

# POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

## International Migration Statistics - plans for review for Mid-year estimates (MYE) 2006

### 1 Purpose

The attached paper outlines the current approach taken to estimating and disseminating international migration components which feed into the mid-year estimates for Scotland. PAMS are invited to comment on a proposed work programme to investigate these issues and produce recommendations for implementation in MYE 2006.

### 2 Current methodology

In summary, the approach used to estimating international migration components for the mid-year estimates has been used in its current form for the last 5 years. This covers estimation of total flows, allocation to areas of Scotland, and age sex characteristics of international migrants. The key aspects of the methodology are described below.

#### 2.1 International in-migration

International in-migration is based on the estimate of people in the International Passenger Survey (IPS) expressing an intention to migrate Scotland i.e. stay for a period of 12 months or more. This is adjusted by adding a number of visitor switchers (people who intended to stay for a period of less than 12 months but subsequently stayed longer and therefore became a migrant). This is currently defined as percentage of the 'long stay visitors' and 'possible migrants', who come from a non-EEA country. In addition, we estimate a number of asylum seekers based on information provided by Home Office and include estimates of in-migrants from Ireland provided by the Irish Central Statistics Office via ONS.

#### 2.2 International out-migration

International out migration is based on the estimate of people in the International Passenger survey who express an intention to migrate from the UK and who previously lived in Scotland. This is similarly adjusted by adding a number of visitor switchers.

#### 2.3 Unmeasured migration

Following the results of the Census 2001, it was recognised that the current approach to estimating migration was over estimating the amount of migration, and so it was decided to include an additional -1500 as unmeasured migration to account for this.

#### 2.4 ONS methodology for Total International Migration

The methodology currently used by ONS for estimating total international migration (TIM) is also based on the International Passenger Survey but incorporates more adjustments.

It includes adjustments for 'migrant switchers' (people who stated an intention to stay in for over a year, but subsequently stayed for a shorter period). This is estimated as 5% of in migrants.

For out-migration, migrant switchers are estimated as 1% of out migrants . This is a lower percentage to allow for the possibility that out migrants who stay for a shorter period will not necessarily return to Scotland and may move to another country of destination.

In addition the estimates of visitor switchers include visitors to and from EEA countries.

### **3 Proposed review of methodology used in Scotland**

Since the Census 2001, the MYE approach has continued to use the same approach to estimating international migration, and has not taken on board the TIM estimates of international migration estimates published by ONS. The TIM estimates will be reviewed following the ONS project which is implementing the recommendation from the National Statistics Quality review of international migration and so we plan to consider the implications of the work for Scotland during 2006-07. This will include:-

- **Impact of ONS NQSR International Migration project**

Changes to estimated IPS in-migration based on a methodology of geographical distribution of using the Labour Force Survey.

Analysis of new questions to improve estimation of visitor and migrant switchers.

Possible impact of additional emigration filter shifts

Methodology for estimating age-sex distribution of international migrants and allocation to areas within Scotland.

Review of availability and usefulness of administrative sources in relation to Scotland. This will build on the work already done by ONS but will focus particularly on data for Scotland.

- **Estimates of short term migrants**

As part of the ONS review of international migration, a new project is being started to look at the issues of counting short term migrants. GROS will be involved in the planning of this project, which will report to the NSQR International migration project board.

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