

Date: 14 March 2018

Time: 1.30pm

Location: Conference Room, Colby House, Belfast

Present	Dr David Marshall (Chair) Sandy Fitzpatrick Brian Green Dr Tony Dignan Karly Greene Michael Gallagher Dr Esmond Birnie Dr Dermot O'Reilly Gail Bennett Dr John Power Prof David Martin Dr Ian Shuttleworth (dial in) Virginia McVea Dr Helena McElhinney Lisa King Aidan Campbell	NISRA, Director of Sources NISRA, Census Office NISRA, Demographic Statistics Economic Research and Evaluation Northern Ireland Housing Executive Derry & Strabane Council University of Ulster Queen's University Belfast Land & Property Services NI Assembly University of Southampton School of Geography, Archaeology & Paleoeecology, Queen's University NI Electoral Office NICVA Equality Commission for NI Rural Community Network
In Attendance	William Dukelow Maire Brolly Richard Elliott Amy Dunlop Sandra Tate	NISRA, Census Office NISRA, Census Office NISRA, Demographic Statistics NISRA, Census Office NISRA, Comms & Marketing Branch
Secretary	Wenda Pollock	NISRA, Census Office
Apologies	Prof Adele Marshall Dr Catherine Millman	Queens' University Public Health Agency

1. Welcome and apologies

Dr Marshall welcomed members to the meeting, thanked those present for their attendance and recorded apologies for those unable to attend. Dr Marshall went on to explain the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide members with an update on plans for the 2021 Census and to brief members on Use of Administrative Data in the 2021 Census, 2021 Census Outputs Strategy and updated 2017 Deprivation measures.

2. Introductions

As there were a number of new faces around the table, members and those in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and the following update on action points was given:

Action Point Number	Action Point Detail	Action Point Update
AP1	<i>NISRA to consider online and paper 2011 versions of routed questions to see if there were differences in response distributions.</i>	<u>Ongoing</u> - Some work has been completed in respect of this AP (e.g. religion), however the majority of work has still to be completed
AP2	<i>NISRA to consider what question was asked in previous censuses, relation to number of hours worked, and consider the current position for 2021.</i>	<u>Completed</u> – The current position is no change, question remains as it was in 2011 Census.
AP3	<i>NISRA to pass on information to DSAG (Richard Ramsey) regarding rationale for excluding a question on second homes/holiday homes.</i>	<u>Ongoing</u> – Census Office will provide information to Richard Ramsey on the rationale for not including a question on second homes.
AP4	<i>DSAG members to write to David Marshall to raise any further issues in relation to 2021 Census content.</i>	<u>Ongoing</u> , however Dr Marshall agreed to re-circulate presentation on content from June 2017 meeting and members should provide comments to Dr Marshall by Thursday 31 st May 2018.
AP5	<i>NISRA to provide relevant papers for members' views.</i>	<u>Completed</u> – Relevant papers, detailing the projection assumptions, were shared with DSAG members
AP6	<i>NISRA to consider and respond to the issue in relation to improving communication and briefing around population projections.</i>	<u>Completed</u> - Following the meeting the Population Team gave a presentation on the 'Ageing of the NI population and the implications for policy making' to the Policy Champions Network (PCN) within NICS. A further presentation was given to the Department of Education (DE) Strategic Planning Board. An automated online data analysis package was also developed which makes all of the relevant information much more accessible to user.

Action Point Number	Action Point Detail	Action Point Update
AP7	<i>Members to respond to Richard Elliott with views on the projection assumptions and variants by 7 July</i>	<u>Completed</u> - Comments received from some members by 7 July

Michael Gallagher conveyed that the distinction between projections and forecasts is unclear to some users and that better/clearer communication needs adopted, especially with planners in local councils.

Dr Esmond Birnie stated that there was tension from one arm of government producing outputs without taking account of policy progress/chance in other areas of government.

Action Point 1	Demographic Statistics to send a letter to Council Chief Executives and Chief Planning Officers, to explain clearly the distinction between local area population projections and local area population forecasts
Action Point 2	Census Office to recirculate presentation on 'content' from June 2017 meeting. Any comments by members should be send to Dr Marshall by Thursday 31st May 2018

4. Use of Administrative data in 2021

Maire Brolly delivered a presentation to members outlining the background to Administrative Data, its uses in 2021, particularly in capturing data on Hard to Reach (HtR) groups. The 5 safe principles for handling data in NISRA were referred to: safe people, safe projects, safe settings, safe outputs and safe data.

Points arising from this agenda item:

There followed a time for discussion among members. Dr Martin advised the group that this approach was in line with ONS.

Maire went on to advise members how Coverage Assessment Adjustment and Health Card information had been used in the 2011 Census. This data was used to address Census under enumeration and that this approach had received international recognition. For Census 2021, NISRA plan to refine this approach with a statistical person spine (of solely demographic information) created from a variety of data sources e.g. Health, EONI, Schools etc.

Points arising from this agenda item:

During the group discussion, Virginia McVea sought clarifications of the legislative basis for this work. Dr Marshall noted that this work was possible under 1969 Census Act and that similar work was being progressed in Great Britain. There was also discussion around how much information the Census enumerator would know about an address – William Dukelow indicated that the information provided to enumerators would be set out in the Proposals Document (which will be shared with DSAG members in due course).

Members also discussed how census would engage with the minority communities. Census advised that the enumeration strategy outlines the plans for community liaison with key groups. Dr Marshall assured the group of NISRA's commitment that this work is done properly and asked members to provide views on this presentation/document by Thursday 31st May.

Action Point 3	Members views on use of admin data in 2021 to be sent to Dr Marshall (in writing) by <u>Thursday 31st May 2018</u>
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5. 2021 Outputs Strategy – discussion on feedback received

Maire Brolly presented the group with a short update on the aim of the strategy, what it covers along with key points and next steps.

Points arising from this agenda item:

There was discussion around homogeneity of areas (particularly affluent vs deprived areas). Maire explained that the 2021 outputs would use electoral wards and a range of other geographies.

6. 2021 Census update

Sandy Fitzpatrick provided members with an update in relation to Census 2021 outlining the vision for 2021, the value and timing of major procurements, approach and initial findings from the 2017 address check and finally dates/concerns for the Census rehearsal in 2019. Dr Marshall added that in 2011 all EDs were walked prior to the Census to carry out an address check.

Points arising from this agenda item:

Virginia McVea also shared that the EONI learning from recent elections was that the drop-out rate of election staff was high (the closer it got to election date) and that Census Operations might need to consider contingency planning for this.

Sandy also outlined the Census 2021 robust approach to Governance with monthly Census Oversight Board (COB) meetings, ongoing DSAG communication and a Census Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for May 2018. Dr Marshall informed the group that the main issue was now in relation to the current political situation and that COB were having to prepare for various options.

7. Presentation on the updated 2017 Deprivation measures

Brian Green delivered a presentation to the DSAG group detailing the background and results to the updated 2017 Multiple Deprivation measures (NIMDM2017). This was followed by Richard Elliott and Sandra Tate who gave demonstrations of the offline analysis package and the online NINIS spatial tool - both of which had been developed by NISRA to browse the NIMDM2017 results.

Virginia McVea commented that it would be interesting to explore the spatial association, if any, between voting registration patterns and the updated Deprivation Measures. Virginia will consider this further.

Brian also explained to members about the rationale behind domain weights and that to date there had been approximately 100 dissemination events.

8. AOB and next meeting

No other matters were arising. Dr Marshall advised that it is hoped to share the draft Proposals Document with members by September 2018 with a view to discussing this at the next meeting, likely to be in Autumn 2018. He closed the meeting by thanking members for attending and for their contributions.

Wenda Pollock, Secretary