

Census Advisory Group (CAG)

McAuley House

Wednesday, 25 February 2015

Record of Meeting

<u>Present:</u>	Mr Brian Green (Chair)	Demographic Statistics – NISRA
	Mr Brian French	Census Branch – NISRA
	Mrs Maire Brolly	DIAL Branch – NISRA
	Mr Michael Woods	Census Branch – NISRA
	Mr John Power	NI Assembly
	Mr Colin McIlheney	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
	Dr Dermot O'Reilly	Epidemiology and Public Health (QUB)
	Ms Claire Shortt	Belfast City Council
	Dr Tony Dignan	Economic Research and Evaluation
	Mr Joe Frey	NI Housing Executive
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr Uel McMath	Census Branch – NISRA
<u>Apologies:</u>	Mr Robert Beatty	Census Office – NISRA
	Ms Sharon McNicholl	Belfast City Council
	Dr Ian Shuttleworth	Queen's University, Belfast
	Mr Richard Ramsey	Ulster Bank
	Mrs Jocelyn McCarley	Electoral Office NI
	Prof. Adele Marshall	CenSSOR – Queen's University Belfast
	Mr Darren McKinstry	Equality Commission for NI
	Prof. David Martin	University of Southampton

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr Green welcomed members to the meeting, thanked those present for their attendance and recorded apologies for those unable to attend.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Mr Green also confirmed that all actions were closed.

3. Agenda Discussion items

This agenda discussion items for the meeting followed the structure set out in the following presentation:

Presentation (PDF 1.6 MB):

www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/cag/minutes/25-02-2015-presentation.pdf

4. Agenda Item 1: NISRA reorganisation (Slide 3)

Mr Green briefed members on the recent re-organisation of NISRA resulting from the appointment of a Director of Sources and a Director of Analysis both at Grade 5 level last summer. He provided members with a copy of the latest NISRA Agency Board and Senior Managers Forum organisation chart. Additionally, he explained how Census Office and Demographic Statistics had also been restructured and outlined the functions of these two work areas and their constituent Branches.

Points arising from this agenda item:

None.

5. Agenda Item 2: 2011 Census Update (Slides 5 – 14)

Mr French updated members on progress made on the various Census projects since the last meeting. The topics covered included reviews of the following:

- NI output releases during 2014;
- UK output releases during 2014;
- Report – Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland;
- Report – Key Statistics Summary Report; and
- Short stories – Infographics.

Mr French provided members with some examples of the infographics published and explained how these have been used to augment the Statistical Bulletins. He indicated that they had been well received by users and seemed popular given the frequency of pertinent 'hits' on the NINIS website.

Mr French also advised members on the plans for the publication of further outputs as outlined below:

26 February 2015

- NI Output – Detailed and Local Characteristics on Travel to Work/Study
- NI Output – Workplace and Daytime Population Tables on Travel to Work/Study

March

- NI Output – Migration Statistics (Northern Ireland specific)
- NI Output – Additional Detailed and Local Characteristics Tables
- Infographics – Parliamentary Constituencies
- UK Output – Additional Origin-Destination Statistics
- Report – User Satisfaction Survey Report
- Report – General Report
- Report – Quality Assurance Report

Additionally, Mr French explained that other work was ongoing on the development of further specialised products with plans in place to have all of these published by the summer 2015. These products include:

- Secure microdata (early March 2015);

- Safeguarded microdata (soon);
- Grid Square Product (Spring 2015);
- Settlements (Spring 2015); and
- Travel to Work Areas (Summer 2015).

Points arising from this agenda item:

In response to a query from Mr Frey, Mr French confirmed that Census hope to publish the Grid Square by the end of April 2015.

6. Agenda Item 3: DIAL Integration and Linkage Update (Slides 15 – 20)

Mrs Brolly updated members on progress made on DIAL and Data Linkage. The topics covered included an overview of the main work areas and the skills and expertise within the team. She reviewed the work undertaken by the team in support of the Census Under Enumeration (CUE) project and the Administrative Data Population Estimate (ADPE) project. On conclusion Mrs Brolly briefed the members on the initial thinking on how Administrative data may be utilised to support the forthcoming Census in 2021.

Points arising from this agenda item:

CUE – In response to a query from Mr McIlheney, Mrs Brolly confirmed that circa 68,000 CUE records had been included in the 2011 Census outputs database and that these formed part of the census estimates.

Census Data Admin plans – Dr O'Reilly welcomed the work being done on the use of admin data to support the future census but cautioned against the use of inappropriate nomenclature that may impact on negative public perception. As an example he opined one tends to think of a register when reference is made to a data spine. Dr O'Reilly asked Mrs Brolly how datasets are to be reconciled. Mrs Brolly indicated that further research is planned and the rationale for reconciliation will be developed thereafter. She added that admin data will be quality assured against census data.

7. Agenda Item 4: Demographic Statistics Update

Mr Green updated members on progress made on the various Demographic Statistics work areas.

Population Statistics – since the last meeting Mr Green reminded members that 2013 based mid-year population estimates (including those for small areas and the 85+ years age group) had been published. Additionally, 2012 based population projections for NI and LGDs have also been published.

Looking to the future he confirmed the following:

- aiming to publish 2012 based Household projections by the end of March 2015;
- 2014 based mid-year estimates (including Small Area populations estimates) to be published in May 2015 followed by the Population Aged 85+ in September 2015;
- Long term international migration statistics to be published in August 2015; and
- 2014 NI and UK Population Projections to be published in November 2015 followed by the 2014 based Population Projections for other areas with NI in the spring of 2016.

Vital Statistics – Mr Green informed members of the releases in this area since the last meeting:

- December 2013 – Top 10 Baby Names (Provisional) and the Quarterly RGs update;
- May 2014 – Births in NI (2013);
- June 2014 – Deaths in NI (2013), Healthcare Infections (2013), Alcohol related deaths (2013), Drugs related deaths (2013) and the Quarterly RGs update;
- July 2014 Marriages, Divorces and Civil Partnerships in NI (2013);
- August 2014 – Baby Names NI (2013);
- September 2013 - Quarterly RGs update; and
- November 2014 – Registrar General Annual Report (2013) and the Excess Winter Mortality (2013).

Mr Green informed members that Demographic Statistics had convened a user engagement event in December 2014. At that meeting the team informed customers of changes to the timetable for delivery of future demographic statistics – the most significant of which would see the RG's Annual Report publication date brought forward from November to July, with the 2014 Report scheduled for publication during July 2015.

NILS/ADRC developments

Mr Green presented members with an update on the NI Longitudinal Study and Administrative Data Research works area (see link below), explaining NISRA's role and responsibility in each of these initiative. He explained to the membership that Dr O'Reilly was the NI Director of the ARDC and thanked him for his contributions.

NILS and ADCR update (PDF 38 KB):

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/cag/minutes/25-02-2015-nils-and-adrc-update.pdf>

Points arising from this agenda item:

Dr O'Reilly provided Group members with an update of ARDN work from his perspective. He said that the initiative was being driven by a 3 way partnership comprising QUB, UU and NISRA and welcomed the contributions of each of these authorities. He intimated that the ARDN was to set to commence a public engagement initiative which would, he hoped inform the public on the benefits of using administrative data. With regard to the workings within in the programme he added that he was conscious that the initiative opens up a whole new way of working for those in research, with academics and government researchers working together.

Mr Power informed the Board that he sits on the ARDN research approvals panel and through his understanding felt that NI appear to be leading the way in the use of the platform with some 50% of the applications so far coming from NI.

8. Agenda Item 5: Census 2011 - Benefits Realisation (Slides 22 – 43)

Mr French updated members on the progress of this initiative. The topics covered included reviews of the following:

- Aims of Benefits Realisation;
 - Raise awareness of 2011 Census outputs;
 - Maximise their utility by facilitating and encouraging their widespread use;
 - Evaluate and summarise the benefits arising from the 2011 Census – General & Benefits Realisation Reports; and
 - Learn lessons for 2021 Census planning.
- The ONS Approach;
- The NISRA Approach;
- Examples from the ONS initiative;
- 2011 NI Census Benefits – NI examples; and
- The initial findings from the Census User Satisfaction Survey.

Mr French also used this topic to highlight some examples of success from the 2011 Census, viz;

- Working closely with ONS and NRS;
- More widespread user consultation/engagement;
- Field Operations - Post out-Post back, Online collection;
- Statistical – Census Under Enumeration Project, Address Register creation;
- No post-tabular statistical disclosure control (internally additive & consistent);
- Harmonised univariate statistics – published on same dates as ONS;
- More pre-canned outputs than in 2001 - new variables & additional geographies; and
- Enhanced data access, visualisation, analysis, metadata & quality assurance – re-launched NINIS, infographics, interactive graphs, bulletins & reports

Additionally he reviewed some of the challenges to build on, viz;

- Outputs timetable should be shorter;
- Statistical Disclosure Control was a bottleneck and restricted outputs;
- Need for greater flexibility for users in terms of table building – consider data cubes from which tables can be built and fewer pre-canned outputs;
- Need for greater harmonisation of cross-tabular outputs; and
- The proportion completing the Census online needs to increase – importance of digital inclusion strategy.

With regard to establishing the local benefits realisation from the 2011 Census he reminded members of his request to them to contribute to the process by completing a pro-forma which issued earlier this month. He encouraged members to respond. This request was echoed by Mr Green who additionally asked the group to consider the new questions that were asked in the Census 2011 and the benefits these questions may have realised.

Discussion points arising from this agenda item:

Mr Frey confirmed that the Better Housing project used Census data merged with House Condition Survey data that allowed the sample size of the HCS to be reduced through the construction of a regression model. He indicated that there were benefits by way of cost savings to NIHE coupled with a reduction of the survey burden on the public.

Mr McIlheney intimated that Census 2011 has influenced the media more than previous Census 2001. For example the new questions on national identity formed the basis for a debate in the True North programme, another programme – “Changing Face of Belfast” echoed this. He added that he had attended a seminar of independent television producers which was well attended and showcased how to make use of Census data in assisting with programme bids for example, for minority language programmes.

Mr Power informed members that the Assembly Research Unit develop constituency based demographic and socio-economic profiles for MLAs – with much but not all data sourced from the Census.

Ms Shortt informed members that following the implementation of the reform of local government in Northern Ireland reducing Local Government Districts (LGDs) to eleven, Belfast City Council used Census data to produce demographic and socio-economic profiles for the new council areas.

Dr O'Reilly added that ESRC funding for NLS research in NI would not have been available if there was no census data.

9. Agenda Item 6: NISRA plans for 2021 (Slides 44 – 50)

Mrs Brolly updated members on the NISRA's 2021 Census development planning referring to the Northern Ireland position paper published in October 2014 – The future provision of Census of Population Information for Northern Ireland.

The topics covered included an overview of the Beyond 2011 Project in NI, a look at the work done to date and an indication of the way the 2021 Census may, subject to further research, be delivered. In summary Mrs Brolly confirmed the following:

- There will be a 2021 Census subject to Assembly legislation – Census Order and Regulations;
- The census will be 'predominantly' online;
- Consultation starting later in 2015 (topics); and
- EU Regulation expected – essentially unchanged from 2011.

Group members welcomed the decision on the 2021 Census and the support from the DFP Minister. Members discussed the work undertaken so far from a methodological standpoint recognising that there were a lot of new challenges ahead for 2021.

10. Agenda Item 7: CAG – Towards 2021 – Group discussion (Slides 51 – 57)

In introducing this item Mr French indicated that this meeting of CAG would more than likely be the last meeting for which the agenda was weighted towards the 2011 Census and that it may be timely to review the formal position of the Group. Mr French overviewed the workings of the CAG so far and reviewed the current Terms of Reference, membership and the frequency of meetings.

The Group discussed the following topics:

- Role of the Future;
- Scope and Terms of Reference;

- Wider remit; and
- Wider membership.

The main points from the discussion were that members agreed the following:

- the CAG (or something similar) should be retained in an advisory and methodology quality assurance role;
- ToRs should be reviewed and brought up to date and widened to include Demographic Statistics (excluding NILS and ADRC which are already catered for);
- if remit is widened the CAG should be renamed – Demographic Statistics Advisory Group;
- the current membership should be retained (subject to canvass) given their level of expertise and experience they bring to the group through their involvement in recent censuses;
- the membership could be widened, if necessary;
- Meetings should be bi-annual (if possible); and
- Census Office should consider the merits of a separate user/engagement group in run up to 2021 Census.

11. Agenda Item 8 – Any other business

None.

Mr Green thanked members for their attendance and noted that both the challenge and the support roles that the group had provided over the years was very much appreciated.

The meeting closed the meeting at 4.15pm.

Uel McMath
Secretary