

General Register Office for Scotland

Demography Division Statistics Plan 2010-11

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1. Introduction

The Demography Division of the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) publishes a wealth of statistical information about the people of Scotland.

This plan sets out our statistical work planned for 2010-11, and includes information on: priorities; resources (Annex A); statistical publications; and improvement activities.

More detailed information on the business objectives for 2010-11 is given in Annex B, and progress against business objectives for last financial year (2009-10) is reported in Annex C.

Our statistical planning is a continuous process, and we place strong emphasis on taking into account the views of the people who use our data. A draft of this plan has been discussed with data users at the [Population and Migration Statistics](#) meeting on 13 October 2010. This final version has been circulated to members of the [ScotStat Register](#) who have indicated an interest in Demography.

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Further information on the strategic objectives of GROS as a whole (including the work of Registration, Census and Corporate Services divisions), can be found in the [GROS Corporate Plan 2009 to 2012](#).

2. Priorities

2.1 Contribution to the Scottish Government National Performance Framework

Like other Scottish public bodies, GROS operates within the [National Performance Framework](#) set by Scottish Ministers.

The National Performance Framework (NPF) supports delivery of the Scottish Government's Purpose which is: "To create a more successful country where all of Scotland can flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth".

GROS Demography Division provides a range of information used to measure performance in the NPF. Information on which GROS data are used, and how they are used, is contained in the [Technical Notes for the 2007 Spending Review](#).

For example, we produce population estimates and data on death registrations that are a key part of measuring performance against Purpose Target 4 (Population Growth and Healthy Life Expectancy).

GROS data is also used in the measurement of National Indicators, which the Scottish Government uses to track progress towards the achievement of its National Outcomes. For example, GROS provides the relevant population data where indicators are measured per head of population, or as a fraction of the total population.

GROS data contribute to the measurement of indicators on:

- Business
 - start-ups per 10,000 population
- Poverty
 - proportion of individuals living in poverty
- Health
 - healthy life expectancy in deprived areas
 - emergency admissions to hospital of people aged 65 and over
 - mortality rate of people under 75 from coronary heart disease in deprived areas

Where survey data has been used (for example, Scottish Household Survey data on the percentage of adults who smoke), aspects of the sample of the population surveyed (for example, age and sex) are typically compared to the GROS population estimates. Where necessary, the raw survey data are adjusted to ensure the results are representative of the actual population.

2.2 Contributions to Single Outcome Agreements

In 2007, representatives of the Scottish Government and Scottish local government signed a concordat. This concordat committed both to moving towards Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) for all 32 of Scotland's councils.

SOAs are agreements between the Scottish Government and each council which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people, in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

This has increased the need for data which can be used to measure progress against appropriate local indicators.

2.2.1 Data at sub-Scotland geographies

To address this need, we are working to:

- make information more accessible by:
 - Maintaining a table of [sub-Scotland data sources](#) on the GROS website which gives a detailed breakdown of all GROS data available at sub-Scotland geography levels (for example, council area or NHS Board).
 - Revamping the Statistics section of the GROS website to make it easier to navigate.
- make more information available by:
 - publishing several new tables on our website which give, for Council and NHS Board areas:
 - time-series of births by sex and the mother's age-group and deaths by sex and age-group;
 - the numbers of drug-deaths for which certain drugs were found to be present in the body;
 - adding to the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Web site the numbers of births and deaths in each datazone for (a) calendar years of registration and (b) mid-year to mid-year periods of occurrence;
 - responding to requests for ad-hoc breakdowns of vital events statistics for parts of Scotland, provided that this involves little risk of disclosing information about identifiable people and that the work can be done within the available staff time;
 - consulting NHS Boards each year about possible improvements to the datasets on births, stillbirths and deaths which we send to them each week
 - publishing population estimates for special areas such as population by Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation decile and by the Scottish Government Urban Rural Index.
 - Publishing a low migration variant projection for the first time for Council and NHS Board areas as well as high and low migration variants for Strategic Development Plan and National Park areas in response to user requirements.

2.2.2 Professional statistical advice on suitability of GROS data for local indicators

In addition to making sub-Scotland level data more accessible, and adding additional data, a key function of the GROS Demography division is to provide advice on the use and understanding of its statistics. In addition to providing relevant information within statistics publications, ongoing work includes:

- Working with the Improvement Service, and others, on improving the Improvement Service menu of local indicators. For example, by working with the Scottish Government and COSLA to recommend suitable population indicators.
- Contributing to the COSLA Migration Tool Kit which was published in May 2010.
- Providing professional statistical advice to Scottish Government colleagues on the draft SOAs for indicators relating to demography.
- Providing support to local authorities on the development of SOAs (for example during ad-hoc visits to local authority analysts).

2.3 Other user needs

In addition to taking into account requirements for the National Performance Framework and SOAs, we consider the needs of a wide range of demographic statistics users when planning our work.

Discussion of users' requirements takes place through:

- [Consultation groups](#)
 - Population and Migration Statistics Committee (main ScotStat group)
 - Small Area Population Estimates Working Group
 - Household Analysis Review Group
 - Population Projections Working Group
- [Events and seminars](#)
 - For example, National Forum on Ageing; and Using and Improving Population and Household Statistics conferences
- Visits to local authorities (for example, [Finding the Population Statistics You Need](#) event)
- Email consultation with members of the [ScotStat Register](#)
- Ongoing Statistics Customer Services survey (includes members of the public who have requested statistical information)
- Other meetings and communications - for example, with Scottish Government (SG) policy and analytical staff, the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland, academics, COSLA, the Office for National Statistics (ONS); and by involvement with groups such as the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths and the Scottish Suicide Information Database Steering Group.

3. GROS Demography Division Publications (2010-11)

Demography Division statistics are published on the [GROS website](#). As well as the planned publications listed below, additional information is also provided on the website. For example, our [High Level Summary of Statistics](#) gives an overview of trends in our main areas of activity, the [Vital Events Reference Tables](#) provide statistics on a wide range of figures, and there are separate sections on deaths from particular causes.

Mid-2009 Population Estimates Scotland	April 2010
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2009	May 2010
Household Projections for Scotland – 2008 based	May 2010
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 1 st Quarter 2010	June 2010
Scotland's Population 2009: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends	August 2010
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2009	August 2010
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2 nd Quarter 2010	September 2010
Life Expectancy in Administrative Areas of Scotland, 2007-2009	September 2010
Small Area Population Estimates, 2009	September 2010
Centenarians in Scotland, 2002 – 2009	September 2010
Increased Winter Mortality, 2009/10	October 2010
Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland, 2007-2009	November 2010
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 3 rd Quarter 2010	December 2010
Babies' First Names – 2010	December 2010
Electoral Statistics, Scotland 2010	February 2011
Populations for Special Areas 2009	February 2011
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2010 (Preliminary)	March 2011
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 4 th Quarter 2010	March 2011

4. Continuous Improvement Activities

Continuous improvement is an integral part of the National Performance Framework and the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and we are always trying to improve the quality of statistics we produce.

[National Outcome 15: “Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs”].

Improvement work planned for Demography Division in 2010-11 includes:

- Investigating new sources of administrative data to contribute to the improvement in quality of population and household statistics - for example, using HMRC and HESA data.
- Developing a new vital events Information Technology (IT) system to improve data processing and provide scope for additional data validation.
- Improving the accuracy of the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) by adding additional reference fields.
- Investigating the potential of a range of sources of administrative data to contribute to the development of more efficient systems for population statistics.
- Working with Scottish Court Service, GROS Registration Division and Scottish Government Civil Justice Statistics towards the electronic supply of statistical data on divorces, in order to improve the quality of the statistics and reduce the cost of producing.
- Publishing Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland, 2007-2009 four months earlier, in November 2010 rather than March 2011.
- Publishing variant population and household projections for Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and National Park areas for the first time, to meet user demand.
- Adding new statistical material to the GROS web site to better meet needs of users (for example, council area factsheets, which include tables and charts for each demographic topic, and several new vital events tables).
- Investigating production of population estimates by ethnicity (experimental statistics on [2001 mid-year population estimates for Scotland by ethnicity](#) are available from our website).
- Implementing improvements to the Statistics section of the GROS website in response to feedback from users of the website. This will include a full revamp, which will make it easier for users to navigate through, and a considerable increase in the amount of information that is available about the vital events statistics (such as lists of data items and codes, points on the quality of the data and examples of the fluctuations in and possible unreliability of the statistics for small areas, small groups or short periods).
- Following consultation with the National Forum on Drug-Related Deaths about possible changes to the standard basis of our statistics about drugs involved, change our database and procedures, amend our data back to 2008, and add new and revised tables to "*Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2009*".
- Providing guidance and small area data to enable local authorities to produce their own population projections for self defined areas within their authority.
- Joint working with UK statistical offices to agree on methodology for deriving mid-year population estimates from Census 2011 base counts.
- Collaborative work with the Centre for Population Change, a new research centre which has been set up at Ladywell House (GROS) and Southampton University. This is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project involving a consortium of Scottish universities and Southampton University.

- Contributing to UK wide projects on: improving migration statistics; and options for future Censuses after 2011.
- Continuous development of the Scottish Longitudinal Survey, incorporating data from the School Census and building plans for including data from the 2011 Census.
- Ensuring statistical staff continue to develop their skills and competencies through a continuous development programme.
- Continue working with the Boundary Commission for Scotland to provide improved quality assurance for the annual Electoral Statistics publication.
- Continue to work with the Scottish Assessors Association Electoral Registration Committee to improve the exchange of information.

ANNEX A - GROS Demography Division Resources (2010-11 approved budget*)

Grade	Discipline
Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis	
1 x B3	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
2.6 x B1	Administration
2.8 x A4	Administration
Household Estimates & Projections	
C1	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
2 x B1	Statistics
2.33 x A3	Student (temporary)
Statistical IT** (shared with Census Division)	
1 x B3	IT
2.8 x B2	IT
5.6 x B1	IT
Population & Migration Statistics	
1 x C1	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
2 x B1	Statistics
0.6 x A3	Administration
1 X A3	placement student
3 month A3	Summer student
Alternative Sources	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B3	Statistics
3 x B2	Statistics
Vital Events	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
1 x B2	Statistics
0.7 x B1	Administration
3.8 x A4	Administration
2.5 x A3	Administration
NHS Central Register	
0.6 x B3	Administration
1 x B2	Administration
2 x B1	Administration
1.33 x A4	Administration
15.6 x A3	Administration

Total Demography Staff Costs	£1.99m
Total Non-staff Costs	£0.09m
Total Income	+£1.02m
Total Resourcing**	£1.06m

*Note – actual staffing level may vary from approved budget (for example, where posts are shared or vacant)

**Note – if shared IT staff resource is excluded, Total Resourcing = £0.64m

ANNEX B - GROS Demography Division Business Objectives (2010-11)

Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis
<p>Statistics Customer Services information requests [DD1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all customer requests for demographic data within published timescale (within 5 working days for almost all requests), providing appropriate advice and analysis as required.
<p>Publication of Registrar General's Annual Review and other statistical publications; ongoing improvement of the GROS website [DD2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate via the web and other means, agreed statistical outputs, including the Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Statistics 2008; to make improvements to the GROS website to ensure it continues to meet the needs of users.
<p>Business Continuity – Demography Division [DD3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other divisions to ensure that there are arrangements for appropriate business continuity for each significant service or product, allowing us to continue to operate selected services during and following a disruption.
Household Estimates & Projections
<p>Household estimates and projections [DD4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the methodology for producing forward household projections, and the quality / coverage of the small area household estimates. Publish new projections, estimates of the number of households in each council for small areas, and dwelling counts for small areas.
<p>Development of new household statistics [DD5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of potential replacement sources of statistics on households and dwellings, and how to improve the scope and accuracy of what we currently publish. Develop our expertise in matching address information from different sources, as part of work to investigate and develop alternatives to the census.
Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)
<p>Vital Events IS Support [DD15]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued redevelopment of VE Systems, including installation of a production server environment and deployment of the celebrants application. • Improvements to data extraction and dissemination functions, including use of Output Delivery System to produce all 'single year' reference tables, and automation of production of a range of other outputs (e.g. for SNS). <p>General Demography IS Support [DD16]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS support for Demography projects and business functions, including re-write of migration processing system (GROSMIG) to use data from NHSCR extract, roll out of new version of SuperSTAR software, ongoing support for NHSCR Extract, SLS and CHD study, as required and within agreed timescales, and scoping of requirements for re-write of mid-year estimates system.
Population & Migration Statistics
<p>Production of population, migration and life expectancy statistics [DD6]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce the following statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2009 mid-year National and Sub-national Population estimates (April 2010) ○ 2009 mid-year Marital Status estimates for Scotland (Autumn 2010) ○ 2009 mid-year Centenarians estimates in Scotland (Autumn 2010) ○ 2009 mid-year Small Area Population estimates (September 2010) ○ 2009 mid-year Special Populations, e.g. SIMD, urban/rural, NUTS2 (February 2011) ○ 2008 based Projections for National Parks and SDPAs (June 2010) ○ Life expectancy for council and health board areas, 2007-2009 (September 2010) ○ Life expectancy for special areas, 2007-2009 (November 2010) ○ Life expectancy for intermediate zones, 2005-2009 (November 2010) ○ Life expectancy for locally defined areas (November 2010) ○ 2009 Migration tables (July 2010) ○ Local Area Migration Reports (December 2010) ○ Quarterly updates of Annual Population Survey based population by country of birth ○ Quarterly updates of NHSCR migration data
<p>Improve methodology and review systems for production of our statistics [DD7]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Year estimates (MYE) processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate international migration allocation to local authorities and make recommendations for the mid-year estimates process after the 2011 Census. ○ Continue to investigate the use of HESA data in the mid-year estimates process, making recommendations for changes to the process after the 2011 Census. ○ Investigate the feasibility of local authorities and others helping in the quality assurance process for the mid-year estimates for council and health board areas, linking to work on

quality assurance for small area estimates in time for the 2010 mid-year estimate.

- Produce a feasibility paper looking at quality measures, for example those being developed by ONS, for the 2010 mid-year estimates.
- Investigate the Marital Status methodology, including treatment of marriages abroad and how they can be included in the Marital Status methodology and also whether the classification can be changed to include civil partnerships.
- Development of new outputs
 - Improve and refine the methodology to produce ethnic population estimates.
 - Produce a paper investigating the LE methodology for using data from ONS on Scottish people dying in England and Wales.
 - Produce a paper on the feasibility of publishing short-term migration.
 - Review work being carried out by IMPS projects in ONS and consider how they can apply to Scotland
 - Produce a Scotland level migration report.
- NHSCR / Community Health Index (CHI) migration datasets
 - Review new historic CHI database of moves for potential use in migration statistics.
 - Develop a new SAS system processing the new GROSMIG data supply from ATOS.
 - Produce a paper reconciling NHSCR overseas moves with our migration estimates.
 - Produce a paper investigating the reason for the difference in migration peaks for 19 year olds between NHSCR and CHI.
 - Establish a new migration data supply from Northern Ireland.
- Population projections
 - Ongoing development of POPGROUP user guidance. Facilitate a new POPGROUP/HOUSEGROUP user group in Scotland.
 - Produce a paper for discussion at the Population Projections Working Group on the feasibility of producing variant sub-national projections at council level for alternative assumptions on fertility and life expectancy.
 - Produce a paper reviewing the current method to derive migration assumptions for the sub-national council area projections
- Mid-year estimates post 2011 Census
 - Work jointly with Census division and UK statistical offices through the Census IPT group and the UK Population Committee Working Group to agree the methodology to use to derive usual residence mid-year estimates from Census counts.
 - Feed into discussion on downstream processing and any other Census related issues that might arise.
- Preparation for UK Statistics Authority assessments
 - Review and timetable documentation that needs to be drawn together.
 - Finalise WEFAs.
 - Work with the rest of demography Division in terms of any additional documentation that needs to be produced e.g. scheduled revisions policy for mid-year estimates after the 2011 Census.

Demographic policy support and analysis [DD8]

- To provide informed advice and analysis to support users of demographic statistics, through liaison with key users, user groups, publications in journals and presentations including:
 - Contributing to the British-Irish council workstream on demography
 - Fully participate in the Scottish Government's Demographic Analysis Working Group
 - Visit 3 to 6 local authorities as part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement.
 - Work with Scottish Government policy teams (Fresh talent, Strategy Unit and Economic Strategy Unit) to support the governments Population Purpose Target.
 - Work with other users (e.g. academics, Centre for Population Change, SPHO, COSLA etc).

Alternative Sources

Alternative sources of demographic statistics [DD9]

- To continue to investigate the potential for a wider range of sources to contribute to current outputs and the development of more efficient population statistics systems. Develop data linkage capability in GROS:
 - Update current collections and reports: school census, child benefit, older persons, electoral registration.
 - Complete data sharing projects with ONS involving Migrant Worker Scan and HESA data.
 - Clarify outstanding issues and regularise data sharing with SG of Scottish HE data. Evaluate contribution to statistical register if record level data sharing is achieved.
 - Continue work on a data integration pilot project using the 2009 Census rehearsal and administrative data.
 - Implement census coverage survey linkage for the 2009 census rehearsal to evaluate potential issues for the 2011 Census.

- Contribute to developing Census deduplication/overcount adjustment methodology.
- Continue work with ONS on developing Beyond 2011 research.
- Contribute to work on using administrative sources in the quality assurance of Census outputs and processes.
- Contribute to work on improving population and migration statistics.
- Establish the NHS Central Register as a statistical resource and provide statistical support to users in GROS.
- Complete the evaluation of IBM QS and FUNDY.

Management of research using the Census linked to other records [DD10]

- Manage work on research projects linking Census with other data in compliance with current legislation, the GSS Code of Practice and ensure lessons are learned.
 - Continue development of the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) database in conjunction with the SLS team.
 - Ensure plans for 2011 linkage are in place.
 - Complete the incorporation of education data into the SLS for 2007, 2008 and 2009.
 - Hold an SG half day seminar in early 2011 and continue to promote and develop use of the data.
 - Contribute to ONS-led work on options for UK-wide LS research.
 - Manage work on the Ethnicity and Health study and ensure opportunities for learning are fully utilized.
 - Contribute to developing record linkage based uses of the 2011 Census (e.g work with Electoral commission to identify GROS contribution).
 - Support the establishment of the Centre for Population Change in GROS.

Electoral statistics [DD11]

Collate and publish electoral statistics. Contribute to Electoral Reform Referendum Group.

Vital Events

Processing and output of preliminary vital events data for the calendar year [DD12]

- Ensure that information on all vital events registered in the calendar year is processed, and preliminary figures are disseminated, in line with performance targets and publication deadlines.

Dissemination of the finalised Vital Events statistics for a full calendar year [DD13]

- Ensure that the finalised Vital Events statistics for a full year are disseminated in line with published timetables.

NHS Central Register

Running the NHS Central Register [DD_ GBO_1]

- Maintain the NHSCR records on behalf of the NHS in Scotland, in a way that is consistent with best practice in the collection, storage and archiving of information. Maintain all health service, medical research and Improvement Service updates.

Extension of uses for NHSCR data [DD14]

- Act to comply with the recommendations of the Fraser Report to expand the uses of the high quality NHSCR data.

ANNEX C - progress against Business Objectives in previous year (2009-10)

Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis
<p>Statistics Customer Services information requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All requests met within agreed timescales.
<p>Publication of Registrar General's Annual Review and other statistical publications, and ongoing improvement of Statistics section of the GROS website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All publications were released on schedule. ○ RGAR was designed in-house, which cut down on costs of production. ○ Statistical factsheets were produced in-house, allowing them to be updated more frequently as new data became available. ○ GROS website improvements took place throughout the year. In particular, additional tables on Vital Events and population projections were added, in response to feedback from customers. ○ Due to prioritisation of other IT projects, the interactive web tool and additions to the SCROL website have been postponed.
<p>Business Continuity – Demography Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first stage of the business continuity plan has been completed. An inventory of the business critical functions within each business unit has been compiled
Household Estimates & Projections
<p>Household estimates and projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We successfully published estimates of households and dwellings, and household projections for Strategic Development Plan areas. Work is progressing well on producing this year's household estimates, dwelling counts and household projections. They are due to be published by the end of May. ○ We have also been working on new analysis, developing estimates of the number of newly formed households in each council area. This work was presented at the last meeting of the Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) Steering Group in September, and we received very positive feedback and some helpful suggestions, which we will follow up.
<p>Development of new household statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved (To Date): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have made progress with work on investigating new sources of data, and also matching addresses from different sources. We continue to follow developments in these areas, and we have given a number of presentations on this work, at meetings, conferences and workshops.
Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)
<p>Vital Events and NHS Central Register (NHSCR) Extract Systems</p> <p><u>Vital Events Rewrite</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Celebrant prototyping completed and final application built & tested and is ready to be deployed into live environment before the end of this financial year. ○ Scope of Vital Events project extended to include provision of data loading and validation modules and these modules and functionality have subsequently been successfully deployed into the live environment. • Partly Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of the marriages and civil partnership modules complete but still undergoing final testing. While development of the births, deaths and other modules has not yet started. In both cases these delays have been as a result of the development resources being reallocated to the more business critical development of the systems and services required to support the 2011 Scottish census. • Not Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to redeployment of development resources for a period of one year onto 2011 census development work. Resource will be reallocated to this area in early 2011 and the projects plans and system completion dates re-planned for a projected delivery in the first half of 2012. <p><u>NHSCR Extract</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the early part of the year the project was significantly behind its target date, largely as a result of the failure of Atos origin to deliver a functioning monthly update mechanism. Protracted discussion

took place between GROS, Atos and the NHS contract management team to try to achieve progress and deliver a successful outcome. Detailed analysis by GROS of Atos' technical design showed it to be based on a flawed understanding of NHSCR data and data management procedures. Consequently, it could not be relied upon to deliver accurate monthly updates. At this point it was agreed Atos should carry out no further work on this phase of the project, and a simpler monthly update procedure – based on a resupply of the full NHSCR extract – was put in place.

- The NHSCR Extract is now fully in place; update and data transfer procedures are working properly.
- The extract database has been amended to include the 'phase II' variables..

Population & Migration Statistics

Production of population, migration and life expectancy statistics

- Achieved (Late):
 - Almost all publications were published on time. Due to significant staffing changes and the need to provide additional material two publications were delayed. The sub-national projections for council and NHS board areas delayed by 3 working days. Projections for special areas will be published later in 2010.

Improve methodology and review systems for producing population statistics

- Mostly achieved:
 - The majority of the improvement work and methodology work was completed but not all due to staff changes and other work taking priority. Outstanding work has been reviewed and will be continued in 2010/11, for example, variant projections methodological investigations and a new data supply from Northern Ireland.

Demographic policy support and analysis

- Achieved:
 - A range of dissemination and support for policy was successfully carried out over the year. Notable examples are the meetings of the British Irish Council workstream on demography, visits to local authorities and publication of the Local Area Migration Reports which are part of the COSLA migration policy tool kit.

Alternative Sources

Alternative sources of demographic statistics

- Achieved (To Date):
 - Report on school census migration data produced
 - Good cooperation with ONS on sharing experience and plans relating to Beyond 2011 work
 - Good progress in developing data linkage capability made and will continue
 - The performance of the hard to count Index in the census rehearsal evaluated and updated
- Mostly achieved:
 - Regular collections and reports maintained, with the exception of child benefit data which have not been released by HMRC;
 - Good progress with developing the statistical use of NHSCR made, but the contractor's initial difficulties in delivering a solution caused delays and this work will continue
 - Considerable use of HESA data for population and household estimates work made, difficulties in clarifying all legal issues have delayed the use of record level data for Census and Alternative sources purposes and this work will continue
 - Data sharing with ONS progressed, and although key issues have been identified and mostly resolved data transfer is still to be finalised and implemented in the coming year.
- Partly achieved:
 - Good progress in understanding LA data sources that can inform our work was made, but clarifying the legal aspects of data sharing has not been achieved. This work will continue
 - Work on contributing to census downstream processing and Quality Assurance has started and will continue in next reporting year
- Not achieved:
 - Late availability of census rehearsal data and insufficient resource in the branch has not allowed census coverage linkage project to progress as planned and this will be completed in the coming year
 - Pilot data integration work around the Census Rehearsal has not progressed sufficiently, because of data sharing and resourcing difficulties and work will continue in the coming year
 - Lack of resource has not allowed address register work to progress sufficiently

Management of research using the Census linked to other records

- Achieved
 - GROS has provided input to these projects as planned. The comparative assessment of

Ethnicity study and SLS linkage was postponed due to other priorities.
<p>Electoral statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electoral statistics were published on 25 February.
Vital Events
<p>Processing and output of vital events data for 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved <p>Processing of the data for all the Vital Events which were registered in 2009 proceeded normally: the performance targets and deadlines were met, and the releases for the four quarters and the year as a whole were all published on schedule.</p> <p>Regarding the Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electronic supply of divorce data - progress was not as rapid as had been hoped. However, by the end of March 2010, Scottish Courts Service had tested a suitably-amended version of its Case Management System in one "pilot" court, expected to supply GROS with detailed test data early in May and with "live" data for two "pilot" courts by late May, and indicated that the national "rollout" might be in July. GROS work on systems and procedures to process the new data was well advanced, and they were expected to be ready to use by the time that SCS supplied the test data. ○ The information available to users was expanded by (e.g.) adding to the Web site pages on sources of information for coding causes of death, how GROS classifies deaths as probable suicides, the revision of the historic series of Divorce figures, and birth and death statistics that are available elsewhere. During a period in which there was concern about H1N1/"swine" flu, we published some figures for the numbers of deaths (in total, and from respiratory diseases) on the Web site each week, and also provided statistics and data to (e.g.) Health Protection Scotland and SG Civil Contingencies Unit. ○ We held our second annual consultation with Health Boards in December 2009. The only additional details that they requested were ones that we do not have (Community Health Index numbers) or cannot provide because they are collected solely for the publication of statistics by GROS. We are now also providing Health Boards with records of deaths of residents of other Health Boards, so that they can identify any who were their "cross-border" patients.
<p>Dissemination of the Vital Events statistics for a full 12-month period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: <p>All the publications appeared within the specified months, and the Web sections and the datasets were updated and distributed within the required timescales.</p> <p>Regarding the Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We made a lot of additional information available on our Web site (e.g.) by adding 6 new Vital Events Reference Tables, 4 new Time-Series Tables and expanding 8 tables markedly. We also added and expanded tables in "<i>Drug-related Deaths</i>" and the Web sections on Clostridium Difficile and MRSA deaths, and added the numbers of births and deaths by datazone to the data available on the Neighbourhood Statistics web site. ○ ONS did not introduce a new method of estimating increased winter mortality. ○ We added new material to the Web site, as mentioned earlier.
NHS Central Register
<p>Running the NHS Central Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We exceeded our 95% turn round time - processing 100% of our work within the five week time frame. We have improved security between NHSCR and IS - data will now be passed via N3. We have also reviewed our archives procedures this year, saving on costs.
<p>Extension of uses for NHSCR data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to work with IS to develop more streamline systems for handling the two-way flow of data.