

International Steering Group – Note of Key Points

25th August 2022 : 9am – 11 am (BST time)

Attending

Professor James Brown – UTS

Abby Morgan – Stats New Zealand

Owen Abbott – ONS

Professor David Martin – University of Southampton

Sir Ian Diamond – National Statistician

Professor Andrew Morris - Health Data Research UK

Alasdair McAlpine – SG

Caroline Ellis – NRS

David Rowley - NRS

Benjamin Little – NRS

Ralph McDevitt – NRS

Lyndsay Wilson - NRS

Esta Clark – NRS

Tom Macintyre – NRS

Jenny Allan-Jones – NRS

Will Howes – NRS

Mark Dunn - NRS

Key Actions

1. The group discussed attendance of ISG members at the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee meeting on 8 September 2022. It was agreed that some members of the group will attend to give evidence relating to the group's role.
2. NRS provided an update on the near-final results from the CCS – An interview was completed for 58% of households in the CCS sample, while 22% provided a hard refusal and a self-completion form was left with 19%. The lowest interview rate was 52% in COMA 7, while the highest was 67% in COMA 4. The numbers may change

slightly as some self-completion forms are still being received. NRS will continue to accept these until around mid-September.

3. The group provided feedback that the extension to the CCS was valuable, enabling all COMA areas to achieve at least a 50% interview rate.
4. NRS provided an update on work to match CCS and Census addresses, providing results split by Hard to Count area. NRS will provide an update on vacant property rates in the CCS and Census at a future meeting.
5. NRS provided an update on the application being prepared for the Health and Social Care PBPP for the use of administrative data in the census. This included discussion of whether to apply for permission to place admin data records directly in the census and then keep them in the final census dataset. Potential benefits of this would be a higher number of records based on genuine individuals included in the census microdata, which is made available to researchers, and in the release of census records in 100 years.
6. The group provided a strong steer that NRS should focus on the main purpose of using admin data to enhance the estimation and adjustment processes and improve the accuracy of core census outputs. The application should emphasise the key benefits of using admin data to improve the accuracy of both the high-level and low-level population estimates. This does not require admin data records to be placed directly in the final census dataset, so the group advised not to include this in the PBPP application.
7. NRS agreed to consider this advice and circulate a revised PBPP application to the group for comment.

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