

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)**Household estimates and projections branch update****Staff changes**

1. Anneli Lyon left the branch on 14 November to go on maternity leave. Her replacement, Dorothy Watson, will join us on 2 December. Lisa McNeill joined us in August, and she is working jointly between our branch and the Population and Migration Statistics branch.

Household projections

2. We published 2006-based household projections for Scotland and local authority areas, in May. We found a small error in the high migration variant figures, which was corrected in October.

3. GROS published 2006-based population and household projections for Scotland's two National Parks for the first time, in October. They are available from the GROS website at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/population-and-household-projections-for-scotlands-national-parks-2006-based/index.html>.

4. The boundaries for the new Strategic Development Plan Areas (SDPAs) will be finalised shortly. We are aiming to produce population and household projections for these areas within the next few months – we are currently considering the best approach for this.

Communal Establishments

5. We are collating 2007 data on communal establishments, and in the New Year we should be able to access new data on students' term-time addresses, from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). We know that PAMS members are keen for us to publish small area statistics on the number of people in each data zone living in communal establishments. We are therefore considering whether there may be any issues regarding confidentiality and disclosure, and how best to handle these issues.

Estimates of households and dwellings

6. We are currently working on validating the 2008 small area statistics on occupied and vacant dwellings. We will copy in the PAMS LA member for each council when we send summaries of the data to the Finance Departments for quality assurance. We plan to publish these figures next year.

7. The 2007 small area statistics on dwellings have been revised slightly. For some dwellings, the postcode has been incorrectly matched to a data zone which is adjacent to the correct data zone. This caused the number of dwellings to change in some data zones. We have made a number of improvements to the ways in which we check the quality of these figures, to avoid such problems happening again. We

also carry out a number of different comparisons between the various GROS small area statistics (population, dwellings, households, communal establishments), to assess their quality.

Replacement household estimates

8. Martin Macfie is continuing with his work to identify potential replacement sources of small area statistics on households and dwellings, which we could use if Council Tax is replaced with a Local Income Tax. He has done some interesting analysis of data from the Electoral Register, and he presented some of his findings at the recent PAMS seminar on 31 October – his slides will be available from the GROS website shortly.

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