said that Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council both used POPGROUP and that in this connection he might approach GROS for data in a particular format. Some other Scottish local authorities are interested in POPGROUP, particularly if appropriate input data are readily available. Jenny Boag mentioned that she had carried out similar work into existing methods and software a few years ago. Jenny also said that there were new Local Authority members for the projection working group available on request.

Action Esta Clark

(b) Small area population estimates – PAMS (04) 14

8.3 Cecilia Macintyre introduced this paper and noted that considerable work had been carried out in progressing the small area estimates at DataZone level. Cecilia introduced Gillian Miller and explained that Gillian had joined the demography branch to work on small area estimates. Cecilia drew the group’s attention to the timetable at the end of the paper and noted that the initial plan was to publish the 2003 based SAPE in May 2005 and 2004 based SAPE in October 2005. However, this will be reviewed by the SAPE working group with a view to balancing the need for early access with carrying out quality assurance. Jenny Boag informed the group that there were Local Authority changes to the SAPE working group membership. Jenny would send these to Gillian Miller on request.

Action Gillian Miller

(c) Household estimates and projections progress and plans

8.4 Esther Roughsedge introduced herself, explained that she was the head of the new Household Estimates branch in GROS, and that she would be reviewing the methodology for producing household estimates and projections at local authority level (previously produced by the Housing Statistics branch in the Scottish Executive), and also investigating ways of producing small area household estimates. Esther mentioned that the paper presented at the previous PAMS meeting (PAMA 04(4)) still reflected the stage the work was at. Esther also pointed out that there were links with the work Catriona McKay from Communities Scotland was doing, in that they would be looking at the same data sources but for different purposes – Catriona’s focus is on tenure.

8.5 Jan Freeke asked how this would affect the HARG group membership. Esther replied that the HARG’s group membership and chair would be reviewed in due course.

(d) Census Alternatives

8.5 Ganka Mueller introduced herself as the head of the new Census Alternatives branch which would be looking at administrative and survey data for future Censuses and demographic estimates. The work would initially concentrate on Council Area, Health Board Area and small area population estimates by evaluating them against survey and administrative sources.

9. Issues for future discussion

9.1 Peter Scrimgeour asked if there were any suggestions for future discussion by the group. Ian Máté suggested the definition of the population base for the 2006 Census Test, the under enumeration adjustment and the question content. Cecilia Macintyre mentioned that the National Population Projections Committee would be consulting on the next set of projections, and also asked for views on a topic for the next Annual Report. Members were asked to send suggestions for topics for the next Annual Report to Frank Thomas by the end of December. Jenny Boag and Richard Belding suggested mortality and the aging population.

Action Members

10. Any Other Business

10.1 No items were raised.

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 The date for the next meeting will be in May 2005. The secretary will consult members in due course.