

MINUTES OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND): 27 November 2006

Present:

Kirsty MacLachlan	GROS (Chair)
Jenny Boag	Falkirk Council
Richard Belding	Aberdeenshire Council
Jan Freeke	Glasgow City Council
Cheryl Heeley	ISD
Sheena Stevely	Renfrewshire Council
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council
Barry Stewart	Communities Scotland
Stuart Law	Communities Scotland
Luke Cavanagh	Scottish Executive (item 6d onwards)
Louise Virdee	Scottish Executive
Janette Purbrick	Scottish Executive
Peter Scrimgeour	GROS (item 8 onwards)
Cecilia Macintyre	GROS
Ganka Mueller	GROS
Esther Roughsedge	GROS
Alan Fleming	GROS (item 4 onwards)
Richard Morrison	GROS (item 8 onwards)
Thomas Robertson	GROS
Sharon Meighan	GROS
Eileen Crichton	GROS
Bryan Cunningham	GROS (Secretary)

1. Introductions and membership

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Paul Boyle (St Andrew's University), Ross Brown (Scottish Enterprise), Roma Chappell (ONS), Anne Douglas/Shonagh McEwan (Shelter), Duncan Gray (Scottish Executive), Claire Boag (Scottish Executive), Alistair Harvey (City of Edinburgh Council), Laura MacDonald (East Dunbartonshire Council), Robert Murdoch (ISD), Scherie Nicol (Highlands and Islands Enterprise), Tim Riley (EDINA), Marina Hughes (Scottish Executive), Justin Armsworth (Experian), Joy Dobbs (Office for National Statistics) and Valerie West (GROS represented by Richard Morrison).
- 1.2 The chair, Kirsty MacLachlan welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the meeting that Peter Scrimgeour could not make the start of the meeting. She informed the group that Bryan Cunningham would temporarily replace Esta Clark as secretary, since she has moved to a new job on promotion.

2. Minutes of the PAMS meeting held on 17 November 2006 – PAMS (06) 14

- 2.1 The previous meetings minutes were approved by group members.

- 2.2 Jan Freeke asked if there was any update on the work into migrants from Eastern Europe. Kirsty MacLachlan replied that this was covered in paper PAMS (06) 20 and available in the Fresh Talent area of the Scottish Executive website.

3. Update on action points from Previous Meeting - PAMS (06) 15

- 3.1 Action Point 4.1: Kirsty MacLachlan informed members that the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) website would be launched on 26 March 2007.

Post meeting note: Launch details can be accessed on the following link [<http://www.lscs.ac.uk/news.htm>].

- 3.2 The other action points from the previous meeting had been completed.

4. New SCOTSTAT Register (Oral update)

- 4.1 Kirsty MacLachlan updated members on the new and improved SCOTSTAT register and asked members if they use this. Jenny Boag responded by saying that most of her council colleagues used this. She informed members that there has been no SCOTSTAT meetings since the last PAMS, since the October meeting was cancelled.

5. The Results of the 2004 Household Projections (Presentation)

- 5.1 Esther Roughsedge presented the results and review of the 2004-based household projections for Scotland. Esther circulated a copy of the presentation to members.
- 5.2 There were no questions by group members and Kirsty thanked Esther for her presentation.

6. Non-Census Issues

(a) Population Estimates and Projections Update – PAMS (06) 16

- 6.1 Cecilia Macintyre introduced the paper, highlighted some key points from the paper. She added that there was severe staff shortages within her branch and a new member of staff will start in January 2007.
- 6.2 Kirsty MacLachlan updated members on the National Population Projections (NPP) meeting held in October. She explained that NISRA were interested in a set of 2005-based projections being produced because net in-migration to Northern Ireland had been much greater than anticipated. She asked what members views were on the requirement for interim national projections at Scotland level. Jenny Boag stated that she would like national population projections each year; there wasn't a need for local authority projections each year, especially due to the difficulty in getting accurate migration. Jan Freeke explained that local authority structure plans need the most up-to-date projections especially trends in migration. Cecilia Macintyre explained that fertility/mortality trends need a lot of research before national projections can be produced and that the current 2 year programme

seems reasonable for this. ONS were not keen in providing annual population projections and refused to do this for NISRA, although they are now considering their policy for such requests. David Hurst, who is involved in GAE Local Government Finance in the SE, would like the projections produced a lot sooner than they are present. Sheena Stevely explained that the migration was a cause for concern for local authorities. Jenny Boag added that fertility/mortality is more stable than migration trends. Kirsty MacLachlan said she would feed the migration assumptions issue back to the NPP group at the next meeting.

Action: Kirsty MacLachlan (GROS)

- 6.3 Cecilia Macintyre then asked members to comment on the life expectancy publication proposals. There were none. Cheryl Heeley informed members that the life expectancy results would be published on the SNS and ScotPHO websites.
- 6.4 Cecilia Macintyre informed members of the migration page on the GROS website. Some members were unaware of this and asked a link to the webpage be circulated.

Post meeting note: Migration page on the GROS website can be accessed on the following link [<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/migration.html>].

- 6.5 Cheryl Heeley asked about the progress of historic datazones. Cecilia Macintyre responded by saying a historic series, back to 1991, were produced by a consultant and methodology/results were available. There are some concerns with earlier years (prior to 1996) and the Health department in the SE are currently looking at this and will get back to GROS in due course. Jan Freeke asked about a publication date and if these would be available by single year of age. Cecilia responded that there was no date set for these to be published and only 5 year age bands would be used.
- 6.6 Sheena Stevely informed the group that she has been in correspondence with Harvey Snowling (GROS) regarding a problem with a few of Renfrewshire Council's datazones. She added that she would be grateful if the communal establishment figures held by Esther Roughsedge could be circulated with the SAPE QA in future, so she could provide feedback of local knowledge i.e. opening and closing of OAP homes etc. Jenny Boag added that these changes are important, especially at SAPE level, but not so important at local authority level. Cecilia Macintyre explained that Harvey has done some QA on the SAPEs and said that in a review of the current method we plan to consider involving local authorities more to incorporate local knowledge into the results. Esther Roughsedge explained that her branch get care home data from the SE and would explore these issues with local authorities.
- 6.7 Jan Freeke asked if the ratio change method would be used in the 2006 SAPE and if this could be used in an historic time series. Cecilia Macintyre said that this would not be possible for historic years. She added that this would involve a lot of work and this might not be used in the 2006 estimate.
- 6.8 Jan Freeke asked if GROS were implementing ONS IMPS project results on distributions of international migration into their methodology. Cecilia Macintyre responded by saying that GROS were not in a position to implement this at the moment as this had to be done before February 2007 to be introduced into the 2006 mid-year estimate.

(b) Population Projections Working Group Update – PAMS (06) 17

- 6.9 Cecilia Macintyre introduced the paper summarising the work to date of the PPWG. She added that POPGROUP and HOUSEGROUP have been purchased by GROS and asked members if they had any questions.
- 6.10 There were no questions by members and Kirsty MacLachlan thanked Cecilia for her update.

(c) Household Estimates and Projections Update – PAMS (06) 18

- 6.11 Esther Roughsedge introduced the paper summarising the work of her branch since the last PAMS meeting in May 2006. She highlighted that there might be discrepancies between the small area household estimates she was developing and the 2006 mid-year household estimate. She then asked members if they would prefer the 2006 household estimates to be published using the same methodology as last year with a short note detailing the possible discrepancies rather than waiting until all discrepancies had been resolved. Jenny Boag and Jan Freeke added they would deal with this and agreed with Esther's proposal. Esther asked the PAMS members when would be the most appropriate time to carry out small area household estimates data collections in the future, given that we want to count students at their term-time addresses, and be as close to the mid-year population estimates as possible. Chris Carr suggested that June would be best.
- 6.12 Jan Freeke asked about the comparing of the Census test address lists with the DNA-S and Assessor Portal addresses and when the results were likely to be produced. Esther replied that this might be possible by Spring 2007 and hopefully Sharon Meighan would be able to give an update at the next PAMS meeting.
Action: Esther Roughsedge / Sharon Meighan (GROS)
- 6.13 There were no further questions and Kirsty MacLachlan thanked Esther for her update.

(d) Improving Population and Migration Statistics (IMPS) Project Update – PAMS (06) 19

- 6.14 Cecilia Macintyre presented the paper which had been provided by Jim Newman of ONS. The paper summarised the work on the IMPS project and she added that she would circulate any updates to members once known. She asked if members had any questions on the paper.
- 6.15 Jan Freeke asked if would be useful to have a roadshow here in Scotland. Kirsty MacLachlan added that she would put a request in for a roadshow and suggested that one was given to local authorities before the next PAMS meeting, possibly in Edinburgh in May 2007.
Action: Kirsty MacLachlan (GROS)
- 6.16 There were no further questions on this paper.

(e) ONS Independence (Oral update)

- 6.17 Kirsty MacLachlan presented this item. She explained that the Statistics & Registration Service Bill was introduced to Parliament on 20 November. The main purpose of the Bill was to set up what is now the ONS as a more independent Statistics Board with a view to reinforce the quality & integrity of government statistics and to improve public perception of official statistics. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales had all agreed to be included in the Bill. The RG's role, as far as the Registration Service is concerned, is being split from ONS and his responsibility for carrying out the Census will be retained by ONS as part of the function of the proposed Statistics Board. She added that the 1920 Census Act (as far as it relates to England and Wales) will be amended accordingly and there will be opportunities for better data sharing between government departments.
- 6.18 Cecilia Macintyre asked if this will make any difference to pre-release access. Kirsty MacLachlan replied that the issue of pre-release of data is covered by the Stats Bill (Section 11) to the extent that Section 11 provides for the rules and principles for such release (within each devolved administration) to be determined by a subsequent Order. This will be decided by Scottish Ministers.
- 6.19 There were no further questions on this update.

7. Progress on Research on Demographic Topics – PAMS (06) 20

- 7.1 Luke Cavanagh presented the paper which gave an insight into the review of research in migration by the SE. He explained that there was three papers produced by his team and run through each of them in turn. He also informed members of the programmes the SE was involved in which relate to the issue of migration.
- 7.2 Louise Virdee then provided an update on the work of the ESRC demography programme and informed members that there has been a restructure within her area in the SE. She added that there 6 projects co-funded by the SE & GROS and there are papers being produced. She also highlighted that there has been seminars by the ESRC on fertility, migration and aging. Seminar details are available on the ESRC website.
- Post meeting note:** Seminar details can be accessed on the following link [<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/events/esrcseminar/index.aspx>].
- 7.3 Esther Roughsedge asked if there were any particular points to come out of the 'Migration, Families and Relationships' seminar. Luke Cavanagh responded that it mainly focussed on asylum seekers and refugees – the conference programme is available from <http://www.cfr.ac.uk/events/migration.html>.
- 7.4 Cecilia Macintyre explained to members that Allan Findlay (University of Dundee) was giving a presentation about migration and David Bell (Stirling University) one about personal care at the Royal Statistical Society local group meetings next year. Kirsty MacLachlan added that Robert Wright was giving a presentation at Strathclyde University on 30 November 2006.
- 7.5 Jan Freeke said this was very valuable feedback and stressed the importance of informing users on the work of the SE.

- 7.6 Kirsty MacLachlan informed members on the work of Scottish Enterprise. She said that they were currently undertaking some in-house research on A8 migration into Scotland and will be commissioning further research in 2007. If any members wanted to discuss the matter to get in touch with Ross Brown at Scottish Enterprise. It was agreed that Ross would write out to local authorities to feed into his research, since local authorities were best placed to provide information on A8 migrants. He was also planning to produce a paper summarising the work and was happy to share it with PAMS. The group welcomed the opportunity to see the paper.

Action: Ross Brown (Scottish Enterprise)

8. Progress Report on the Work of the Scottish Population Survey Co-ordinating Committee (Oral update)

- 8.1 Janette Purbrick updated members on the work of the SPSCC and informed them that the committee have met twice since the last update provided by Robert Williams (SE) at May's PAMS meeting. She added that the contract has been awarded to carry out the Scottish Household Survey and Scottish House Condition Survey. They have established/agreed 20 questions to use in large scale surveys in Scotland and have sat down with survey managers to discuss typical answers to these. She asked if members if there were any questions.
- 8.2 There was no questions by group members and Kirsty MacLachlan thanked Janette for her update.

9. Census

(a) 2001 Census Update – PAMS (06) 21

- 9.1 Alan Fleming presented this paper and updated members of progress since the last meeting of PAMS. He added that the occasional paper on migrating moving groups might be of interest to Luke Cavanagh and feed into his project covered in PAMS (06) 20. He asked members if there were any questions.
- 9.2 There was no questions by group members and Kirsty thanked Alan for his update.

(b) 2011 Census Progress Report – PAMS (06) 22

- 9.3 Peter Scrimgeour presented this paper and updated members on progress with the Census Test, Procurement, Consultation and briefly on Disclosure Control, Outputs, Coverage Assessment and Geography (these are covered in more detail in later papers). He asked members if there were any questions.
- 9.4 Jenny Boag informed the group that Census geography was briefly discussed at this morning's local authority pre-PAMS meeting and that output geography areas should be as small as practically possible for rural areas. She added that they were happy with the way they are at present and that you cannot plit disclosure control with output geography.
- 9.5 Jan Freeke noted that the Census Test evaluation will be complete by end of December 2006 and asked when the lessons learned and output were to be published. Peter responded by saying that once everything was brought together, hopefully a report would be written by the end of the first quarter of 2007. He added

that a workshop is organised for January 2007 to discuss the main findings and local authorities will be invited in due course.

9.6 There were no further questions on this paper.

(c) 2011 Census, Background Papers

(i) Statistical Disclosure Control – PAMS (06) 23 and 23a

9.7 Peter Scrimgeour presented this paper and updated members on the Statistical Disclosure policy that has been agreed by the RG's in Scotland, England & Wales and Northern Ireland. He then asked the group if there were any questions.

9.8 Jenny Boag informed the group that local authorities were happy with this. She added that she has volunteered to sit on the SDC methodology for 2011 Census Outputs Committee to protect Scottish interests in this area.

9.9 There were no further questions on this paper.

(ii) Taking Forward the Content of the 2011 Census Household Questionnaire – PAMS (06) 24 and 24a

9.10 Peter Scrimgeour presented this paper and updated members on the possible content of the 2011 Census questionnaire for England and Wales. He added that GROS are in the process of producing a similar paper for Scotland and will invite comments from stakeholders in the SE and PAMS members. He asked members if they had any questions.

9.11 Jenny Boag informed the group that at a recent CLIP meeting last week, this paper was discussed. The following come out of the meeting which might help Peter in preparing the paper for Scotland:

- They were in favour of a form with 4 pages for each person and 5 people in household (instead of 3 pages per person and 6 people in household);
- They had an issue with the income question and industry question in the 3 page form;
- They were in favour of not including national identity in the form;
- They didn't like the idea of the health question taking up space on the form, they would prefer a box system here; and
- They would prefer the 'economic activity' to include full/part time hours worked.

9.12 Jenny Boag said that the form must ask harder questions and not include long questions as these take up space on the form. Jan Freeke then added that he would have to speak to Glasgow City Council's Equality group regarding the questions on the form. Alan Fleming informed members that he gave a talk to the Gaelic community last month and said they expressed the view that, not only would they like the Gaelic question from 2001 to be kept in the form, they would also like to see a question on how often people use Gaelic in their daily lives.

9.13 There were no further questions from the group.

(iii) Outputs User Consultation Strategy – PAMS (06) 25 and 25a

- 9.14 Peter Scrimgeour presented the paper which highlighted ONS's plans for consulting users on 2011 Census outputs and informed members that GROS have discussed this with ONS and GROS's strategy will be similar to the content in this paper. He asked members if there were any question.
- 9.15 There were no questions from the group.

(iv) Coverage Assessment – PAMS (06) 26 and 26a

- 9.16 Peter Scrimgeour presented the paper which described the coverage assessment and adjustment strategy which the 3 Census officed have agreed for the 2011 Census. He stressed that this is at an early stage and he promised to keep PAMS members informed as the work progresses. He asked the group if there were any questions.
- 9.17 Jan Freeke asked whether GROS had been able to input to this document. Peter Scrimgeour responded by saying that GROS has made contributions to the paper and informed members that experts were coming up to Scotland next month to discuss issues with Scotland.
- 9.18 Jenny Boag asked that estimation areas be similar to the 2001 Census, as this went down well with Scottish local authorities here in Scotland. She also requested that an appeals procedure to be in place.
- 9.19 There were no further questions from group members. Kirsty MacLachlan thanked Peter for the update for papers PAMS (06) 22 to (06) 26.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 None.

11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting will be held in May 2007 and the secretary will consult members for possible dates in due course.