

## MEETING OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 14 NOVEMBER 2001

### Present:

David Orr, GROS, Chair

Jenny Boag, Falkirk Council

James Reid, Edinburgh University

Ian White, ONS

Jan Freeke, Glasgow City Council

Paul Boyle, St Andrews University

Frank Thomas, GROS

Garnett Compton, GROS

Richard Belding, Aberdeenshire Council

Stephen Fraser, North Ayrshire Council

Allan Lambie, South Lanarkshire Council

Wilma Smith, GROS, Secretary

### 0. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

#### (a) Apologies

0.1 Apologies were received from Adam Redpath, ISD, Jacqueline Livingstone, Dumfries and Galloway Council, David Watkins, Communities Scotland and Justin Armsworth, Experian Ltd.

#### (b) Resignations

0.2 Elaine Docherty, South Lanarkshire Council, has resigned from the group.

#### (c) New Members

0.3 Wilma Smith welcomed James Reid, Data Librarian, Edinburgh University who replaced Alistair Towers.

0.4 The other new member Marion Lacey, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations did not attend the meeting.

#### (d) Review of Membership

0.5 Jenny Boag reported that there had been discussion at the morning meeting about reviewing the Local Authority side membership of PAMS and it had been agreed that the following six officers would form the membership:

Jenny Boag, Falkirk Council

Norman Jamieson, City of Edinburgh Council

Jan Freeke, Glasgow City Council

Jacqueline Livingstone, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Richard Belding, Aberdeenshire Council

Stephen Fraser, North Ayrshire Council

0.6 Graham Atherton, CoSLA, would like to continue to receive PAMS papers but would not be attending any more meetings.

### 1. MINUTES OF SCAG MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2001 - SCAG (01) 12

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.

### 2. UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING - SCAG (01) 13

2.1 All action points from the previous meeting were done other than:-

#### **2.1 Garnett Compton to look into the alleged missing and incorrect postcodes in Highland Council's CHI data and to progress work on data for settlements for Highland Council**

2.2 This work is ongoing and has been taken forward as part of the work on improving the small area population estimates.

#### **4.9 Duncan Gray to check the position on Data Protection Act issues, in relation to Council Tax Register data, with SE policy colleagues and report to the group**

2.3 Duncan has reported on this point in his paper PAMS (01) 05.

#### **2.6 Members to e-mail Danny Slaughter with information about file formats requested for examining proposed boundaries of localities.**

2.4 Jenny Boag expressed concern that members would not be consulted on the boundaries of localities. She therefore encouraged members to examine the data supplied carefully. In her own council area, Falkirk, she had found that some rural areas were shown as part of towns. In Inverclyde there were disconnected parts of settlements which needed to be looked at again.

2.5 Frank Thomas had received correspondence about the problem in Inverclyde and would respond as soon as possible. GROS had to adhere to the boundaries in the geography set frozen for the 2001 Census even though some boundaries could be improved, with later information. Post 2001 locality definitions would be able to take account of this.

*Action: Frank Thomas*

### **3. SCOTSTAT REPORT AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

#### **(a) Revised Title for the Group and Terms of Reference – PAMS (01) 01**

3.1 David Orr introduced this item. The change of name from the Scottish Census Advisory Group to the Population and Migration Statistics Committee was formally agreed. Terms of Reference were still in draft form and comments are welcome. It was agreed that they would not be finalised until the SCOTSTAT board meets (in January 2002).

3.2 Jill Alexander and Duncan Gray would continue to report to the Committee on data on Income and Housing respectively. The link to the Household Analyses Review Group would continue meantime, subject to further developments in the Built Environment Committee. A permanent arrangement was not ruled out.

3.3 It was agreed that the revised Terms of Reference would be produced at the next PAMS meeting.

*Action: David Orr, Jenny Boag and Wilma Smith*

#### **(b) Statistical Plans – PAMS (01) 02**

3.4 David Orr has produced a rough early draft of the Population and Migration chapter of the Scottish Statistical Plan 2002-03 to 2004-05. Members were asked to comment by **30 November 2001**. Neighbourhood Statistics is asking GROS to produce detailed small area population estimates. The Committee should consider if anything else on population and migration statistics is required for Neighbourhood Statistics when commenting.

*Action: PAMS Members*

3.5 The SCOTSTAT Board will require the Committee to formally agree a Workplan. Jenny Boag will present any issues to the SCOTSTAT Board on behalf of the Committee. If any Committee members have any thoughts or issues to be addressed, they should forward them to David Orr, Wilma Smith or Jenny Boag.

*Action: PAMS Members*

3.6 Jan Freeke asked that the Committee be kept informed of progress on the Scottish Longitudinal Study. Paul Boyle gave a brief update on progress so far and said that he was happy to update the Committee regularly.

#### **(c) Topic Reports – PAMS (01) 03**

3.7 Paper PAMS (01) 03 asked the Committee to agree to the proposal for progressing, via the SCOTSTAT Committee structure, the need for detailed Census Topic tables, ie data for large areas more detailed than the Area

Statistics already specified, mainly Scotland level data. There are no plans to produce Census Topic Reports like those for the 1991 Census. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

3.8 Jenny Boag was keen to see this paper taken forward to the SCOTSTAT Secretariat and Committees and David Orr agreed to forward the final version of the paper to her in due course.

*Action: David Orr*

3.9 There remains a need for PAMS to consider needs for topic tables falling under the Population and Migration Theme. Jenny Boag also said that the Committee might be interested to see what Garnett Compton might want to commission as part of his work producing the mid-year population estimates.

*Action: PAMS Members*

#### **4. NON-CENSUS ISSUES**

##### **(a) Population Statistics Matters – PAMS (01) 04**

##### **(i) Population Projections**

4.1 Garnett Compton reported that the national population projections would be published on 15 November in a GROS News Release. The production of the sub-national population projections was being brought forward to avoid conflict of resources with the work being done on the One Number Census estimates work. Work had begun to finalise GROS' initial proposals for the migration assumptions at the sub-national level. Depending on resources, GROS is considering small changes to the projections methodology and intend to present the work to a small number of users for endorsement. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Donna Hosie at GROS.

*Action: PAMS Members*

4.2 Jenny Boag was concerned about the low birth rates now being experienced and projected and found the figures worryingly low with considerable policy implications. Garnett said that GROS may prepare an Occasional Paper on fertility which may help to identify work which requires to be done to research underlying causes further.

##### **(ii) Small Area Population Estimates**

4.3 Ward level small area population estimates for 1999 have now been produced. A set of 2000 small area population estimates has been produced for wards and postcode sectors and is being finalised. Both will be available via the GROS website.

4.4 Claire Boag, the new GROS assistant statistician has begun scoping work for the new project looking at improvements in the small area population estimate methodology for 2001 and beyond. As part of the new SCOTSTAT consultation arrangements, a working group will be set up to develop this work. Any members wishing to take part in the group should contact Claire by the end of November. A number of members of the previous group expressed a wish to continue.

*Action: PAMS Members*

##### **(iii) Mid-Year Estimates - Migration**

4.5 The development work on using the CHI to estimate migration at a lower level has been delayed due to staff shortages. Claire Boag is now taking this work forward and members of the working group should expect to hear from her before Christmas with first proposals.

*Action: Claire Boag, GROS*

##### **(iv) 2001 Mid-Year Estimates**

4.6 The Mid-year estimates will be rolled forward from Census Day 2001 and the publication of results will therefore be in August 2002 when the age/sex population totals from the 2001 Census are available.

4.7 A revised set of intercensal population estimates for 1992-2000 will be produced taking account of 2001 Census results. GROS are provisionally planning that the revised set of intercensal population estimates will be published with the 2002 Mid-year estimates in April 2003.

4.8 However, users may require revised estimates to be published sooner to enable historical comparisons, and GROS proposed to prepare a set of provisionally revised 2000 mid-year estimates to enable users to estimate the impact on any 2000 and 2001 measures which use population as a denominator. Users are asked to comment on the need for such estimates by contacting Garnett Compton by Christmas.

*Action: PAMS Members*

**(b) Household Analyses Review Group – PAMS (01) 05**

4.9 Duncan Gray was unable to attend the meeting but reported on progress with the Household Analysis Review Group in paper PAMS (01) 05. There were some concerns about HARG losing momentum. Stephen Fraser said he was in contact with Duncan Gray informally and agreed to liaise with him direct to keep an eye on progress.

**Action: Stephen Fraser/Duncan Gray**

**5. 2001 CENSUS****(a) Data Collection, Census Fieldwork, Data Capture and Disclosure Control – Oral reports – Ian White and Frank Thomas**

5.1 Ian White updated the Committee on Census progress in England and Wales. His main points were:

- Good response estimated at around 98% of households
- Processing started and action taken following initial delays to protect completion date

Other points:

- More forms posted back than expected, but slower than planned
- Recruitment not easy, especially in metropolitan areas
- Community Liaison successful
- Foot and Mouth problem overcome
- Publicity possibly too successful leading to temporary overload of Helpline
- Field Management Information System not wholly successful
- Field staff pay proved to be the biggest problem

5.2 Frank Thomas reported that the position in Scotland was broadly similar. Around 98% of forms expected had been received and the scanning of Scottish forms is now complete. There are 8 chunks of Scottish data expected in December and January for GROS staff to examine as part of a major Data Quality Programme. They will be looking at snapshots of data at various stages of processing for anything untoward and instigating remedial action as appropriate.

5.3 Fieldwork on the Vacant Follow-Up Survey has resumed following a break when documents were required at Widnes for scanning. The Scottish Executive and those councils who opted to pay for a boosted VFUS sample will be receiving invoices for this work in the New Year.

5.4 Disclosure control in Scotland will be done by record swapping. There will be no rounding of data as proposed by ONS for England and Wales output. Scottish users were happy with this as they feel that Scottish output areas are small enough for users not to require flexible geography and any concomitant rounding.

5.5 Matching Scottish Census data with data from the Census Coverage Survey will begin shortly. Richard Belding asked about the methods used in borrowing strength from another council area as he was unhappy with strength for Aberdeen being borrowed from Shetland. Users would like to see the revised list on how areas have been weighted. Garnett Compton would consult Ian Máté about obtaining the revised list for members. Jan Freeke had sent Garnett a memo about the situation for Glasgow. If Glasgow response was poorest, the same arrangements were not applicable. It may be that Glasgow would have to borrow strength from an area outside Scotland and various options were possible. GROS would take account of this and any other relevant data before reaching a conclusion.

**Action:- Garnett Compton/Ian Máté**

**(b) Outcome of Roadshow Meetings – PAMS (01) 06**

5.6 Paper PAMS (01) 06 was presented for information by Wilma Smith. It recorded a summary of the points raised at the three Scottish Roadshow events in October, some of which required further action by GROS or users. This paper has been incorporated into a wider paper prepared by ONS covering actions arising from the UK Roadshows. It is proposed that the Census offices will report back progress using Census News and the Advisory Groups in due course. The deadline for comment on the final proposals was extended until 23 November.

5.7 Paul Boyle was involved in the Leeds University based project for web-based dissemination of Origin-Destination statistics which was mentioned at the Roadshow. He will send details of the relevant website to Wilma Smith to pass on to users, although it is primarily designed for users in the academic community.

**Action:- Paul Boyle**

**(c) Dissemination – PAMS (01) 07**

5.8 Garnett Compton reported that the SCROL pilot project was behind schedule for a number of reasons and it should now be released at the end of November. At the Scottish Roadshows in October, users were asked to register their interest in receiving a copy of the CD for evaluation. Jenny Boag said that some users would like to offer their services by forming a technical steering group, if this would be useful, and they would take responsibility for providing feedback. Allan Lambie, South Lanarkshire Council, Colin Grainger, Inverclyde Council and Richard Belding, Aberdeenshire Council are the volunteers. Garnett confirmed that this suggestion would be very useful and would be in touch with the interested parties soon.

**Action:- Garnett Compton**

**6. UK Advisory Group Issues – PAMS (01) 08**

6.1 Paper PAMS (01) 08 was presented for information. The various Census Advisory Groups were meeting in the period 13 November to 5 December and all the relevant AG papers had been sent to PAMS members, mainly for information.

6.2 Jenny Boag was not happy with the content of paper AG (01) 09 ('Review and Evaluation of the 2001 Census') as she felt that it did not really cover evaluation but was more a description of the processes which had been carried out. She wanted assurance that GROS would not be producing something similar. David Orr said that GROS intended to issue evaluation on the 2001 Census in Scotland piecemeal when available but it would ultimately be tied together in a printed report. A number of in-house evaluations will be carried out. Jenny thought that users would be interested in seeing the detailed reports. David Orr assured members that the evaluation will be critical and invited members with views to submit comments.

**Action: PAMS Members**

6.3 Members had seen AG Paper (01) 10 ('Review of the Need for a 2006 Census') and Jenny Boag asked if there were any plans to conduct a Census in 2006 in Scotland. David Orr said that GROS will review the 2001 Census and evaluate how well Neighbourhood Statistics is working and then a decision would be made. However, if there was to be no 2006 Census in England and Wales, there would be no consequential money in the Scottish block. Users were generally very interested in Neighbourhood Statistics and they might provide enough information in their own right.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS****(a) Pre-school Population estimates – Education Requirements – PAMS (01) 09**

7.1 Jenny Boag put forward this paper, which had been circulated as PAMS – LA (01) 01. David Orr welcomed relevant papers being submitted by members other than GROS. It was agreed that the paper be renumbered PAMS (01) 09 to keep the paper numbers in sequence.

7.2 The purpose of the paper was to draw local authority members' attention to the terms of a letter sent to all Directors of Education from the Scottish Executive's Education Department which required each authority to approach GROS direct for the latest population estimates for pre-school children. GROS are keen to avoid receiving 32 requests for information and would prefer to produce one set of populations, all based on the same period, which would then be made available to all local authorities. One of the purposes of PAMS is to encourage discussion on matters such as this and Jenny set out a list of questions for consideration in paragraph 11 of her paper.

7.3 Garnett Compton confirmed that he had already received a request from one council and has been in touch with the relevant SE Statistician. His view was that it was not necessary to change anything.

7.4 David Orr suggested that the best way to deal with the original inappropriate circular was through the SE Survey Advice Mechanism. GROS would liaise with SE about this and also agree an appropriate solution with SE Education Statistics and advise Jenny Boag.

**Action:- Garnett Compton**

(b) **2002 Postcode Index**

7.5 Richard Belding reported that he had received the 2002 Postcode Index and was pleased to see that it included current wards. However, although the live postcodes are correctly coded, the deleted postcodes are still coded to previous wards. Users are currently using three sets of ward codes. In addition, Jenny Boag would like the 1995 ward codes reinstated alongside current wards as this information was invaluable.

7.6 Frank Thomas agreed to look into these matters and contact Richard and Jenny direct.

*Action:- Frank Thomas*

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.1 It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in **early May 2002** and the secretary will consult members about the exact date in the New Year.