

International Steering Group – Note of Key Points

16th June 2022 : 9am – 11 am (BST time)

Attending

Professor James Brown – UTS

Abby Morgan – Stats New Zealand

Owen Abbott – ONS

Professor Andrew Morris – HDR-UK

Alastair McAlpine – SG

Professor David Martin – Southampton

Sir Ian Diamond – UK National Statistician

Esta Clark – NRS

David Rowley – NRS

Fergus Christie – NRS

Benjamin Little - NRS

Pete Whitehouse – NRS

Will Howes – NRS

Key Actions

1. NRS updated the group on progress with the census – return rate currently 88%, this may increase slightly once forced returns from the OCI have been processed. 28 of 32 local authorities have a return rate over the KPI of 85%.
2. Group agreed to sign off note of actions from the 1st of June meeting subject to a small change to point 6.
3. NRS presented a paper on admin data sources reiterating the purpose of obtaining these is to assess coverage and improve estimation. It also included details on the different admin datasets and any progress made in obtaining them.
4. NRS to focus on obtaining HESA and FE data at individual level, including term time and home address if possible. NRS to make contact with HESA at senior level so the data request is prioritised.
5. NRS should also focus effort on getting data directly from higher education institutions. Essentially, the aim is to obtain similar/the same data that is provided to HESA as part of their data collection directly from the universities. NRS to make contact with higher education institutions to request this.

6. NRS to focus on getting health activity data from PHS. Ideally, this would include interactions with the health service for vaccinations. The type of interaction would not be known, but including vaccination date in the most recent interaction data would increase the value of the data due to the large number of people receiving a vaccination recently. NRS to make contact with NHS and PHS at a senior level so the data request is prioritised. NRS to report back to the group on the detail of the health activity data, particularly on which parts of health service activity are included in the data.
7. NRS to contact PHS at a senior level to request that the application to the Health and Social Care PBPP is prioritised. This application will allow the admin data work to be undertaken, including the linking of admin datasets to the census.
8. NRS to focus on getting Scottish benefits data from Social Security Scotland. Contact has already been established, NRS will report back on progress.
9. NRS to make contact with DWP to attempt to obtain benefits data for the purpose of assessing coverage and improving estimation. This will potentially include Universal credit, Housing benefit, Child benefit, PIP / Adult Disability Payment and Pensions data.
10. NRS to make contact with HMRC to attempt to obtain PAYE and self-employed tax returns data.
11. NRS to look into obtaining council tax exemption data at household level and HMO data from local authorities and report back on progress.
12. NRS to consider whether obtaining DVLA driving licence data would be useful.
13. NRS then provided an update on the progress of the CCS. Property listing has begun this week and interviews are due to begin on Monday 27th of June.
14. A weekly meeting will be set up from 21st of June with some International Steering Group members to update them on CCS progress and to discuss any changes or interventions that could be made to maximise CCS response rates.
15. A fortnightly meeting for the full Steering Group will be set up from 30th of June. This will largely focus on progress with admin data and statistical methods.
16. The Steering Group was asked to make a regular statement on the progress being made with Scotland's Census. A monthly statement is the likely frequency of this.

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