

# MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 19 June 2008

## Present:

Celia Macintyre	GROS (Population and Migration Statistics)
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Kateryna McKinnon	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Martin Macfie	GROS (Household Estimates and Projections)
Alistair Harvey	City of Edinburgh Council
Esther Roughsedge	GROS (Household Estimates and Projections)
Andrew White	GROS (Population and Migration Statistics)
Stephen Canning	MVA Consultancy
David Connelly	MVA Consultancy
Frank Dixon	GROS (Vital Events Branch)
Peter Scrimgeour	GROS (Head of Census Division)
Kirsty MacLachlan (Chair)	GROS (Head of Demography Division)
Sheena Stevely	Renfrewshire Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Ruth Hampshire (minutes)	GROS (Population and Migration Statistics)
Laura Blair	GROS (Population and Migration Statistics)
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Alan Fleming	GROS (Dissemination & 2001 Census Analysis)
Cheryl Heeley	ISD

## 1. Introductions and membership

1.1 Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 2. PAMS members

2.1 Jenny Boag pointed out that Allison Craig should be removed from the members list.

**Action: Andrew White**

2.2 Apologies were received from Anneli Lyon (GROS), Jennet Woolford (ONS), Ian White (ONS), Janette Purbrick (SG), Paul Boyle (University of St Andrews), Isla Macdonald (Eileen Siar Council), and Ross Brown (Scottish Enterprise).

## 3. Minutes of the PAMS meeting held on 14 November 2007 – PAMS (07) 21

3.1 Minutes were agreed as being accurate.

#### 4. Update on action points from Previous Meeting – PAMS(07)21

4.1 Most of the action points had been completed.

4.2 Action Point 5.9 – Jan Freeke had asked whether it was possible to identify which countries the overseas migrants in the MYEs came from or moved to. Celia told the group that NINO (National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas nationals entering Scotland) data may be used to distribute international migrants, but that it wouldn't be used for the 2007 estimates and that this was going to be a longer term project.

4.3 In relation to action point 5.14, Esther told the group that only two councils had contacted her regarding the Census Vacant Follow-up Survey and its usefulness, neither of which found any use for the survey. Jan Freeke said that the results had been used to look at vacancy rates for private sector housing in the Glasgow region, but felt that repeating the survey for that purpose alone would be an insufficient justification.

4.4 The PAMS members agreed that as so little use had apparently been made of the 2001 Vacant Follow-up Survey, it was not worth running it again after the 2011 Census. Jenny Boag suggested that GROS should announce that they are not going to run it, and see if anyone objects. Peter Scrimgeour agreed with that.

**Action: Peter Scrimgeour**

4.5 Action point 8.1 was completed, however an amendment is required – the Liaison Officer for North Ayrshire Council should be Allison Craig

**Action: Peter Scrimgeour**

4.6 Action Point 10.1 – This was discussed at agenda item 12.

#### 5. Statistics Plan – PAMS(08) 02

5.1 Kirsty MacLachlan outlined the main points of the paper. Kirsty hoped that after today's meeting a draft version could be produced and welcomed any comments that people had to give either today or over the next few days. Jan Freeke suggested that work could be done to produce population estimates and projections by ethnicity be added to the program. A second suggestion was for GROS to consider the feasibility of providing household estimates by tenure. Esther noted that the Scottish Government Housing Statistics branch have been doing work in this area so may now be in a position to produce some data, and that she would investigate and feedback to the group.

**Action: Esther Roughsedge**

5.2 It was discussed that it would be useful for small area population estimates to be broken down into population in households and in communal establishments. It was agreed that this should be possible and would be looked into. Esther commented that there may be an issue with confidentiality. It was pointed out that the requirement was for a split of the population *totals* and that a further split by age was less important.

**Action: Esther Roughsedge (talk to disclosure)**

5.3 Kirsty MacLachlan asked if anyone had any ideas for census alternatives. Jenny Boag put forward the idea of using DVLA registration data, saying that GROS already collect data from them and would it possible to publish the results so that councils could use it further? Frank Dixon pointed out that the geographic location is based on the address of the registered keeper of the vehicle, so the figures for some areas will be affected by factors such as a company fleet being counted against the locations of its headquarters or a car dealer's stock being counted the location of the showroom. Also it was mentioned that information from driver's licenses could be another useful source of data. Kirsty said that she would look into the possible publication and use of DVLA data if aggregated and caveats added.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan**

**Post meeting comment:** DVLA may be completely unaware of, for example, the deaths or emigration of some licence holders.

5.4 Jenny Boag discussed Registers of Scotland SASINES as a source of migration data, Esther Roughsedge informed members that it only covers moves in the last 10 years and had been considered for household statistics, but it may be a possible additional source of information on migration.

5.5 It was requested, and agreed by members, that if GROS is going to ask councils to check figures or publications, it would be helpful to have advance notice of this.

**6. SCOTSTAT (Paper and oral update)**

6.1 Jenny Boag handed round a written report detailing the meeting of the Scotstat board on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008, she then proceeded to go through the paper which covered Statistics reform, Scottish Statistics website, Performance Framework and the Annual Stakeholder Conference.

6.2 The new website will be similar to something produced by Virginia, USA called Virginia Performs. The Scotland Performs website will include Scotland data but this will not be broken down into smaller areas. So far the project has had positive feedback.

**7. Non-Census Issues****(a) Population and Migration Statistics – PAMS (08) 03**

7.1 Celia outlined the main points of the paper, and of paper PAMS (08) 06 as there was some overlap in content. She then invited comments and questions.

7.2 Jenny Boag expressed disappointment (on behalf of PAMS LA members) that this year's Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYE) were delayed. Celia assured members that this was a one off and explained the reasons behind the delay. GROS had considered publishing the MYEs using last years migration estimates,

and then updating the publication when the 2007 figures were produced. However, particular attention is likely to be paid to the estimates this year in light of the population target and so it was decided that it would be best to wait. Kirsty said she would pass the grievances onto ONS.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan**

7.3 Several members were concerned that the delay of the MYEs would have a knock on effect on other publications which rely on data from the MYEs. Cheryl Heeley expressed concern that the data on deaths would be delayed. ISD publish their report on suicides - 'Choose Life' – on the same day as the Annual Report, and Cheryl asked if it would be possible to have the data earlier. Frank Dixon said that the numbers of births, marriages and deaths were being finalised according to the usual timetable: the provision of vital events data to customers should not be affected by the delays in the production of the population estimates and the publication of the Registrar General's Annual Report. He confirmed that GROS would supply the suicide data to ISD within the usual timescale.

**Action: Frank Dixon**

7.4 There will be a meeting of the SAPE working group soon to discuss population estimates for Settlements and Localities. It was generally discussed that the definition of settlements and localities may need looking into, and that for small areas the data zones were too large and as a result many Local Authorities were using their own settlement and locality boundaries. There is to be a review which will outline a plan for the next census, and how to define settlements and localities. Jenny Boag said she would contact councils and ask them to provide methodology advice on the construction of settlements and localities boundaries.

7.5 Jenny Boag asked if they would get the opportunity to QA SAPEs. Celia was concerned there may not be enough time due to the MYE delay but will look into it and feed back.

**Action: Celia Macintyre**

7.6 Jan Freeke enquired about the outcome of the national consultation on population projections (involving Karen Dunnell). Emma Wright is producing a report, which will be available soon. Celia would find out the publication date and let everyone know.

**Action: Celia Macintyre**

7.7 Celia discussed the IMPS project. There are improvements being made to local population estimates, ONS are looking into ways of allocating international migration to small areas but it is early days.

7.8 Celia outlined work that is being carried out into cross border flow data. Currently the data is very ambiguous with none of the figures from Scotland, England, Wales, or N. Ireland collaborating. ONS have published a paper comparing administrative sources, and looking into ways to estimate small area migration and short term migrant workers.

7.9 Jan Freeke asked if the breakdown into internal and international migration, as a component of change within the population estimates, would just be available

for 2006/07, or if there are plans to provide the breakdown also for previous years, i.e. the years since 2001? In reply Celia said that this would be considered, but that it would depend on the extra work involved for GROS.

7.10 Kirsty MacLachlan asked if splitting the data would be useful. It was generally agreed that it would be.

## **(b) Household Estimates and Projections – PAMS (08) 04**

7.11 Martin Macfie outlined the main points of the paper which summarised the work of the branch. The branch published two statistical bulletins in May: “Household Projections for Scotland, 2006-based”, and the “Estimates of Households and Dwellings, 2007”. The paper also included developments to the household projection as well as an outline of the Scottish Government’s proposals to abolish Council Tax which would result in the loss of household statistics.

7.12 Sheena Steveley said that a count of dwellings from the Assessors’ Portal will not be lost in Renfrewshire if Council Tax is abolished. This is because there is a requirement to retain a count of dwellings as a basis for maintaining the electoral register, although estimates of vacant dwellings would be lost. It was not clear whether other local authorities would be retaining their dwelling count lists.

7.13 Jenny Boag thanked Martin Macfie and Anneli Lyon for their presentation to the PAMS LA meeting in the morning, on “Data on Households from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics” and “2006–based household projections”.

## **8. Census**

### **(a) 2001 Census**

8.1 Alan Fleming talked the group through his paper. He also passed round a population estimates factsheet which he advised would shortly also appear on the internet. More factsheets will be getting produced in the months ahead, including ones on life expectancy, population projections, households and vital events. Alan also informed members that, over the next few months, customers requesting ad-hoc statistical information will be asked, on receipt of the information, to complete a web-based questionnaire commenting on the service they have received from Statistics Customer Services.

### **(b) 2011 Census Progress Report**

8.2 Peter Scrimgeour went through paper PAMS (08) 06 and informed the group that CACI UK have been appointed the Census contract.

8.3 Jenny Boag added her thanks for the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and asked if there had been any feedback on the output consultation (now on the web). Peter said that at the moment GROS are waiting for ONS to give results, but this information, if substantial, will be passed on.

**Action: Peter Scrimgeour**

## 9. TELMOS population forecasts

9.1 David Connelly from MVA Consultancy gave a presentation about the TMfS/TELMoS model. This is a transport and land use model, which incorporates population and household projections, and uses information on planned house-building which is collected from LAs. MVA are mainly involved in the transport model, and David Simmons Consultancy does the TELMOS model. David gave a comparison of the TELMOS household projections for 2016, compared to the GROS 2006-based household projections. There was a lot of interest in this, from the LA members.

9.2 Alistair Harvey noted that the figures for Edinburgh and the Lothians had all come from their Structure Plan. The Structure Plan used the GROS figures (without altering them), but the TELMOS figures in each of these councils were significantly higher than the GROS projections. This seemed surprising, though David suggested it may be because of the economic model, which would probably have given greater weighting to Edinburgh and the Lothians.

9.3 The TELMOS population figures are constrained to the GROS totals (though the household figures are not constrained in this way). Therefore, if some LAs are producing higher or lower figures in their Structure Plans, this will affect all other LAs' figures. This may for example, explain why the figures for North and South Lanarkshire were so low, which surprised some members of the group. Some LA members suggested that this constraint was therefore inappropriate, but David said he would be concerned about losing it.

9.4 Chris Carr noted that she had seen figures for some very small areas, such as Jura (where TELMOS apparently projected the population to double!). David agreed that TELMOS is not appropriate for small and rural areas – it is mainly aimed at studying Central Belt congestion, and the impacts of building new trunk roads/bridges/train lines etc.

9.5 Sheena Stevely noted that she hadn't been asked for information on house type, and this would affect the population figures – the house type of new builds isn't necessarily the same as existing houses in the area.

9.6 David thought that Tribal / Cambridge Econometrics were used to facilitate the development of the economic model used in TELMOS.

9.7 At present, Highland and the Island authorities are published together in TELMOS, but they will be separated in the next set of figures due out this summer.

9.8 David noted that they can get information on planned housing developments, but they find it hard to get information on planned demolitions from LAs.

9.9 David said he agreed it would be a good idea to ask David Simmons to run TELMOS without the Development Plan information, and perhaps without the economic information, too, in order to understand the differences between the GROS and TELMOS projections.

## 10. Proposed amendments to the Population Statistics Act

10.1 Kirsty briefly outlined PAMS paper (08) 08.

10.2 Kirsty discussed with the group the proposal to extend certain information collected on registration of births and still-births, to cover all births and still-births rather than only those to married parents, (Currently when registering a birth, if the parents are married, the mother is asked how many previous children she has had in marriage). This issue has come to the fore because the relevant part of the Population (Statistics) Act 1938 will be amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (currently being considered by the UK Parliament), in order to cover "civil partnership" as well as "marriage" and because the status of illegitimacy was abolished in Scotland by the Family Law Act.

10.3 Jenny Boag raised the concern that people may not necessary tell the truth when asked these questions. Currently there is no way of checking to see if parents give truthful answers.

10.4 Alan Fleming asked what other countries ask this information during the registration of births, Kirsty said that England and Wales can't do it under their legislation but that she was unsure about other countries but would try to find out.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan**

10.5 The Midwives Association and the Associations for single parents were cited as other bodies which could be consulted about the proposal.

## 11. Local Authority projections of disabled populations

11.1 Jan Freeke commented on PAMS (08) 09, which gives an update of an earlier paper, discussed by PAMS a year ago.

11.2 Esther asked how the projections were produced and if it was based on age and gender, to which Jan replied that the data is based on age and long term illness, and taken from a health survey in England. There are some questions about the comparability of the results.

11.3 Kirsty had read a paper produced by Carol Jager from the University of Leicester, on research into the new dynamics of ageing for which she would send a reference around the group.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan**

11.4 Celia discussed the work of the Joint Improvement Team, which is set up to give support to LA procurement services and so involves projections of disabled populations. Celia would find out more about this and feedback to the group.

**Action: Celia Macintyre**

## 12. PAMS event in October (Oral update)

12.1 Members agreed that they appreciated having these events. The idea of the event is to focus on Population and Migration Statistics and its improvements. Celia requested speakers, if anyone knew of anybody to put their name forward. People from GROS would also be there to talk about their work.

12.2 Chris Carr asked if it was possible to arrange more events together (i.e. around the same time), so that members don't have to travel as much. This applies especially to the further away areas like Argyll & Bute, as it is an eight hour round trip to Edinburgh and back.

12.3 Celia raised the issue of more Scottish Government involvement in PAMS meetings, especially the up-coming meeting on IMPS. Jan Freeke agreed that it would be good to have an SG speaker at the event, who could give an update on demographic issues and SG policies. Jenny Boag has a list of topics for inclusion at the PAMS event and would email round for more suggestions

**Action: Jenny Boag**

### **13. AOB**

13.1 Kirsty discussed the GROS customer charter, a draft has been drawn up and was handed round the group. Kirsty also added that Allison Craig's comments at the away day were useful.

13.2 Statistics Reform was mostly discussed at the morning meeting and had, to some extent, been covered in the SCOTSTAT update.

13.3 Jenny Boag mentioned that the Scottish Government weren't very good at advertising jobs beyond the SG (e.g. to local authority employees) and asked Kirsty MacLachlan to look into this matter.

**Action: Kirsty MacLachlan**

### **14. Date of next meeting**

14.1 The next meeting will be held in November 2008.