

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS WORKING GROUP (PPWG)

### Draft paper: Remit and Membership

#### Introduction

This paper seeks the views of the members of the new Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) on the remit and the membership of the group. **In particular views are sought on:-**

- **The draft remit at Annex A;**
- **The membership of the group at Annex B.**

#### Background

Population projections are produced every two years by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) for Council and NHS Board areas in Scotland. The projections are controlled to make them consistent with the national projections produced by the Government Actuary's Department (though this work is now carried out by the Office for National statistics (ONS)). The current method used will be explained at item 4 on the agenda.

In September 2003, members of the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) were asked for their views on the current method. These responses were then summarised for the November 2003 PAMS meeting where it was decided to form a working group to look at the method used for the projections. Due to resource constraints and the priority of other work this group has not met until today, 31 May 2006. A summary of the responses gained from PAMS members in 2003 follows:-

#### ***How far ahead should we project?***

- The majority were in favour of extending to at least 20 years and this was done for the 2004-based projections.

#### ***Migration Assumptions***

- Most were in favour of exploring a 'propensity to migrate model'. One respondent thought that the current method should not be changed for consistency reasons.

#### ***Sub-national projections for small areas***

- Most did not see the need for small area projections and questioned how accurate they would be. Some thought projections for other geographies would be more useful e.g. settlements.

#### ***Variant Projections***

- Most respondents thought that they would be useful for looking at scenarios.

### **Local Scaling Factors**

- The majority were in favour of reviewing the scaling factors e.g. group Council areas to increase stability though some thought that agreeing on groups would be difficult. Use five years to calculate an average rather than three – 5 years was used in the 2004-based projections.

As well as this work in 2003, on 9 November 2005 we held a seminar as part of this review called “The Theory and Practice of Population & Household Projections Seminar” where we invited experts from across the UK to give presentations on the approaches taken to population and household projections. The material presented is available through the following link, and should provide background to the review.

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/user-consultation-groups-seminars/seminars/pop-and-house-proj/index.html>

### **Remit**

In theory this group could be very wide ranging. So in order to keep the meeting manageable, and also to ensure that the group is productive, it is proposed that the group should initially concentrate on the method used to produce the projections before moving on to look at things like software solutions and outputs. The work of this group will feed in to the review of household projections led by the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG). (HARG’s remit and membership are in Annex C.)

***Comments are welcome on the draft remit attached in Annex A to this paper.***

### **Membership**

The current membership list is attached in Annex B to this paper. Membership consists of representatives from Councils, one NHS Board, SE, ONS, NISRA, WAG and GROS.

Members of this group (PPWG) should represent not only their own interests, but those of others, e.g. their council and others. Also, papers and minutes will be posted on the GROS website and all members are free (encouraged!) to circulate papers to any others with an interest.

***Comments are welcome on whether the current membership reflects the proposed remit. Are there any other groups or individuals who should be involved?***

## **Annex A: Draft Remit**

### **Population Projections Working Group (PPWG)**

#### **Remit**

This working group will report to the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) and will advise on the review of the method used to produce the sub-national population projections for administrative areas in Scotland. The review should be completed in time for the 2006-based sub-national population projections, planned to be published in late 2007 / early 2008. Progress and recommendations will be reported back to PAMS. In particular the group will:-

Advise on a specification of requirements for the revised system including:-

- Methodology to be used to provide a consistent national approach to projecting the populations of areas within Scotland;
- The way in which assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration are made and the suitability of the data they are based on;
- The geographies projections should be produced for;
- The required output and support needed for users.

This will be done by:-

- gathering views from within the working group and sharing more widely through PAMS;
- Production of a number of working papers to consider specific research questions posed by the group;
- Agreeing a final set of recommendations including proposals for software developments to be presented to PAMS.

This group will link in with the household projections review being led by the Household Analysis Review Group (HARG).

## Annex B: Membership

### Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) Membership as at 31 May 2006

Name	Organisation
Esta Clark (Chair)	GROS
Bryan Cunningham (Secretary)	GROS
Alistair Harvey	Edinburgh City Council
Allan Lambie	South Lanarkshire Council
Cameron Thomas	Highland Council
Cecilia Macintyre	GROS
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
David Hurst	Scottish Executive
Ed Turnbull	GROS
Esther Roughsedge	GROS
Jack Winchester	Aberdeen City Council
Jamie Jenkins	Welsh Assembly Government
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Jillian Evans	NHS Grampian
Lesley Mann	North Lanarkshire Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Richard Pereira	Office for National Statistics
Stuart Booker	Fife Council
<b>Correspondence only members</b>	
Chris Shaw	Office for National Statistics
David Marshall	NISRA
Ganka Mueller	GROS
Gayle Johnston	Scottish Executive
Graham Jackson	GROS

## **Annex B: HARG's Remit and Membership**

### **HARG's purpose is to assist GROS to:**

- Maintain relevant good quality official household estimates and projections;
- Develop small area household estimates;
- Provide users with sound advice on the basis of household estimates and projections and their use.

### **To achieve its purpose, HARG will advise GROS on:**

- the need for and uses made of the GROS household estimates and projections;
- the data sources used to compile household estimates and projections and possible alternatives;
- the methodologies used to compile household estimates and projections and possible alternatives;
- the approaches used to consult / inform all users on methodological and data issues.

### **Current membership of HARG:**

Esther Roughsedge (chair) - GROS: Household Estimates and Projections

Stephen Fraser - North Lanarkshire Council

Jan Freeke - Glasgow Council

Alistair Harvey - Edinburgh Council

Paul McNamara - Stirling Council

Margaret Skinner - North Ayrshire Council

Tom Snowling - Aberdeen Council

Karen Trouten - Homes for Scotland

Gordon McAdam - Communities Scotland

Claire Boag - SE: Housing statistics

Helen Wood - SE: Planning Services Division

Derek Bearhop - SE: Housing Division

Paula Lopez - GROS: Household Estimates and Projections

Cecilia Macintyre/Esta Clark - GROS: Population and Migration Statistics