

Census Advisory Group (CAG)
Minutes of meeting held in McAuley House
Thursday 14th May 2009

Present:

Mr R Beatty	Census Office, NISRA - Chair
Mr R Elliott	Census Office, NISRA
Mr J Frey	Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
Dr D Marshall	Demography Branch, NISRA
Mr G McCullough	NI Council for Voluntary Action
Mr J Power	NI Assembly
Mr N Rogers	
Dr J Ijpelaar	Demography Branch, NISRA
Mrs J McHugh	Secretary

Apologies:

Dr A Marshall	Queens University, Belfast (QUB)
Dr I Shuttleworth	School of Geosciences, QUB
Mr D McKinstry	Equality Commission for NI
Mr B Green	Census Office, NISRA
Mr T Dignan	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr Beatty commenced proceedings by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from Previous CAG meeting (21st October 2008)

Mr Power drew attention to his comment in the previous minutes in respect of the proposed National Identity question and reiterated his concern that the question was being asked, via the Census, 2 months before an Assembly Election. Mr Beatty acknowledged Mr Power's concerns but stated that the results of the Census would not be available until quite some time after the election.

3. Actions from previous meeting (21st October 2008)

Mr Beatty advised that all actions from the previous meeting had either been completed or were to be covered by this meeting's agenda.

4. Demography update

Dr Marshall gave a presentation on recent demographic issues.

Following the presentation Mr Power raised the issue of alcohol related deaths. Dr Marshall confirmed that there had been a significant increase in the number of alcohol related deaths and that reference to this would be included in the next Registrar General's (RG) Annual Report (Dec 2010). Dr Marshall also confirmed to CAG that information on suicide and cancer related deaths would also be included within the RG's report

Dr Marshall also informed CAG that consideration was being given to the issue of a paper (sometime in 2010) on drug related deaths.

Following a general discussion on the Longitudinal Study Dr Marshall agreed to issue a background paper dealing with this area.

Action: Dr Marshall to consider issuing a paper (during 2010) on drug related deaths.

Action: Dr Marshall to issue background Longitudinal Study paper.

5. Gaps in Demographic Statistics

Paper delivered by Dr IJpelaar

PAPER: Gaps in Demographic Studies in Northern Ireland

Following a general discussion on Dr IJpelaar's paper it was agreed that the "main bases" were covered. However, the following actions were agreed:

Action: Members to review paper and provide written comments to Dr IJpelaar.

Action: Mr Beatty to write to those CAG members not at today's meeting also asking for comments on Dr IJpelaar's paper.

Action: Dr IJpelaar to circulate paper around NISRA branches & (as requested by Mr Power) Assembly Research Teams.

6. Census Update

Mr Beatty provided a verbal update on 2011 Census preparations:

- 2011 Census Proposals document for both England & Wales and Scotland published.
- NI 2011 Census Proposals document currently within 'Executive' process. Protocol is that the 2011 Census Proposals cannot go to the DFP Committee until they have been through the 'Executive' process.
- 2011 Census Order to come into operation early 2010.
- Publicity and Community Liaison Strategy currently being prepared.
- Community Liaison to begin September 09.
- Final decision still to be taken but most likely hand delivery of Census forms in Co Fermanagh.
- Data Capture/ Internet Data Capture preparations on course.
- Downstream: NISRA will be analysing the NI data but will work in conjunction with ONS in the processing of that data.
- Census Coverage Survey (CCS) - takes place approximately 6 weeks after Census and is used to calculate households / individuals missed by the main Census.
- Disclose Control Policy still to be developed. However, the 3 UK Census Offices' will follow the same policy and it is hoped the RGs will sign off on this in July 09.
- Outputs - Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) to be used as the dissemination tool for Census Outputs - Outputs to be available 2012.
- Mr Beatty advised that he would like the revamped NISRA website up and running by 2011.
- Population Base – Members were provided with an ONS paper on population bases.

PAPER: Population Bases for the 2011 Census

Mr Beatty noted that the ONS paper had just issued. NISRA had previously agreed the principles with ONS, and NISRA would shortly produce an equivalent paper for Northern Ireland.

There was discussion around the population base. It was noted that the UN definitions of resident population were based on the 12 month rule, and that this would both the Census and MYEs fully in line with these definitions. The 2001 Census had primarily been based on self-assessed residency.

In recognition of the risk that the 12 month rule might lead to some people 'opting-out', the Census instructions would include all people resident for 3 months or more, allied with an 'intention to stay' question. This should also enable the production of statistics on short term migrants.

In discussion, Members agreed to the principles outlined in the ONS paper, with the Census including all those present for 3 months allied with an 'intention to stay' question.

Action: Mr Beatty to issue the Publicity and Community Liaison Strategy to members.

Action: Mr Beatty to issue the NISRA version of the population base paper.

7. Census Rehearsal Plans

PAPER: 2009 Census Rehearsal in Northern Ireland Evaluation Plan

- Mr Beatty advised CAG that the Rehearsal was a 'test of process'.
- Internet will be available for the Rehearsal.
- Very little publicity being planned for Rehearsal. Nothing specific for the Press.
- Focus groups underway to 'test' questions - CAG members welcome to attend.
- CAG's attention brought to proposed change to the Educational Qualification question. It is proposed that, via this question, information will become available on non UK qualifications. However, the design of the question is still under discussion and may change. CAG asked for views on the design of this question.

Action: Brian Green to issue an invite to CAG members for any future Focus Groups.

Action: CAG to provide comment on proposed Educational Qualification.

Mr Frey drew attention to the date of the 2011 Census and advised that most universities would be on holiday at that time - Mr Beatty confirmed that Census office were aware of this issue.

8. Census Geography

Richard Elliott gave a presentation. (Presentation to follow)

Richard Elliott presented NISRA's plans to create the 2011 Census Input geography using road boundary methodology.

Members were provided with example copies of 2011 Census urban / rural maps which showed the ED boundaries developed using the road boundary methodology. Richard Elliott provided an overview of the map contents and their purpose.

- For the 2011 Census, the input and output geographies will be separate.

Input Geography:

- geography to be built on road polygons.
- Intention is that this methodology will be carried forward to create output geography.

Output Geography:

The output geography will nest within the new ward boundaries that emerge from the boundary review.

- will be grid reference driven.
- considering using road polygon approach to create the sub-ward level geography.

CAG confirmed that they were content with proposals.

Action: Paper confirming geography proposals to issue to CAG in due course.

AOB – There were no further issues

NISRA
29 June 2009