

EMAIL 50 END

EMAIL 51 (67) START

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2021 10:59
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR population news item

Thanks [REDACTED] – I think we did consider Coventry’s concerns – in quite a lot of detail so not sure that is an accurate reflection. I think it would be helpful if the language mirrored the report: . ‘However, more needs to be done to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with students and outward migration’. Is that possible?

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [@Liz_McKeown](https://twitter.com/Liz_McKeown)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2021 10:46
To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR population news item

Hi Liz,

Are you ok with the line to be “ONS did not adequately **consider** Coventry’s concerns”?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](https://twitter.com/StatsRegulation) | [OSR LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/osr/)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 May 2021 10:30
To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR population news item

Hi Liz,

I’ve dropped Mary a text to see what she thinks and will get back to you as soon as possible. We’re now planning for the letters to be published slightly after the report, at around midday, so that the complainants receive the letters before they’re put in the public domain. This also gives us a bit of time to make a change to the drafting if needs be.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2021 10:00
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR population news item

Thanks [REDACTED]. Appreciate there may not be scope for further changes but where it is said that 'ONS did not adequately address Coventry's concerns' I worry that this could also be read like implying that you have fully substantiated them and that a short term adjustment is plausible. Could this be tweaked to be more inline with the recommendation that we should investigate the issue further?

Thanks

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | @Liz_McKeown

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2021 09:18
To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR population news item

Hi Liz,

We're aiming for 11am and hoping for the letters to go out at the same time as the report. No problem - I've attached a copy of the letter to JA. [\(SEE PUBLISHED LETTER HERE\)](#)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 May 2021 17:08
To: Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: OSR population news item

For info. The para now reads:

At the subnational level, it is widely understood by users that the accuracy of the estimates will be variable due to factors such as the size and mobility of the population in a given area. We found that in some smaller cities that had a large student population, the population estimates did appear to be inconsistent with, and potentially higher than, local evidence suggests. ONS's population estimates team recognises that areas with high population churn are harder to estimate and it has introduced a number of methodological changes, which are detailed later in this report, aimed at mitigating this issue. However, these fixes do not appear to have fully addressed the perceived overestimation of these groups in some areas.

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

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[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gov.uk | [@Liz_McKeown](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 May 2021 16:56

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR population news item

I've taken on board the feedback and tried to amend the language throughout – here is the latest version of the report for info.

Have a nice weekend! 😊

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority

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<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 May 2021 14:51

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: OSR population news item

Hi Liz,

Thanks for the call just now.

I'm going to go back through the letters and report and make sure any drafting that implies we have sufficient evidence to substantiate claims is amended. I'll also bring out more of the positives we discussed in the letter to ONS. Finally on the recommendations, we had tried hard to make it clear these were all medium to long term asks of ONS but I will revisit them all to make sure we haven't suggested anything can be rectified overnight.

I've attached the news item we've drafted to go alongside the report, as discussed. Let me know if you have any thoughts/questions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

EMAIL 51 END

EMAIL 52 START

From: Henretty, Nigel

Sent: 06 May 2021 17:04

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Quick reflections: OSR review of population est/projections

Hi Liz,

I can't see any outlandish factual inaccuracies there. There are a few oversimplifications but nothing that fundamentally changes the meaning or finding.

The points which cause the biggest challenges are:

2.3 At the subnational level, it is widely understood by users that the accuracy of the estimates will be variable due to factors such as the size and mobility of the population in a given area. We found that in some smaller cities that had a large student population, the population estimates did appear to be higher than local evidence suggests. ONS's population estimates team recognises that areas with high population churn are harder to estimate and it has introduced a number of methodological changes, which are detailed later in this report, aimed at mitigating this issue. However, these fixes have not done enough to address the overestimation of these groups in some areas. This has led to an over reliance on insufficiently robust data to inform local planning decisions such as the need to build additional schools and housing.

I mentioned this in my comments on the initial draft, but the statement that we haven't done enough to address overestimation implies that either the true value is known or that the local evidence (i.e. from Coventry) is closer to the true value than the official estimates. I can't see how that has been ascertained.

There are also major pieces of work required (about which I suspect OSR would like us to publish findings) by the recommendation of:

- a. Investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with cities with large student populations to understand how suitable mitigation can be applied.

There is also the mention that we should:

Take a more open and constructive approach to responding to user feedback by improving its complaints procedure and viewing challenge as an opportunity to improve the statistics and outputs.

It makes me wonder whether we really have a complaints procedure and if so, whether it could be improved to meet best practice, should that exist.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[redacted] | [redacted] ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: McKeown, Liz <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 15:25

To: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Quick reflections: OSR review of population est/projections

Thanks Rich – I've put some time in later to discuss. It would be good to know from you and Nigel:

- Whether any factual inaccuracies remain;
- Whether any points cause particular challenges/difficulties.

Cheers

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@ons.gov.uk) | [@Liz_McKeown](#)

From: Pereira, Rich <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 14:58

To: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Quick reflections: OSR review of population est/projections

Hi Liz

Quick reflections on this from me:

- The letter reads more alarming than the report to me, though the recommendations do read across.
- I previously thought most of the recommendations related to user engagement and reaction to it. There is now some stuff here on methods for city-type areas and approaches for these, which is more challenging
- They've taken on board the comments I provided a couple of weeks ago and it's now more representative of a lot of the stuff we have already done though this hasn't softened the message much as far as I can tell
- For Monday we need to work out the lines to take in response. Nigel and I can work out these from what we've already got (I think we've already got most of this written down). They are requiring fuller response by July by the looks of it so I suggest we keep Monday's response as a lines approach rather than a fuller reply.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#), Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@ons.gov.uk) | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira](#) [ONS](#)

From: ██████████ <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 14:39

To: Pereira, Rich <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: McGhee, Marie <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR review of population est/projections - comments welcome by 23rd April

Hi Both,

Thanks again for all the feedback you shared on our review. We hope the report now better reflects some of the points you raised – particularly around user engagement where we hadn't intended on it coming across as one sided before but we definitely acknowledge that it did previously.

I have shared these separately with Liz and Jonathan, as Mary and I are meeting with them tomorrow, but I thought you might be interested in seeing the latest version of the report and letter which will be published on Monday.

If you have any questions or want to chat through any of this then please let me know. We can set up something more formal to talk about the next steps after publication if helpful.

Thanks,

██████████

██████████ | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
██████████ | ██████████ statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: ██████████

Sent: 27 April 2021 09:45

To: Pereira, Rich <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; McGhee, Marie <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR review of population est/projections - comments welcome by 23rd April

Hi Rich,

Thanks for taking the time to pull these comments together. I'll start working through them this afternoon, along with making any changes following the outputs last week, and get back to you if I have any questions.

In terms of timings for publication, I spoke to the comms team ahead of Regulation Committee and they felt it would be best not to publish our findings during the pre-election period so we have now scheduled the review to be published on Monday 10th May. I will send an email to the various stakeholders this morning to let them know. Hope this delay doesn't cause any inconvenience for you.

Thanks again,

██████████

██████████ | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
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From: Pereira, Rich <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 April 2021 15:51

To: ██████████ <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; McGhee, Marie <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR review of population est/projections - comments welcome by 23rd April

Dear ██████████

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this – it's really helpful.

I've included our comments in the attached document which I hope is helpful. I'm more than happy to chat through any of it if you like.

With best wishes,

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#), Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira_ONS](#)

From: ██████████ <██████████@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 April 2021 15:09

To: Park, Neil <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Blackwell, Louisa

<██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James

<██████████@ons.gov.uk>; James, Mike <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Rogers, Nicky

<██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; McGhee, Marie <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: OSR review of population est/projections - comments welcome by 23rd April

Dear All,

Thank you again for taking the time to speak to us about the population estimates and projections as part of our review. I am pleased to be able to share the draft report and cover letter with you for comment.

[REDACTED]

We'd be grateful if you could provide us with any comments, particularly from a fact checking perspective if we have misunderstood anything, by COP 23rd April. We would ask that you please don't share this report more widely until we have been able to make any changes that you or the Regulation Committee suggest.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

EMAIL 52 END

EMAIL 53 START

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 10 February 2021 10:22

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Nash, Andrew <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk' <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: UKSA Review on Population/LHN Note

“Regarding the scope -

We are focusing initially on reviewing the quality of the population statistics with a view to publish our findings in March. When we do this, we will also set out our plans for any further review that we feel is necessary based on our findings (e.g. we may decide to look at the wider implications of the quality of population statistics on other statistics and policies).

We have been speaking with demographers and migration experts this week to inform our research. The questions we are looking to answer are:

- Are the methods and data sources underpinning the statistics fit for the purpose?

- Email OSR [REDACTED] CC: Marie McGhee, [REDACTED] – as you discussed.

David from SET did book some time with you but I'm not sure it is needed.

Wednesday we can confirm slides.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 55 END

EMAIL 56 (72) START

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2021 11:02

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR review work

Hi James,

Thanks for this. The main point about the use of rounding and of phrases such as “is estimated to have” I think is aimed more at estimates than projections. I think that’s one of the recommendations that’s actually pretty easy to check/action in our forthcoming publications.

You’ve probably already had this thought, but I think we (including PEU) should keep this document updated to record the actions we take which help us achieve these recommendations.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2021 08:57

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: OSR review work

Hi Nigel,

See the following document [OSR review - ONS responses to OSR recommendations on estimates and projections.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#). **(SEE: EMAIL 6 ATTACHMENT)**. This has:

(1) all recommendations listed out in a table for us to use as a basis for considering our response to these, and;

(2) one factual issue – seems minor to me although I think that we may have not rounded (at least some of) the 2018-based SNPPs.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 April 2021 09:42
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: OSR review work

Hi James,

[REDACTED] and I have both completed the work for the OSR review. I have created a new folder on Sharepoint [here](#), and all of the related files are saved within it, including both the annexes and also the table of recommendations with space for us to write our comments.

[REDACTED] had one inaccuracy to report back, and this can be found at the bottom of the Word document containing the table of recommendations, called 'OSR review – ONS responses....'

Any issues, please let us know

Thanks

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 11:24
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Weekly HHPs progress

Hi [REDACTED]

Please can we draft something by first thing on Thursday 22 April so it can then go on to Nigel.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 11:23
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Weekly HHPs progress

Hi James,

When does this need to be done by?

[REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 10:57
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Weekly HHPs progress

Hi [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

If you're able to look at the OSR review (attached – Annex B) (SEE: EMAIL 11 ATTACHMENT (B)), save these on SharePoint and then review them, that would be very helpful.

The actions are:

1. List out the recommendations in a table with another column for us to populate on any comment with regard to these.
2. Review the report for any factual inaccuracies with regard to projections generally and household projections and list these in a word document.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2021 10:23

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Weekly HHPs progress

Hi James,

The postponement of this meeting is of course fine – happy to meet tomorrow after the release has gone out.

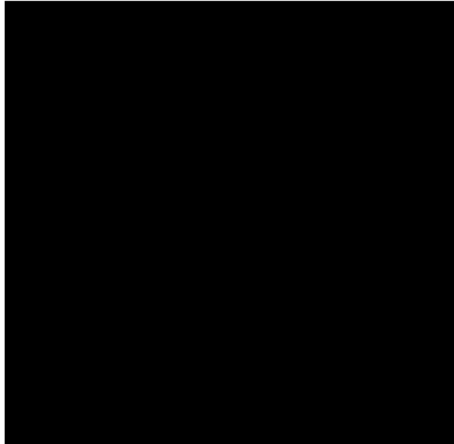
I do have some capacity at the moment so if there's anything I can do to help with QA, then do let me know.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

EMAIL 56 END





EMAIL 58 START

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 July 2021 09:09
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Work

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for doing this. We have a catch up shortly so we can talk properly then. I have requested lines to take from SET re Coventry and OSR, not sure they've responded yet [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 July 2021 17:22
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Work

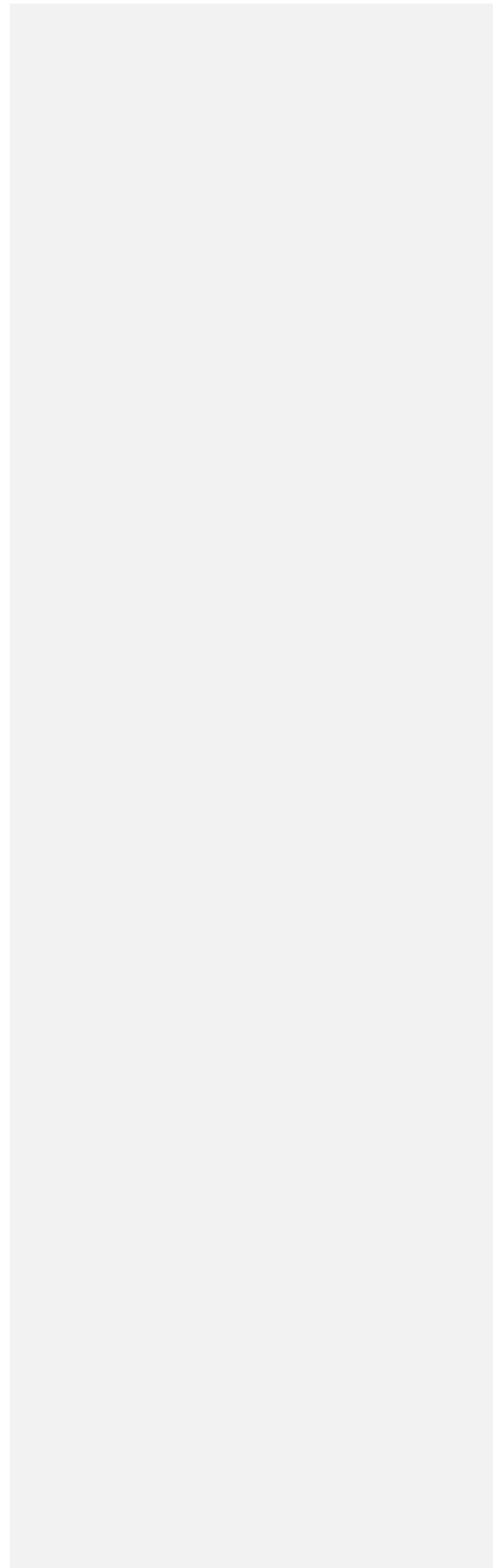
Hi [REDACTED]

As requested I have created a communications plan for the publication saved [here](#) (EMAIL 58 ATTACHMENT (A)). This is similar to the one used for the recent Future plans release. I'm not sure how much of this may be relevant to the upcoming release but thought I would leave most of it in so that it can be altered as required.

I have also started 'lines to take' saved [here](#) (EMAIL 58 ATTACHMENT (B)). This is still a bit rough and I've only managed to come up with a few lines but we can tomorrow about what else should be included.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 July 2021 18:04
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Work



Written comms - Email	Email stakeholders on stakeholder list		Outcomes from the OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections.	Email stakeholders on stakeholder list, includes: Individual Experts, GovDelivery mailing lists for NPPs, SNPPs and HH projections, Groups, CLIP, PopGroup, PSD Newsletter, StatsUserNet, Cities Group, Combined Authorities, UK Population Theme Advisory Board, JISCmail, Local Government Association, Greater London, Authority, Social media group Yammer, Individuals internal and Projections inbox contacts	PHP/SET	
Written comms - Email	Email Devolved administrations		Outcomes from the OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections.	NRS, NISRA and WG	PHP/SET	
Written comms - Email	Tweets		See tweet template for message	SET	PHP/SET	

Writte n comms -PSD news letter	PSD newsletter subscribers release 28 June	James	Links to National population projections, Subnational population projections and Household projections for England – Future plans: June 202 1 and User engagement report published in April 2021,	PSD newsletter subscribers	PHP/SET [REDACTED]	Note tbc by 17/06 link to new publication to follow on 23/06
Writte n comms - lines to take	Lines to take for queries on publication day		tbc	SET	PHP/SET	

EMAIL 58 ATTACHMENT (A) END

EMAIL 58 ATTACHMENT (B) START

LINES TO TAKE: Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

Not to be shared before 09.30 on Monday 26th July 2021

Why did OSR conduct a review of the population estimates and projections published by ONS?

In May 2021 OSR published a [review of population estimates and projections](#) which was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based.

What were the findings of the review and what is ONS's response?

In [their review](#), OSR found that the approach by ONS to population estimates and projections is *generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally*. However, they also concluded that ONS needs to build upon what it does already by regularly sense checking against local insight through greater engagement with users, recommending that ONS needs to enhance its approach by improving methods, enhancing communication and embracing challenge.

While we use internationally recognised methods and sources as the basis for population estimates and projections that are fit for purpose for national level numbers, we also recognise the

need to keep these current and responsive, especially at some lower geographies where there is more variability.

We are therefore constantly looking to develop the way we work with users of our statistics and welcome the findings in the report relating to engagement, particularly at a local level and with central departments to promote understanding of uncertainty and the appropriate use of statistics.

Full details of the OSR recommendations and how we intend to meet these are given in the publication [Future plans for research on population estimates and projections](#) ([insert link](#)).

What are the key recommendations and how is ONS responding to these?

In their review, the OSR set out [recommendations](#) and actions for the ONS along the following key themes

- To ensure future population statistics are based on sound methods and suitable data
- To enhance the transparency of developments concerning the quality of the statistics,
- To be open with users about short-term solutions to bridge gaps in data as we continue to develop administrative data alternatives
- To support users' understanding of the uncertainty associated with these statistics,
- To ensure the statistics remain relevant to users and to increase the public value of these statistics and support their use
- To enhance our approach to quality assurance

Many of these recommendations are already underway. We have recently published articles providing [earlier insights into population change](#) and the [2020-based mid-year estimates](#) and we have a [population and migration statistics system transformation](#) programme underway. This is a long-term project which aims to change our approach to producing population and migration statistics by embedding administrative data sources into these statistics. Additionally, we have recently had a Census with a response rate of 97% of households which will provide a solid foundation for estimation going forward. We will continue to work with local users and central departments to promote understanding of uncertainty and appropriate use of the statistics.

Full details of how we intend to respond to each of these recommendations are given in the publication [Future plans for research on population estimates and projections](#) ([insert link](#)). As we progress through our work plan and publish our findings we will continue to update OSR and our users through our regular Population Statistics newsletter (see the following link to subscribe to the ONS migration and population statistics [mailing list](#)) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Will the findings of the review have any impact on the publication of the interim 2020-based NPPs?

As detailed in our recent [National population projections, subnational population projections and household projections for England – future plans: June 2021](#), work is currently under way on the production of the interim 2020-based national population projections. These are due to be published in December 2021. Consequently, it will not be possible to implement the recommendations made in the OSR review for this set of projections. Where possible, we aim to meet these by May 2022.

What does the review say in relation to the suspension of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and how migration data is being collected?

In the absence of the International Passenger Survey (IPS), ONS Methodology is developing methods for estimating international migration for Quarter 2 (April to June) of 2020 and beyond. We are making innovative use of available data sources and methods to estimate how levels of international migration have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OSR review recommended that ONS should be more open with users about this work and how it intends to bridge the gap of migration data until the administrative data alternative is fit for purpose and ready to use. We will therefore seek to address this in our future publications and be clear on the planned short-term solutions ahead of a fully integrated administrative data system which will use Admin Based Migration Estimates (ABMEs) alongside our long-term international migration (LTIM) statistics.

With regards to this, ONS Centre for International Migration has recently published on the progress and current solutions being developed for 2020 and on the transition towards predominately using administrative data sources. This has culminated in publications on '[International migration: developing our approach for producing admin-based migration estimates](#)' and a further update in the form of '[Population and migration statistics system transformation – recent updates](#)'.

How can I ensure that I am kept up to date with how the OSR recommendations are being met by ONS and on other important information related to population estimates and projections?

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to provide updates on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make. We will make clear when we publish research which addresses the issues raised by the OSR review.

ONS also continues to welcome feedback on the planned approach outlined in the response to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. This can be done by writing to pop.info@ons.gov.uk.

To receive the latest updates on these and other important information related to population estimates and projections, you can sign up to the Population Statistics newsletter (subscribe to the [mailing list here](#)).

EMAIL 58 ATTACHMENT (B) END

EMAIL 59 START

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 December 2020 14:27

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE (please do not share) FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

I think it has to be, [REDACTED] We can neither confirm nor deny 😊

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira](https://twitter.com/RichPereira) | [ONS](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 December 2020 14:26
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE (please do not share) FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Thanks for the heads up, Nigel.

The obvious question we might, possibly, get is...

"Is ONS surprised MHCLG continues to use projections that are 6 years out of date?"

I assume, no comment, is our answer?

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 December 2020 14:22
To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE (please do not share) FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Hi Maggie and [REDACTED]

Following the announcement of the OSR review of population estimates and projections, MHCLG is going to make an announcement about the use of household projections, anticipated tomorrow or Wednesday. Whilst the MHCLG announcement is not directly related to the OSR review announcement, it comes at a time of increased interest among some in population estimates and projections, so worth being aware of the broader picture.

The MHCLG announcement will relate to the government's policy of using 2014-based household projections in the housing planning process, rather than more recent projections. See emails below for more details.

My latest email to MHCLG below proposes lines for MHCLG to take on two questions they may be asked. Similarly, we too might receive questions like this (although probably more related to the projections themselves) after the announcement has been made.

I hope this helps, and let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 59 END

EMAIL 60 (76) START

From: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 July 2021 20:55

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR blog

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for sharing! Apologies this is in a different doc, but I added some thoughts in to the attached too [EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (B)]. Hope that helps, but James – as you're developing the updated article – there may be some summary points to make sure we reflect in the blog and agree that it would be good if we can say a few more of the specifics here on the engagement plans.

Thanks

Becca

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 July 2021 15:42

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR blog

Hi [REDACTED]

This reads very well and I like the lead into the specific areas and context.

- I added in a few tracked changes and a couple of comments.
- I put in one extra sentence on the more specific actions on the case studies work – I am not so sure what to add on the migration one.
- We could also add a passage to link to the Eventbrite page for the planned event on Thursday 29 July.
- I started an intro piece and plan at <https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/:w/tr/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/Blog.docx?d=w11170c1edad74d879471c76aecce3a5a&csf=1&web=1&e=aRRi3W> [EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (A)] which could be helpful – would need editing but might be useful?

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 July 2021 13:45

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: OSR blog

Hi both – here's my starter for 10!

If there's anything more specific we can say in terms of actions in response to OSR, that might be useful.

Let me know what you think. I haven't put an intro or headline on yet – still pondering those.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for National Statistics

Office for National Statistics | Room 4300N | Segensworth Road | Titchfield | Fareham | PO15 5RR

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | Direct line : [REDACTED]

EMAIL 60 END

EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (A) START

Evolving our population statistics system/Continuous improvement and evolution of our population statistics system

- Rich Pereira
- July 26, 2021

Categories: population, migration, Office for National Statistics, ONS

In June 2021 the latest ONS mid-year estimates were published. Alongside the regular publication of population estimates and projections we continuously research and integrate new data and methods which will improve our statistics and respond to current and future user needs. In this blog Rich Pereira explains some priority areas for our population estimates and projections, user engagement and our response to the recent OSR review of our population estimates and projections.

Key points to emphasize:

- Transformation of our statistics – we update about this on a regular basis and are aiming to put admin data at the core of what we are doing.
- At the same time, we make updates to update our data and methods for each of our regular outputs to enhance our measurements and respond to user needs. Example – Higher Education Leavers Methodology for our 2017 MYEs and 2018-based projections.
- We always welcome and value user feedback on our statistics and also complete user engagement to help inform our future plans. Example – Projections, Autumn 2020.
- We welcome the findings of the OSR review that our statistics and that our “approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally”. We have outlined a future programme of work which will also address the recommendations made in the review [link out from this].

THEN

- Short summary of key actions under:
 - o Improving methods
 - o Enhancing communication
 - o Embracing challenge
- Welcome user feedback on our future plans and approach.

EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (A) END

EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (B) START

Next year the first results from Census 2021 will be published [link]. They will not only provide information on our population and our health – they will also shed light on social and economic changes to our lives. While they will provide us with new information that we will be able to use for years to come, we know that local authorities and stakeholders are keen to see more timely data to meet their needs.

These numbers – and subsequent detailed statistics – will also provide the baseline of population statistics for the months and years to come. Our mid-year estimates for 2021, published next summer, will be based on the new census data, as will our population and household projections which follow.

Commented [16]: Similar to the title of another recent one from PSD

Commented [17]: As per those covered in <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/review-of-population-estimates-and-projections-produced-by-the-office-for-national-statistics/>

As Sir Ian Diamond pointed out this spring, the pandemic has revolutionised data and there is no turning back [insert link]. The census will enable us to provide excellent population estimates from which the pandemic recovery can be planned.

But that's not to say the ONS is waiting for these results to give the most up-to-date picture of the population. We are already going through a period of transformation to ensure our data is as timely, accurate and useful as possible.

In April we published early indicators of the UK population, which provided important insights on the size and age structure of the UK using the latest available data. These were backed up by our mid-year population estimates in June.

We have reweighted our labour force survey [link] and in September will publish our population by country of birth and nationality statistics, which will give us the best picture of our foreign-born population right up to the end of 2020.

Since May we have been engaging with the Office for Statistics Regulation following its review of our population estimates and projections [link] and today have set out how we intend to progress our work [link] over the next 12 months.

The review was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based.

We welcome the recognition in the report that the ONS is at the forefront of addressing the complex challenge of measuring the population using internationally recognised methods and sources and we recognise the need to keep these current and responsive.

We are committed to producing the best estimates of the population and will continue working with users of our statistics to ensure we are doing just that. Local knowledge is crucial to our understanding of change that might be occurring and we will continue developing our methods to incorporate these insights. There are several areas where work is already well underway – students and migration

Students

One area of particular criticism in recent years has been around the ONS' counting of students. In areas such as Coventry, Canterbury and Cambridge, campaigners have argued that over or under counting of students has impacted the accuracy of population estimates and projections in certain areas.

The ONS has long acknowledged that the movement of students presents a specific challenge in our population – and migration - estimates. As part of the OSR review, we plan to complete detailed case studies on cities with large student populations.

We will review how recent work using administrative sources can provide insights on student population movement in to and out of local areas and explore how student populations change in combination across our population estimates and projections. We will share insights with experts and consider any further areas which need to be addressed with regard to our measurement of cities with large student populations.

Migration

Historically, our key measure for how many people immigrated into or emigrated out of the UK, the International Passenger Survey (IPS), was paused in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We've previously stated our intentions to measure international migration using administrative sources, including Home Office visa data. This work remains challenging due to coverage gaps in the data, for example students. In the future, our work on administrative based migration estimates will be supported by statistical modelling, which we've developed over the past year to help plug those gaps.

Modelling of international migration allows us to produce timely population estimates and is consistent with our wider ambitions to transform population and social statistics. We'll have further updates on this later in the year.

Commented [redacted] 18: Perhaps Followed by our mid-year population estimates in June, which provided more granular data? Sounds a bit odd, like we were backing ourselves (also they were largely based on same data)

Commented [redacted] 19: Even though the blog is broadened out, wonder if we need to get to this hook a bit earlier given today, we set out...

Commented [redacted] 20:

Commented [redacted] 21R20: Did others [redacted] in? I seem to recall Surrey and possible Oxford?

Commented [redacted] 22R20: Is this using direct wording from OSR? I did wonder if we wanted to take a slightly different approach here

Commented [redacted] 23: Is it also helpful to summarise briefly the overall finding – which I think Ed H foreword set out as building on what we already do and enhancing our approach around methods and communication. To get across that overall message that it's broadly ok

Commented [redacted] 24: Do we want to [redacted] more on the user engagement and collaboration point and plans here? Know there's the we want to hear from you section but good to include a bit more given that was a real focus of the review, including the event PSD are looking at.

Commented [redacted] 25: Or one area of particular challenge.... As the point on Coventry, Canterbury gets across that there's debate

We want to hear from you

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to provide updates on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make.

ONS continues to welcome feedback on the planned approach we have outlined to respond to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. Please provide feedback to us at pop.info@ons.gov.uk.

The Census 2021 outputs consultation has also begun [link]. We will be looking at the detailed needs for data and analysis, to ensure the data produced helps to answer the most important questions facing our society. Most importantly, we want to hear from users on their need in topic areas that may be subject to rapid change since the latest census.

EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (B) END

EMAIL 61 (INCL. ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION) START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 July 2021 14:32

To: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Briggs, Rebecca left a comment in "article template"

Hi Becca,

Thank you. Yes, it's the balance between not being too specific but also giving some real examples of what we aim to do. Thanks for the offer to talk. [REDACTED] I'll let James know that you're around if he needs to talk it through with you.

At the moment, I've had comments back from Jay and Chris and others might come a bit later in the day.

Thanks again.

From: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 July 2021 14:21

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Briggs, Rebecca left a comment in "article template"

No problem, [REDACTED] Realise it was a couple of overarching comments rather than lots of specifics – but think they were important, in terms of getting the right balance of flexibility but tangibles in the response to the review. Know it's not easy drafting up recommendation responses so if it's helpful to pick up a conversation, just let me know. I'm around tomorrow.

Hopefully you'll have had responses from others by then too.

Becca

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 July 2021 14:18

To: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Briggs, Rebecca left a comment in "article template"

Hi Becca,

Many thanks for your feedback on our drafted response to the OSR review. I'm working through them and will discuss with James tomorrow.

Kind regards

Commented [REDACTED] 26]: Felt like needed a wrap up sentence at the end instead? Another get in touch here? Or e.g. To sum up, users are at the heart of what we do and across our population statistics, we will make sure we build your feedback in to our future plans so that we deliver the data and insights the country needs

Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

Official sensitive draft until 9.30 on 26 July 2021

An outline of future plans for research on population estimates and projections

1. ONS population statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Centre for Ageing and Demography produces a range of population statistics including [national statistics designated mid-year population estimates](#), [national](#) and [subnational \(England\) population projections](#) and [household projections \(England\)](#). We work with external experts and groups to:

- ensure we continue to monitor and understand UK population change and learn from international experts, research institutes and national statistical institutes;
- research and make methodological improvements to our statistical production processes including the use of data science and quality assurance techniques;
- understand and integrate new data sources to enhance our statistics; and,
- seek user, expert demographer and expert methodologist feedback and input through our review and development processes.

Some of these initiatives are part of the [transformation of the population and migration system](#). This is a long-term project which aims to change our approach to producing population and migration statistics by embedding administrative data sources into these statistics.

In June 2021 we published the latest [mid-year population estimates for 2020](#) and an update on our [future plans for population and household projections](#) after Census 2021. Data from the Census will provide the latest, most granular detail on the population of England and Wales enabling us to reconcile and rebase our population estimates for 2012-2020 and provide a revised back-series of input data for our projections.

2. OSR and its review of population estimates and projections

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. It assesses official statistics for compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and reports on system-wide issues and on how statistics are used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

In May 2021 OSR published a [review of population estimates and projections](#) which was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-

year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based.

ONS engaged with OSR as part of the review. Over several years, and in many different forms, ONS has met, engaged with and responded to signatories of the letter requesting that the UK Statistics Authority consider a review of estimates and projections from the ONS. We welcome that the OSR have found that our approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally but are now outlining how we plan to respond to the recommendations published in the final review.

Commented [REDACTED] 27]: forums?

Commented [REDACTED] 28]: Seems defensive, though we should make this point. How about 'Whilst we welcome the OSR have found our approach...', we are outlining how we plan to...

Commented [REDACTED] 29]: I would reposition this para and agree with Chris it could read somewhat defensively. How about starting with how we welcome feedback engaged with OSR and are grateful for their insights. Then go onto while the report highlighted positives it also highlighted recommendations. For improvements and this report sets out our response to them and our plans for implementing them

3. Outcomes from the OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections

OSR review - overall findings

In its [executive summary](#), the OSR review found:

1. ONS collaborates with a range of experts to determine the methods, data and assumptions which underpin the population estimates and projections. Its approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally. One area of challenge has been migration, where there are limitations in the data available. ONS has sought to address this challenge by introducing some methodological fixes, such as the way students leaving university are identified. However, more needs to be done to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with students and outward migration.
2. ONS has a number of methods for quality assuring the statistics, including deep dives, triangulation of data it holds and comparisons against historic data. ONS developed a range of variant projections to cater for the different uses of the data. We recommend that ONS develops case studies of how these variants are being used in practice to support their use more widely, as some users were unclear on which variants would best cater to their needs.
3. ONS engages regularly with experts, academia, and other users, and participates in relevant events and conferences. We found that while ONS is good at sharing its work outwardly, there is room for improvement in the way it takes on board feedback and handles challenge. We would like to see ONS be more open and responsive to issues when they first arise and view challenge as an opportunity to improve outputs and not a criticism of its approach. We recognise that ONS is balancing competing priorities, but a more open and constructive approach to responding to user feedback would create opportunities for ONS to continually improve the population estimates and projections, and ensure users feel listened to.

Areas for action by ONS

There were three areas of action for ONS to take in response to OSR findings – these were Improving Methods, Enhancing Communication and Embracing Challenge. They are described in the [executive summary](#) of the report and are addressed in section 4 below on 'ONS planned responses to the OSR review'.

4. ONS planned responses to the OSR review

This section outlines our planned actions to address the OSR review recommendations. In this section we are also outlining actions in progress which contribute towards meeting the recommendations. As we progress through this work plan and publish our findings we will continue to update OSR and our users through the Population Statistics newsletter ([insert info on how to subscribe](#)) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Commented [REDACTED] 30]: Emailed popinfo for guidance

Where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022. We always welcome feedback on our data, methods, outputs and statistics and welcome this on the plans we are publishing. For more information on how to feedback to us please see section 5.

Commented [REDACTED] T31]: [REDACTED] note – Need to check whether it's a year from May 2021 or July 2021. Emailed OSR.

Under the three overall areas for action there were eight more specific recommendations. For each of these we are outlining how we plan to respond.

Recommendation 1: Ensuring future population statistics are based on sound methods and suitable data

Under this recommendation there were three more specific points. Our planned responses as follows will address the overall recommendation and actions required.

Complete detailed case studies on cities with large student populations

We plan to complete a detailed study of several cities with large student populations using a systematic selection criteria. This work will incorporate relevant recently completed work and will use data from across ONS which can contribute to this work, including the use of administrative sources. We will review how recent work using administrative sources can provide insights on student population movement in to and out of local areas and explore how student populations change in combination across our population estimates and projections. We will share insights with experts who can review the findings and then consider any further areas which need to be addressed with regard to our measurement of cities with large student populations.

Discuss evidence provided to OSR in the review concerning the impact of assumptions being rolled forward

The ONS Centre for Ageing and Demography engages with experts on an ongoing basis and will seek their feedback on the impact of assumptions being rolled forwards, discuss and review the implications of this and update users on our plans around this.

Ensure concerns raised regarding the current methods are considered throughout the development of admin-based population estimates (ABPEs)

We will ensure that the concerns raised are considered in the development of ABPEs.

Recommendation 2: Enhancing the transparency of developments concerning the quality of the statistics

Within this recommendation there were two specific points, one on methodological changes and the second on user feedback.

Integrate a more flexible and responsive approach to methodological changes

We will seek and understand user feedback on our approach to methodological change and consider the best way to integrate the findings from this feedback in the timing, communication and planning of methodological change and the delivery of our statistics.

Share insights gathered from work to understand the changing nature of migration and population as part of the transformation programme so user views inform the way this work is taken forward

Within our Transformation Overview updates we continually seek user feedback on our future plan. We will now seek to:

- o share the insights the work is providing in a timely manner.
- o continue using user feedback to inform the way the work is taken forwards and where possible outline how user feedback has done this already.

Recommendation 3: Continuation of plans for the future of migration data

There was one, more specific passage on this.

ONS's migration team should be open with users about its short-term solution to bridge the gap of migration data until the administrative data alternative is fit for purpose and ready to use

Through the early part of 2021 the ONS Centre for International Migration has published on the progress and current solutions being developed for 2020 (when the International Passenger Survey (IPS) was stopped) and on the transition towards predominately using administrative data sources. This has culminated in publications on '[International migration: developing our approach for producing admin-based migration estimates](#)' and a further update in the form of '[Population and migration statistics system transformation – recent updates](#)'.

In our future publications we will seek to address this recommendation and be clear on the planned short-term solutions ahead of a fully integrated administrative data system which will use Admin Based Migration Estimates (ABMEs) alongside our long-term international migration (LTIM) statistics.

Recommendation 4: Enhancement of approach to quality assurance

Commented [32]: do you need to say anything here re. census, given the difficulties they will also have with student populations?

Commented [33]: Agree with Becca need to expand beyond restating the recommendation.

Commented [34]: My general point on the draft as stands, which comes out here and I raised at the All Things meeting, is that although we may not want to get into *all* the detail, it's light on tangibles and should be more assured and clear in terms of what we're going to do, how we're going to do it, and when. E.g. this sentence just repeats back the OSR line, where I think we need to say more for it to mean anything to readers.

Does the article also need to specify more of a timetable, as it just says May 2022 at present. Where more steps along the way or idea of staging of priorities will help build confidence with users...

Commented [35]: Does this need to be more encompassing than just the updates - what about the various forums, expert groups, blogs etc.

Commented [36]: I think this section could read a bit clearer and does it rely on people knowing the distinction between ABMEs and LTIM?

There were three elements to this recommendation and our plans to respond are as follows.

Collaborate with others to learn from best practice

We will engage with stakeholders and other producers of estimates and projections to share best practices on quality assurance. We will also continue to investigate sensitivity analysis around the estimates to further enhance our approach to quality assurance, and to better understand and describe potential uncertainty around the estimates and projections.

Incorporate local insight and evidence as part of its deep dives and investigations into issues

As part of our approach in developing case studies (outlined above) we will seek local insights and evidence. We will use the findings from these case studies and deep dives to shape our approach to the use of local insights in our development of estimates and projections.

Run sensitivity analyses to accompany the existing estimates and explain to users how these analyses should be interpreted

We will explore the potential to include sensitivity analyses alongside the mid-year population estimates, their fit with our existing uncertainty measures and how users might interpret them.

Recommendation 5: Supporting users' understanding of the uncertainty associated with ONS statistics

Research and implement additional ways to communicate the uncertainty around the population estimates and projections, beyond the use of confidence intervals and variant projections.

We will consider the alternative ways to communicate uncertainty, possibly seeking feedback from users on suggested approaches. We will consider publishing a paper on uncertainty which will be accessible to a wide range of users. This paper could discuss uncertainty, uses and limitations but also refer to more technical uncertainty work already published.

Commented [37]: Is there a reason why we are more tentative on this recommendation?

Provide more specific guidance on interpreting the levels of uncertainty associated with the statistics, to help users understand the appropriate use of the statistics for short-term planning compared with longer-term planning

We aim to provide more guidance in bulletins and other methodology documentation to help users to understand how to use the population estimates and population projections in short and longer-term planning.

Recommendation 6: Maximising the use of ONS variant projections

This recommendation centred on the variant projections published as part of all population and household projections releases.

Expand on the support it gives users to illustrate where the use of these alternative projections may be beneficial and develop case studies of where they have been used in practice

We will explore the potential to provide more guidance to users on the variant projections which are normally included in each release. More specifically we will look at the possible benefits a user guide on variants would have for our users, possibly using feedback from our recent [user engagement exercise](#) of autumn 2020 to help with this process. At the same time, we will discuss with existing users how their use of variant projections may be used as case studies to help non-expert users understand when to use variant projections with reference to the principal projection.

Recommendation 7: Ensuring that ONS statistics remain relevant to users

The relevance of our statistics is of great importance to us.

Commented [38]: something here about the potential webinar, other conferences / events?

Take a more open and constructive approach to responding to user engagement by improving its complaints procedure and viewing challenge as an opportunity to improve the statistics and outputs. A fully open approach will help ONS demonstrate its commitment to user engagement and ensure a range of perspectives are fed into the development of the statistics.

We will do more to inform users of population estimates and projections about how concerns and feedback can be provided on the data and methods we use to develop these statistics. This may include further guidance in newsletters and bulletins.

Reflect and learn from its experience of challenging user engagement and identify potential solutions and best practice from the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics.

All user feedback is of great importance to us and we will review and redevelop our approach to handling challenging user feedback. We frequently engage with users, always welcome feedback and have engaged with those who wish to comment on and challenge our methods and statistics. In doing this we will also consider the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics in developing best practice and solutions.

Recommendation 8: Increasing public value of ONS statistics and supporting their use

Carry out user engagement to understand who is using the data and for what purposes. Through this, it should promote the appropriate use of the data.

As already outlined, user engagement and ensuring the relevance and suitability of our statistics is important to us. In autumn 2020 we completed a user engagement exercise on the national and subnational population projections to understand how these are used at present and what users require in the future. Where possible, we will continue to complete such engagements across our statistics to fully understand who is using the data and for what purposes. We will then respond to this to ensure that we are able to guide users on the appropriate use of our statistics.

Collaborate with experts to frame the statistics for different audiences and scenarios, presenting appropriate use cases of the data.

In collaboration with experts and users, we will explore the potential for case studies which will show how our statistics are being used. Examples of appropriate uses could be included in the proposed user guide on variant projections.

5. Next steps and stakeholder feedback on our planned approach

ONS continue to welcome feedback on the planned approach we have outlined to respond to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. Please provide feedback to us at pop.info@ons.gov.uk.

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to provide updates on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make. We will make clear when we publish research which addresses the issues raised by the OSR review.

Sign up to the Population Statistics newsletter (*insert info on how to subscribe*) to receive the latest updates.

6. Related links

[Population and migration statistics system transformation -- overview](#)

Latest update on our population and migration statistics transformation journey.

[Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 June 2021

Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020

[National population projections: 2018 based](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 October 2019

Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

[Subnational population projections for England: 2018-based](#)

Bulletin | Released 24 March 2020

Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

[Household projections for England: 2018-based](#)

Bulletin | Released 29 June 2020

Commented [39]: I wondered whether this does convey taking a more open and constructive approach sufficiently in both tone and content. Agree with Jay that we could point beyond what we will provide e.g. in newsletters and focus on forums and approaches for engagement and dialogue?

Commented [40]: I think it would be worth setting this in the context of wider next steps/engagement we will continue to do across ONS on population statistics, not just through OSR review, but on Census, wider transformation journey – so it's clear that engagement is at the heart of this bigger picture and draws links to the wider transformation work across the office.

Commented [41]: Waiting for guidance from SET.

Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

EMAIL 61 (INCL. ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION) END

EMAIL 62 (ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION) START

Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

Official sensitive draft until 9.30 on 26 July 2021

An outline of future plans for research on population estimates and projections

1. ONS population statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Centre for Ageing and Demography produces a range of population statistics including [national statistics designated mid-year population estimates, national and subnational \(England\) population projections](#) and [household projections \(England\)](#). We work with external experts and groups to:

- ensure we continue to monitor and understand UK population change and learn from international experts, research institutes and national statistical institutes;
- research and make methodological improvements to our statistical production processes including the use of data science and quality assurance techniques;
- understand and integrate new data sources to enhance our statistics; and,
- seek user, expert demographer and expert methodologist feedback and input through our review and development processes.

Some of these initiatives are part of the [transformation of the population and migration system](#). This is a long-term project which aims to change our approach to producing population and migration statistics by embedding administrative data sources into these statistics.

In June 2021 we published the latest [mid-year population estimates for 2020](#) and an update on [future plans for population and household projections](#) after Census 2021.

Wider context to population statistics around Census 2021

The mid-2021 population estimates for England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be based primarily on the results of the 2021 censuses adjusted for births, deaths and migration in the period between census day and mid-year 2021. Mid-2021 population estimates for Scotland will be rolled forward from 2020 as the census in Scotland is taking place in March 2022.

Following the publication of the Census [2021 results for England and Wales](#), we will conduct reconciliation work to understand how and why the estimates based on Census 2021 differ from those based on the mid-year estimates rolled from 2011. The insights gained will be used to improve the production of future population estimates and projections and will result in a revised back series of population estimates for the period 2012 to 2020, which will

Commented [42]: James, This is the para from the MYE release. I've kept it as is and just added 'and projections' after '...gained will be used to improve population estimates'. It now repeats some of the para above though. I've suggested deleting the sentence above but moving the last phrase to the end of the Census para. Not sure what you think.

increase the coherence between the census and mid-year estimates and provide a revised back-series of input data for our projections.

2. OSR and its review of population estimates and projections

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. It assesses official statistics for compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and reports on system-wide issues and on how statistics are used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

In May 2021 OSR published a [review of population estimates and projections](#) which was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based.

ONS always welcomes and invites feedback on our statistics and engaged with OSR as part of the review. We are grateful for the review insights from OSR. Whilst we welcome the OSR have found our “approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally” this article sets out our response to the recommendations published in the final review and our plans for implementing them.

3. Outcomes from the OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections

OSR review - overall findings

In its [executive summary](#), the OSR review found:

2. *ONS collaborates with a range of experts to determine the methods, data and assumptions which underpin the population estimates and projections. Its approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally. One area of challenge has been migration, where there are limitations in the data available. ONS has sought to address this challenge by introducing some methodological fixes, such as the way students leaving university are identified. However, more needs to be done to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with students and outward migration.*

3. *ONS has a number of methods for quality assuring the statistics, including deep dives, triangulation of data it holds and comparisons against historic data. ONS developed a range of variant projections to cater for the different uses of the data. We recommend that ONS develops case studies of how these variants are being used in practice to support their use more widely, as some users were unclear on which variants would best cater to their needs.*

4. *ONS engages regularly with experts, academia, and other users, and participates in relevant events and conferences. We found that while ONS is good at sharing its work outwardly, there is room for improvement in the way it takes on board feedback and handles challenge. We would like to see ONS be more open and responsive to issues when they first arise and view challenge as an opportunity to improve outputs and not a criticism of its approach. We recognise that ONS is balancing competing priorities, but a more open and constructive approach to responding to user feedback would create opportunities for ONS to continually improve the population estimates and projections, and ensure users feel listened to.*

Areas for action by ONS

There were three areas of action for ONS to take in response to OSR findings – these were Improving Methods, Enhancing Communication and Embracing Challenge. They are described in the [executive summary](#) of the report and are addressed in section 4 ONS planned responses to the OSR review.

4. ONS planned responses to the OSR review

This section outlines our planned actions to address the OSR review recommendations. We also outline actions in progress which contribute towards meeting the recommendations. As we progress through this work plan and publish our findings we will continue to update OSR and our users through our regular Population Statistics newsletter (see the following link to subscribe to the ONS migration and population statistics [mailing list](#)) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022. Where we are not able to implement a recommendation within this timeframe, we will state what has been accomplished and advise users on when we plan to complete the necessary work. We will update users on our progress to meet the recommendations at several intervals between now and May 2022 and we will publish a timeline of planned work with our next update. We always welcome feedback on our data, methods, outputs and statistics and welcome this on the plans we are publishing. For more information on how to feedback to us please see section 5.

In the subsequent sections we outline the overall recommendations from OSR, specific responses required from ONS by OSR and our plans to address these.

Recommendation 1: Ensuring future population statistics are based on sound methods and suitable data

Complete detailed case studies on cities with large student populations

We plan to complete a detailed study of several cities with large student populations using a systematic selection criteria. This work will incorporate relevant, recently completed work and will use data from across ONS which can contribute to this work, including the use of administrative sources. When Census 2021 data becomes available, we will seek to use this to understand implications for mid-year population estimates and projections for cities with large student populations. We will review how recent work using administrative sources (e.g. Home Office Exit Checks, Higher Education Statistics Agency and Pay As You Earn data) can provide insights on student population movement in to and out of local areas and explore how student populations change in combination across our population estimates and projections. We will share insights with experts who can review the findings and then consider any further areas which need to be addressed with regard to our measurement of cities with large student populations.

Discuss evidence provided to OSR in the review concerning the impact of assumptions being rolled forward

The ONS Centre for Ageing and Demography engages with experts on an ongoing basis and will seek their feedback on the impact of assumptions being rolled forwards, discuss and review the implications of this and update users on our plans. We will review our user engagement ahead of rounds of subnational population and household projections to explore how we can further include local insights and information in our population estimates and projections.

Ensure concerns raised regarding the current methods are considered throughout the development of admin-based population estimates (ABPEs)

ONS continues to engage with a range of stakeholders on the methods for the admin-based population estimates including topic experts, academics, NSIs and a range of users of population statistics. We plan to publish an update on what we have learnt about the quality of our ABPEs in the context of the pandemic and the impact it has had on administrative data sources and how we measure particular population groups, by the end of the 2021. We will be engaging with users on the outcomes of this research to ensure concerns are considered in future iterations of the ABPEs and other transformed population statistics.

Recommendation 2: Enhancing the transparency of developments concerning the quality of the statistics

Integrate a more flexible and responsive approach to methodological changes

We will seek and understand user feedback on our approach to methodological change and consider the best way to integrate the findings from this feedback in the timing, communication and planning of methodological change and the delivery of our statistics. Over the last five years we have made methodological improvements to our estimates and projections and we continue to welcome feedback on both the methodological changes we have made, the way we have gone about these and the resulting statistics. the way we have

Share insights gathered from work to understand the changing nature of migration and population as part of the transformation programme so user views inform the way this work is taken forward

Commented [REDACTED] 43: I think this makes for a challenging delivery plan- if we do everything/much by May 2022 we're excluding Census information and insights gathered from reconciliation and rebasing. The pace will prevent quality. By May 2022 I suspect we'll be unable to say anything concrete just report that we've had lots of conversations. This might be disappointing for all concerned with the review.

Commented [REDACTED] 44R43: Could we say (something like) that "Some of the solutions and improvements will become clearer once data from the 2021 census are available, but where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022."

Commented [REDACTED] 45R43: Thanks Neil - good idea. We'll look at drafting a passage about our planned use of the census (developing what was in the MYEs).

Commented [REDACTED] 46: Nigel - this is in response to feedback from Becca that we should have a timetable or "more steps along the way or idea of staging of priorities will help build confidence with users..."

Are we comfortable with this commitment to do this in our next update?

Commented [REDACTED] 47: do you need to say anything here re. census, given the difficulties they will also have with student populations?

Commented [REDACTED] 48R47: James, can you help with drafting this please. I've added a sentence but I'm not sure this is what's wanted here.

Commented [REDACTED] 49R47: A point on census has been added but I am not sure it entirely responds to the comment.

Commented [REDACTED] 50: My general point on the draft as stands, which comes out here and I raised at the All Things meeting, is that although we may not want to get into *all* the detail, it's light on tangibles and should be more assured and clear in terms of what we're going to do, how we're going to do it, and when. E.g. this sentence just repeats back the OSR line, where I think we need to say more for it to mean anything to readers.

Does the article also need to specify more of a timetable, as it just says May 2022 at present. Where more steps along the way or idea of staging of priorities will help build confidence with users...

Commented [REDACTED] 51: UZ: Agree with Becca need to expand beyond restating the recommendation.

Commented [REDACTED] 52: [REDACTED] - what can we add here?

Commented [REDACTED] 53R52: I've added some text here but see my comment below on an additional point.

I'm not sure the audience will be concerned with how we organise ourselves internally but if so, I would suggest saying something along the lines of 'ONS demography experts are working closely with other areas of the office to ensure ABPEs are fit for purpose'

Commented [REDACTED] 54: Over the last decade we explicitly aimed to minimise disruption to users by bundling methodological changes into one package - it might be worth saying this. Given transformation and migration changes we're looking at a much 'choppier' sequence of revisions over the coming years. It's good to check the appetite of users for the regular disruption they'll be under.

Within our Transformation Overview updates, expert group meetings, blogs, conference presentations and publications we continually seek user feedback on our future plan. We will now seek to:

- share the insights the work is providing in a timely manner.
- continue using user feedback to inform the way the work is taken forwards and where possible outline how user feedback has done this already.

Recommendation 3: Continuation of plans for the future of migration data

ONS's migration team should be open with users about its short-term solution to bridge the gap of migration data until the administrative data alternative is fit for purpose and ready to use

In June 2020, alongside our 2020 mid-year population estimates, the ONS Centre for International Migration updated [plans for the development of administrative based migration estimates \(ABMEs\)](#). It reflected the challenges in using administrative sources to measure migration. First, they are estimated using actual behaviours, which entails waiting at least 12 months after a person has moved to or left the UK before being able to identify them as a migrant. This would result in significant time lags for migration statistics if these sources are used in isolation. Secondly, we have also identified gaps in these data that are harder to measure, such as students, children and UK citizens.

Reflecting this, the future development of ABMEs will need to be supported by statistical modelling. This will build on the development of [our previous modelling research](#) published in April 2021 and our [ABMEs research](#), with a greater focus on the use of Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) data. This will make these statistics timelier and improve coverage. ABMEs will also allow insightful analysis on subpopulations of migrants, including migrant workers, students and families and dependents.

In our future publications we will continue to address this recommendation, reporting on the development of Admin Based Migration Estimates (ABMEs) supported by statistical modelling to produce estimates of international migration. We will provide an update in autumn 2021 as we build on our methods to keep users informed of our progress.

Recommendation 4: Enhancement of approach to quality assurance

Collaborate with others to learn from best practice

We will engage with stakeholders and other producers of [estimates and projections](#) to share and further learn from best practices on quality assurance. We will also continue to investigate sensitivity analysis around the estimates to further enhance our approach to quality assurance, and to better understand and describe potential uncertainty around the estimates and projections. This will include engagement with expert advisory groups and through speaking with other statistical offices and producers of population estimates and projections.

Incorporate local insight and evidence as part of its deep dives and investigations into issues

As part of our approach in developing case studies (outlined above) we will seek local insights and evidence. We will use the findings from these case studies and deep dives to shape our approach to the use of local insights in our development of estimates and projections.

Run sensitivity analyses to accompany the existing estimates and explain to users how these analyses should be interpreted

We will explore the potential to include sensitivity analyses alongside the mid-year population estimates, their fit with our existing uncertainty measures and how users might interpret them.

Recommendation 5: Supporting users' understanding of the uncertainty associated with ONS statistics

Research and implement additional ways to communicate the uncertainty around the population estimates and projections, beyond the use of confidence intervals and variant projections.

We will consider the alternative ways to communicating uncertainty and consider publishing a paper on uncertainty which is accessible to a wide range of users and which explains the origins of uncertainty, helps with use of the population estimates and projections, explains limitations in their use and also refers to more technical uncertainty work already published. In developing this we will ensure that we are meeting user need through seeking feedback to ensure this contributes to helping user understanding.

Commented [55]: LIZ:
I think this section could read a bit clearer and does it rely on people knowing the distinction between ABMEs and LTIM?

Commented [56]: Chris – please review this.

Commented [57]: maybe just say statistics?

Commented [58]: FYI we did try to do something like this a few years back ("Quality and utility of population statistics") but we've never been resourced to do these things properly. A draft document exists but it's a long way from being complete.

Provide more specific guidance on interpreting the levels of uncertainty associated with the statistics, to help users understand the appropriate use of the statistics for short-term planning compared with longer-term planning

Related to the point above on communicating uncertainty, we will provide more guidance in bulletins and other methodology documentation to help users to understand how to use the population estimates and population projections in short and longer-term planning.

Recommendation 6: Maximising the use of ONS variant projections

Expand on the support it gives users to illustrate where the use of these alternative projections may be beneficial and develop case studies of where they have been used in practice

We will explore the potential to provide more guidance to users on the variant projections which are normally included in each release. More specifically we will look at the benefits a user guide on variants would have for our users, including use of feedback from our recent [user engagement exercise](#) of autumn 2020 to help with this process. We will discuss with existing users how their use of variant projections may be used as case studies to help non-expert users understand when to use variant projections with reference to the principal projection.

Recommendation 7: Ensuring that ONS statistics remain relevant to users

Take a more open and constructive approach to responding to user engagement by improving its complaints procedure and viewing challenge as an opportunity to improve the statistics and outputs. A fully open approach will help ONS demonstrate its commitment to user engagement and ensure a range of perspectives are fed into the development of the statistics

We welcome and value all feedback. We will do more to inform users of population estimates and projections about how share their views on the data and methods we use to develop these statistics. We will ensure our complaints procedure is clear and accessible. In addition to inviting feedback in our correspondence and publications, we will highlight this and any further guidance in newsletters and bulletins.

We have engaged with those who wish to comment on and challenge our methods and statistics. We are always looking to develop new opportunities to engage and involve our users and will also continue our ongoing engagement with users at relevant conferences and events.

We are holding stakeholder engagement events to give users the opportunity to discuss this OSR review with us (for more information please see section 5). We will hold a further event for us to present findings from our work outlined in this plan in response to the recommendations.

Reflect and learn from its experience of challenging user engagement and identify potential solutions and best practice from the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics.

All user feedback is important to us and we will review and redevelop our approach to handling challenging user feedback. In doing this we will also consider the [User Engagement Strategy for Statistics](#) in developing best practice and solutions.

Recommendation 8: Increasing public value of ONS statistics and supporting their use

Carry out user engagement to understand who is using the data and for what purposes. Through this, it should promote the appropriate use of the data.

As already outlined, user engagement and ensuring the relevance and suitability of our statistics is important to us. In autumn 2020 we completed a user engagement exercise on the national and subnational population projections to understand how these are used at present and what users require in the future. We will continue to complete such engagements across our statistics, including the mid-year estimates, to fully understand who is using the data and for what purposes. We will then respond to this to ensure that we are able to guide users on the appropriate use of our statistics.

Collaborate with experts to frame the statistics for different audiences and scenarios, presenting appropriate use cases of the data.

Commented [59]: Original comment from Liz: I wondered whether this does convey taking a more open and constructive approach sufficiently in both tone and content. Agree with Jay that we could point beyond what we will provide e.g. in newsletters and focus on forums and approaches for engagement and dialogue?

Suggest that updated text resolves this.

In collaboration with experts and users, we will explore the potential for case studies which will show how our statistics are being used. Examples of appropriate uses could be included in the proposed user guide on variant projections.

5. Next steps and stakeholder feedback on our planned approach

ONS continue to welcome feedback on the planned approach we have outlined to respond to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. Please provide feedback to us [at `at.pop.info@ons.gov.uk`](mailto:at.pop.info@ons.gov.uk). We will be holding a stakeholder engagement event to give users an opportunity to discuss, feedback and ask any questions about our responses to the OSR review.

Commented [REDACTED]0]: Link out to the Eventbrite website

ONS is committed to reviewing its population statistics through a fresh approach to the Census and the wider transformation of the population and migration system which will embed administrative sources into population and migration statistics. Users can feedback on our [proposals for the content design and release of Census 2021 data and analysis](#) from now until 5 October 2021. In the autumn we are consulting on what a future population and migration statistical system will look like. We regularly engage with users to ensure they are aware of how this wider programme of work is progressing and to seek feedback from them on their future requirements and the planned direction of our work.

Commented [REDACTED]51]: I've proposed these but need to check them out with Andy Teague.

Commented [REDACTED]52R61]: Emailed, waiting to hear.

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to provide updates on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make. We will make clear when we publish research which addresses the issues raised by the OSR review and also how it fits into the wider review of population statistics across ONS.

Commented [REDACTED]63]: I think it would be worth setting this in the context of wider next steps/engagement we will continue to do across ONS on population statistics, not just through OSR review, but on Census, wider transformation journey – so it's clear that engagement is at the heart of this bigger picture and draws links to the wider transformation work across the office.

Commented [REDACTED]54R63]: Can someone help with this? – I don't have enough information on what these activities are.

Commented [REDACTED]5R63]: I've put a few points in the para above. See what you think and check it out w/ Andy Teague

Sign up to the Population Statistics newsletter (subscribe to the ONS migration and population statistics [mailing list here](#)) to receive the latest updates.

6. Related links

[Population and migration statistics system transformation - recent updates](#)

Article | Released 25 June 2021

Latest update on our population and migration statistics transformation journey.

[Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 June 2021

Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020.

[Household projections for England: 2018-based](#)

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Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

[National population projections: 2018 based](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 October 2019

Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

EMAIL 62 (ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION) END

EMAIL 63 START

From: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 July 2021 14:17

To: Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Hi James

Thanks for the below.

I agree with Becca and Jay.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Kerry

From: Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 July 2021 12:22
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

I thought this was good James. I agree with Becca's comments though, about being a bit more specific re. actions and dates and linking up with the wider programmes a bit more, I've added in a comment of my own re. students and census. I would also add in a bit more about specific stakeholder events, like the potential webinar and relevant conferences..

Cheers
Jay

Jay Lindop | Deputy Director of the [Centre for International Migration](#) | Public Policy Analysis directorate |
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@jaylindop](#) ONS | [@ONS](#)

We work flexibly at ONS. I sent this email at a time that suited me, I don't expect you to read it or reply outside of your working hours

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 July 2021 08:51
To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Freeman, David <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Darren <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Webber, Dominic <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Silk, Leah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Hi all,
Thanks Liz and everyone for your comments on this draft.

I completely understand feedback about 'tangible details'. In the previous version we had more details but edited many out following advice from the HoPs office. We'll look at putting some of these back in and address the other feedback.

Best wishes

James

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 July 2021 22:31
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Freeman, David <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Darren <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Webber, Dominic <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Silk, Leah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Hi James,

Many thanks to you and colleagues for your work on this. The approach of the document with blog and letter alongside seems the right one.

I've added some comments to the document but in terms of an overarching comment I share some concerns that Becca raised at the All things group (and in the document) about whether we do in places need more tangible details and plans in our responses to provide assurance to users we are both listening and acting. There were also a couple of points where I thought we might want to make sure we had the right tone in the document given one of the recommendations itself is to ensure we are open and constructive in our engagements, this seems particularly important. To that end I wondered whether it might be worth getting the fresh view of someone in Comms on the document as a whole? Finally there is a lot of emphasis on us producing things but I think good if we can also highlight the range of engagement activities underway and planned that demonstrate we are open to both feedback and external expertise.

Hope this helps – happy to discuss if helpful.

Liz

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | @Liz_McKeown

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2021 09:11
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Good news.

[REDACTED]
From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 July 2021 10:17
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: All things population, migration and labour market

Hi [REDACTED]

Rich is fine with our approach here.

Best wishes

James

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 July 2021 10:27
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Thanks James – perfectly happy with that approach.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira](https://twitter.com/RichPereira) ONS

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 July 2021 07:15
To: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: All things population, migration and labour market

Hi Rich,

Nigel and I discussed sign off of the OSR response yesterday – he has said that he is comfortable with signing this off but said I should check with you about this. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I didn't think it was necessary to write that into the below but please can you just confirm you are fine with this or another route for sign off so we can publish on Monday 26 July. (To mention that we asked for a slot later in that week at the end of July but there was no PST capacity on any other day). We will also have a letter from Jonathan and a Blog where I am seeking some SET and MRO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] input on both to help us out.

Thanks

James

From: Robards, James
Sent: 09 July 2021 07:10
To: Athow, Jonathan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Freeman, David <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Darren <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Webber, Dominic <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Silk, Leah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: All things population, migration and labour market

Dear Liz, Jonathan, All things group,

[REDACTED] Nigel and I have been working on our [response](#) ([SEE: EMAIL 61 ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION](#)) to the OSR [review of population estimates and projections](#) and we would be grateful for your comments on the draft response. We have an unannounced publication date of Monday 26 July (in order to meet the OSR requirement to respond in July). Over the last week or so we have discussed the draft with OSR and the Heads of Profession Statistics Office who are both satisfied / have been positive about our planned approach to responding (format and content in broad terms from a briefing / run through with each).

As time is quite tight, we would be grateful if you could feed back any thoughts please by Tuesday 13 July (Chris has also saved some time for us to discuss this at the All things population .. meeting on Monday). Alongside the article we are writing a letter and blog post (both based on the article but with different emphasis). OSR were particularly keen on a blog, feeding back to us that they consider the blog format is one which has been working well over recent months.

Please feel free to make any changes to the document via track changes or send comments via email. [REDACTED] has granted editor access but please let both [REDACTED] (cc'd) and [REDACTED] know if you have difficulties accessing the document and we will resolve it as soon as possible.

Best wishes

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 March 2021 13:36

To: Athow, Jonathan; Henretty, Nigel; McKeown, Liz; Freeman, David; Pereira, Rich; James, Mike; Stickney, Chris; Morgan, Darren; Robards, James

Cc: Briggs, Rebecca; Silk, Leah; Lindop, Jay; Webber, Dominic

Subject: All things population, migration and labour market

When: 12 July 2021 13:30-14:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

EMAIL 63 END

EMAIL 64 START

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2021 10:04

To: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Freeman, David <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: All things group, 12 July

Thanks Chris [REDACTED] copying in Nigel.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@RichPereira_ONS](#)

From: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2021 10:03

To: Freeman, David <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: All things group, 12 July

Hi folks

The next All things group is on Monday 12 July. [REDACTED] -I suggest we cover:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

* response to OSR review – James Robards was keen to take this to the all things group.

[REDACTED]

Here is a shell for [slides](#) for the All things group if James you want to drop anything into it. Any feedback on the agendas is welcome!

Best wishes

Chris

Chris Stickney | Assistant Deputy Director of the Centre for International Migration (Migration Analysis and Engagement) | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

EMAIL 64 END

EMAIL 64 ATTACHMENT START

All things group, 12 July 2021

OSR review of population estimates and projections

- OSR reported in May 2021
ONS should report back to us in July 2021 with its plans for addressing our recommendations
- 9.30 on Monday 26 July
- Article outlining our planned responses under each of the eight recommendations
- Commitments – balance of detail / actions
- OSR and HoPs satisfied with approach
- Letter and blog in progress – some further support being sought
- Seeking feedback on what we have outlined – any big issues?

EMAIL 64 ATTACHMENT END

EMAIL 65 START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 July 2021 09:01
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: draft email to Grade 7s

Thanks James. Yes, I meant for you to edit it regarding names etc, I had probably run out of time of Tuesday! I should have said that in my email to you. Apologies!

[REDACTED]
From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 July 2021 15:33
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: draft email to Grade 7s

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for drafting this – I didn't send out exactly as you had drafted and wasn't sure if you were suggesting to use your signature etc so did change that – hope this is ok. I thought it could be confusing otherwise.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 July 2021 17:41
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: draft email to Grade 7s

Dear colleagues,

To : Neil Park, Susan Barton, Dominic Webber, Chris Stickney, Justine McNally, [REDACTED] (check with James)

Cc: James, Nigel, Steve S,

James, Nigel and I have been working on our [response to OSR](#). **[SEE: EMAIL 62 ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION]** on their [review of population estimates and projections](#) and we would be grateful for your comments on the draft response. We have an unannounced publication date of Monday 26 July (in order to meet the OSR requirement to respond in July). Over the last week or so we have discussed the draft with OSR and the Heads of Profession Statistics Office who are both satisfied / have been positive about our planned approach to responding (format and content in broad terms from a briefing / run through with each). On Monday, the article was discussed at the 'All Things Population' group and the version I'm circulating has feedback from that group included.

As time is quite tight, we would be grateful if you could feed back any thoughts please by Friday 16th July . Alongside the article we are writing a letter and blog post (both based on the article but with different emphasis). OSR were particularly keen on a blog, feeding back to us that they consider the blog format is one which has been working well over recent months.

Please feel free to make any changes to the document via track changes or send comments via email to both James and me. I have granted editor access but please let me and [REDACTED] know if you have difficulties accessing the document and as site owners, we will resolve it as soon as possible.

CC'd to Steve – We'd value your thoughts on this article, but please only feed back if you have time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Public Policy Analysis, Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#)

Please note: My working days are Tuesday and Thursday.

EMAIL 65 END

EMAIL 66 START

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 July 2021 13:57

To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Coventry Population figures

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm just looking at this email chain [REDACTED] I'm a little unclear as to what is being asked about here. Is it specifically about the request for the early release of Coventry data from 2021 Census (which I believe has been resolved) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 July 2021 11:30
To: [redacted] Unit <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>;
Athow, Jonathan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>; Wroth-Smith, Jonathan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Coventry Population figures

Hi – just to say, on reflection, yes I think the draft should come from Census and JWS. I was originally suggesting we drafted it because we've had previous correspondence directly but this is more Census focussed that pop ests. I therefore retract my first point below 😊

I still think it would be worth Jonathan having a meeting with MHCLG at some point though. This ties in with the OSR actions we are doing.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#), Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@RichPereira](#) ONS

From: [redacted] Unit <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 July 2021 11:11
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; Athow, Jonathan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>;
Wroth-Smith, Jonathan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Coventry Population figures

Thanks [redacted]

Jonathan Wroth-Smith has said that he can help draft a response and I have sent him Rich's notes below. As the main request of the letter is to release census data early, are we happy for him to be the lead on this?

Another note: as Sir Ian was one of the addressees, I think the response should be issued in his name (unless there is a particularly good reason to send it from JA instead).

Thank you,

[redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted]

UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig

[redacted] [@statistics.gov.uk](#) | [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](#)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk> On Behalf Of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 01 July 2021 10:42
To: [redacted] Unit <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>; Athow, Jonathan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>;
Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Coventry Population figures

Parly,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>

Sent: 30 June 2021 15:44

To: Diamond, Ian <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: Coventry Population figures

Dear Sir Ian

I am attaching a letter which has been co-written by CPRE Warwickshire and KOGG, signed by them and concerned local Warwickshire MPs and the Mayor of the WMCA.

We, and they, look forward to receiving your reply soonest.

With our best wishes

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
CPRE Warwickshire

EMAIL 66 END

EMAIL 66 ATTACHMENT START



CPRE Warwickshire
41a Smith St
Warwick
CV34 4JA

30th June 2021

To Jonathan Athow

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics

[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk

[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

Sir Ian Diamond

National Statistician,

[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

by email and post

1 Drummond Gate

London SW1V 2QQ

Dear Jonathan and Sir Ian

"Better Data Better Decisions"

We are writing to ask for an early release of the Coventry population from the 2021 Census.

While this would be unusual, it is for an exceptionally important purpose. Irreversible planning decisions – about building homes on Shakespeare's Forest of Arden landscape – are being taken now, on the basis of ONS population projections and estimates, which the Office of Statistics Regulation has labelled potentially unreliable. They wrote:

“ We found that the population estimates for some cities such as Coventry, did seem to be inconsistent with, and potentially higher than, local evidence would suggest.”¹

and they went on to direct ONS

“to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with cities with large student populations and communicate its findings publicly, to support the appropriate use of the existing data.”²

The best way to speedily reveal the “root and scale” of the problem, is to publish provisional findings of the census, especially for Coventry – with suitable caveats that they may be subject to minor revision.

Given the huge discrepancy between “local data” based estimates and the ONS estimates, (of the order of 3-400% in 2019: in numbers, of growth of 13000 v 54000 since the last census) there is a grave danger that bad decisions will be made on the basis of bad data –

contrary to the stated central mission of ONS, i.e., ‘Better Data, Better Decisions’.

Even in an approximate way, we urgently need a reality check on the population numbers. Waiting for the scheduled census release in Feb 2022 will be too late (indeed, Warwick District Council’s Head of Planning Services said only last week that he does not expect to see the data before the Autumn of 2022). By then, irreversible decisions will have been made; for example, work has already commenced on a new South Warwickshire Local Plan. If existing figures are allowed to stand, we will needlessly lose a precious piece of our green and pleasant land, which Coventry Council identified in 1995 as

“the only remaining unspoilt area of ancient countryside left in Warwickshire”³

1 Letter from Ed Humpherson to ██████████, 10 May 2021 <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/osr-publishes-its-review-of-population-estimates-and-projections-produced-by-the-office-for-national-statistics/>

2 Review of population estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/review-of-population-estimates-and-projections-produced-by-the-office-for-national-statistics/pages/4/>

3 Design Guidelines for Development in Coventry’s Ancient Arden – A Historic Landscape Area, Coventry Council, May 1995

We trust you will treat this request with seriousness and urgency and we look forward to receiving an early reply.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

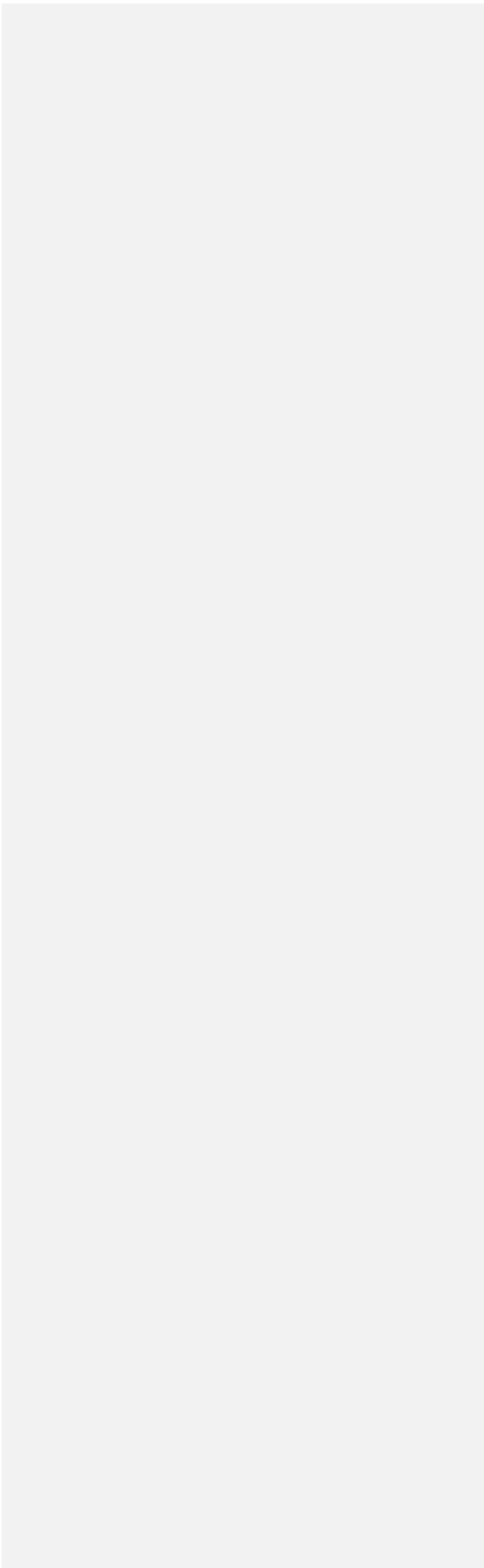
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Keep Our Green Belt Green, Coventry and Warwickshire

Cc: Ed Humpherson, Director General Office of Statistics Regulation.

[REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk

regulation@statistics.gov.uk [attn Ed Humpherson]

cc: Rich Pereira, Deputy Director, Centre for Ageing and Demography

[REDACTED] ons.gov.uk

EMAIL 66 ATTACHMENT END

EMAIL 67 START

From: Robards, James

Sent: 11 May 2021 10:07

To: Henretty, Nigel <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Henretty, Nigel shared "TIMES POPULATION ARTICLE (11-5-21)" with you.

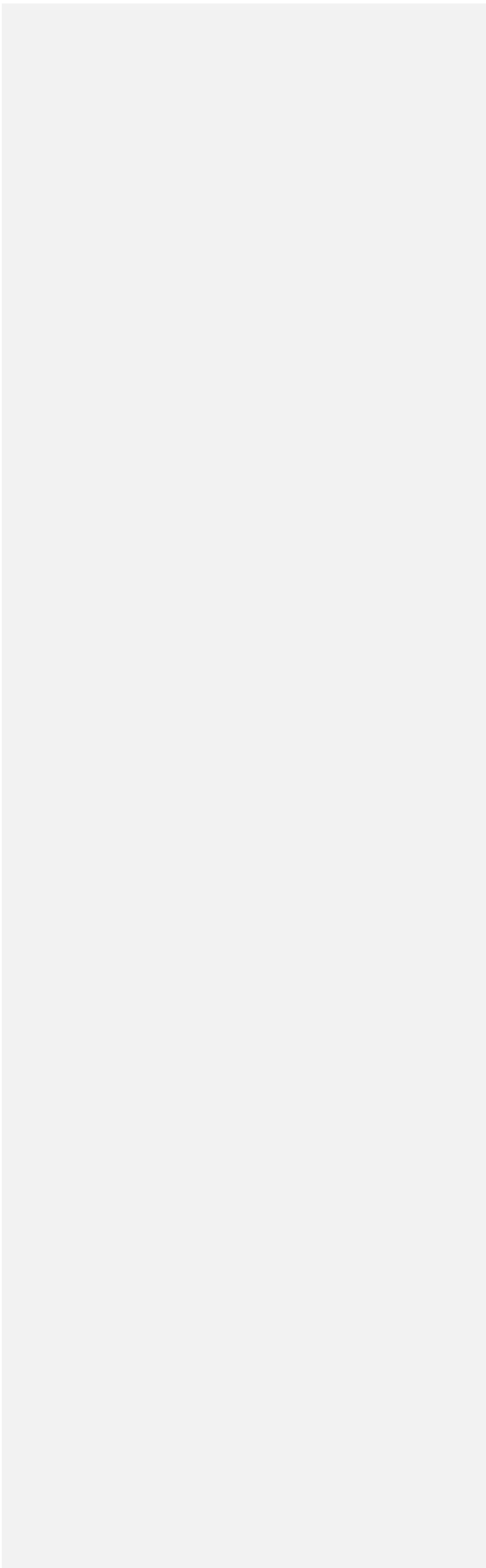
Mine neither – this also misses the point about the projections and policy making / use of them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Best wishes

James

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 11 May 2021 09:30

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Smallwood, Steve <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Henretty, Nigel shared "TIMES POPULATION ARTICLE (11-5-21)" with you.



Henretty, Nigel shared a file with you

Hi all,

FYI, here is the full Times article reporting on the OSR review of population estimates and projections. The key line to note is that "In a report released today, the Office for Statistics Regulation criticised the ONS for failing to listen to concerns and said that it agreed with campaigners that the projections in some areas were wrong." That wasn't my interpretation of the final OSR report.

EMAIL 67 END

EMAIL 67 ATTACHMENT START

Plans for thousands of green belt homes based on 'inconsistent' data

Population forecasts used to justify building thousands of homes on green belt and around the country have been overstated, a watchdog has found. The Office for Statistics Regulation said that ONS population forecasts used by councils to make plans in areas with high student populations were inconsistent with local evidence. The watchdog launched an investigation last year when The Times revealed that [REDACTED] Street, mayor of the West Midlands, had complained that implausible forecasts were being used to justify building thousands of homes around Coventry on green belt land that once formed the Forest of Arden. The ONS predicted that Coventry's population would rise by 32 per cent between 2011 and 2031, twice as much as Birmingham, leading Coventry city council to plan for more than 10,000 new homes. However, campaigners said that the ONS wrongly assumed that foreign students at Warwick and Coventry universities would stay in the area after their studies. They found that the city's vital signs, such as births, jobs, A&E attendances and car registrations, did not match expected growth. In a report released today, the Office for Statistics Regulation criticised the ONS for failing to listen to campaigners and said that the projections in some areas were wrong. The ONS said that it agreed with campaigners that the projections in some areas were wrong. We found that in some smaller cities that had a large student population the population estimates did appear to be inconsistent with, and potentially higher than, local evidence. The report said it added that the ONS needs to investigate the root and scaled the issue associated with cities with large student populations and ordered to report back in July with plans to sort the problem. While national estimates were highly regarded, there is a risk that ONS misses the bigger picture of what the population data inform and is not regularly checking what it does against local insight. It added that projections led to local planning decisions and had far-reaching consequences that could affect policy targets. For some local authorities, this means the over-estimate of population in certain age groups is driving policy targets in different directions to local priorities, said Ed Humpherson, director-general for regulation, said that the ONS should adequately consider local concerns and that it had room for improvement in the way it takes on board feedback and handles challenge. Humpherson confirmed that estimates had been overstated in Guildford, Surrey, but did not name the other towns and cities affected. [REDACTED] who complained the study in Coventry, spurring the review, said that he had found inconsistencies in dozens of towns and cities with large student populations, such as Canterbury in Kent and Exeter in Devon. Street said that he was pleased that the report backed his concerns about the green belt and had already been out. Whilst it is great news that we finally have it in black and white that the ONS overestimated Coventry's population growth, it has come too late for so much of the city's precious green belt that has already been scooped off by developers for housing, he said. An ONS spokesman said that following the report's recognition that several methods were fit for purpose for national level numbers but recognised that there was some variability at local level. We are already progressing much work in this area, he said. We continue to build on new methods, for example exploring ways in which students leaving university are counted, and the established population and migration statistics transformation programme is making increased use of administrative data.

EMAIL 67 ATTACHMENT END

EMAIL 68 START

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 17:00

To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Thanks both, I have made those changes 😊

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 16:33
To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Minor suggestion to remove 'full' because it feels like it might over promise?

Full outline of our work plan to address the recommendations in the OSR review is available

To:
The outline of our work plan to address the recommendations in the OSR review is available

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 16:11
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Slight tweak to align with the wording in the article.

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 15:48
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Hi [REDACTED]

Sending a link to the final version of the article:

[https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/Publishing%20and%20Comms/Future%20plans%20for%20research%20on%20population%20estimates%20and%20projections%20\(final%20published%20version\).docx?d=w96a061130a1440089f3aa122f6e4d4ed&csf=1&web=1&e=nk7GBz](https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/Publishing%20and%20Comms/Future%20plans%20for%20research%20on%20population%20estimates%20and%20projections%20(final%20published%20version).docx?d=w96a061130a1440089f3aa122f6e4d4ed&csf=1&web=1&e=nk7GBz) (VERSION THAT WAS PUBLISHED ON ONS WEBSITE ON 29 JULY 2021)

You might want to look at the draft alongside this.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 15:37
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Hi James,

I've attached the suggested media note (SEE: EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (B)), it's just the opening paragraph from the blog and then a line pointing to the article. Can you take a look and let me know if that additional line is accurate/right terminology please?

Thanks,

■

From: Robards, James <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 12:32
To: Morgan, Maggie <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>; ■■■■■■■■■■ <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Census link looks good.

I'm trying ■■■■■■■■■■ (Jonathan's office).

Thanks

From: Morgan, Maggie <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 12:30
To: Robards, James <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>; ■■■■■■■■■■ <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

How about this for census link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs>

Re the letter: I really don't know, sorry. On the ONS website it will look like this:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/statementsandletters/sambecketttoedhumphersonosrassessmentofhelivingcostsandfoodsurvey>

How about trying Jonathan's private office?

From: Robards, James <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 12:26
To: ■■■■■■■■■■ <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

■■■■■■■■■■ – good to speak. As mentioned, I added the links in apart from the Census 2021 one – you said you'd check with Maggie.

Maggie – re. the letter – how can I get this in the UKSA format (e.g.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/news/statementsandletters/sambecketttoedhumphersonosrassessmentofhelivingcostsandfoodsurvey/lettertoedhumphersonfromsambeckett.pdf>)?

Best wishes

James

From: ■■■■■■■■■■ <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 11:58
To: Morgan, Maggie <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <■■■■■■■■■■@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Thanks Maggie [REDACTED]

James – in the blog I can see there are plans to link out, are you able to update the version with the links please? And there's also a comment about [REDACTED] – do you still want the blog attributed to him?

Thanks,

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 11:41

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see blog below for 09.30 publication tomorrow. When can you supply a url for the blog to James so he can link to it in his email to stakeholders?

Maggie

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 11:27

To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Hi Maggie,

I was writing this earlier on – sending the final, approved, versions of the blog and letter to be used tomorrow morning. When we have a PDF of the letter please can you either let me know or share directly with Suzanne Halls for OSR to use on their site at the same time tomorrow. Thanks.

I will send a link to the final version of the article once the remaining editorial is done very shortly.

1. Jonathan Athow letter to Ed Humpherson
<https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/JA-letter-to-EH.docx?d=w81627dccb69c4870b9f652e8db874aa7&csf=1&web=1&e=TBQiiK> (SEE EMAIL 68 (A) ATTACHMENT)
2. Rich Pereira blog
[https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/OSR%20population%20blog%20\(GG\).docx_MM_JR-v2.docx?d=wd11228a5b4d24cb0adde57fdb972762a&csf=1&web=1&e=0CMNZ7](https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/PPU/Correspondence/Stakeholders/OSR%20review/OSR%20population%20blog%20(GG).docx_MM_JR-v2.docx?d=wd11228a5b4d24cb0adde57fdb972762a&csf=1&web=1&e=0CMNZ7) (SEE EMAIL 17 ATTACHMENT)

With best wishes,

James

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 09:34

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Future plans for research on population ests and projections

Morning James,

When you have the final versions of the article, blog and letter would you send them through to [REDACTED] and I?

[REDACTED] I suggest we do a media note on the blog which links to the article. Maybe one tweet too?

And the letter will need to be published on the ONS website so I'd like to give publishing advance warning of that.

Maggie Morgan | Chief Media & PR Officer

Population & Public Policy | Office for National Statistics

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Office for National Statistics | Room 4300N | Segensworth Road | [REDACTED] | Fareham | PO15 5RR

EMAIL 68 END

EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A) START

Dear Ed

Review of Population Estimates and Projections

Thank you for your review of ONS Population Estimates and Projections. I am grateful for the work of your team in reviewing our population statistics. As always, this was a thorough review and will help us to improve our statistics. I appreciate that you have recognised that while our approach is generally fit for purpose and highly regarded internationally, there are some areas for improvement.

ONS is committed to addressing the OSR recommendations and has detailed how we plan to do this in our publication 'Future plans for research on population estimates and projections'.

We will deliver several parallel streams of work over the coming months:

Improving methods

ONS will undertake further research on cities with large student populations through completing detailed case studies using a wide range of data sources. We will seek to integrate local insights and knowledge, update on the progression of the work and communicate findings. Alongside this we will seek user feedback on how we can best deliver a more flexible, timely and responsive approach to methodological change.

Enhancing communication

We will continue to publish regular updates on our transformation of population and migration statistics (to put administrative data at the core of what we do), using our Transformation Overview page on the ONS website.

Through spring and summer 2021 we have been open about our work producing migration statistics using administrative data supported by statistical modelling. We will continue to update users as we move forwards.

We will provide further guidance on interpreting levels of uncertainty in our population estimates and

Commented [R66]: Think this needs breaking into two sentences as tone reads a little oddly brought together.

Commented [R66]: I have edited this

Commented [R8]: Under each of these headers we address the three key themes at <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/review-of-population-estimates-and-projections-produced-by-the-office-for-national-statistics/>

Commented [R68]: Do you need a bit more detail in these paras so the letter works okay as a standalone for people who haven't read the report.

Commented [R68]: I have added in some more content under each of the headers

Commented [R1]: Repeats methodological change twice – perhaps. Alongside this we will seek user feedback on how we can best deliver a more flexible, timely and responsive approach to methodological change

Commented [R72]: For review by Chris Stickney

Commented [R72]: All done. I've amended as modelling is going to be a core part of how we produce migration statistics.

Commented [R72]: Super - thanks Chris.

projections. As Census 2021 data becomes available, we will use this in reconciliation and rebasing of our mid-year population estimates and as a new base for our projections, communicating the outcomes of this work.

Active engagement

Feedback on our statistics is of the utmost importance to us. We will continue to engage regularly with our users to fully understand who is using our data and for what purposes. We will do more to inform users of how they can share their views on the data and methods we use. We are always looking to develop new opportunities to engage and involve users of our statistics and will also continue our ongoing engagement with users at relevant conferences, events and groups.

We will report back to you on a quarterly basis starting in October 2021, outlining our progress, as well as continuing to keep our users regularly informed throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Athow

Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Economic Statistics

EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A) END

EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (B) START

Ensuring our population statistics meet the needs of everyone

The impact of the pandemic and Brexit means there has never been a greater need to understand changes in our population. In this blog Rich Pereira explains some priority areas for our population estimates and projections, on-going user engagement and our response to the recent Office for Statistics Regulation review of our population statistics.

Read the blog [[link](#)]

Full outline of our work plan to address the recommendations in the OSR review is available here: [Future plans for research on population estimates and projections](#)

EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (B) END

EMAIL 69 START

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 July 2021 14:52

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: For sign-off - letter to Ed Humpherson (OSR Review of population estimates and projections)

Hi both – this looks great – happy especially with the blog to go in my name.

Well done!

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@RichPereira_ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 11:26

To: Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For sign-off - letter to Ed Humpherson (OSR Review of population estimates and projections)

Thanks Jonathan, I have updated the draft to reflect both of those thoughts.

Best wishes

James

From: Athow, Jonathan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 09:55

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Rhodes, Becky <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For sign-off - letter to Ed Humpherson (OSR Review of population estimates and projections)

James,

Looks good to me. Just two thoughts:

1) to add a new sentence between 2nd and 3rd sentences of first para along the lines: "As always, this was a thorough review and will help us to improve our statistics."

2) do we want to call the final section 'embrace challenge'. If this is mirroring the OSR report I suppose fine, but a better phrase would be 'active engagement'.

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

The latest ONS data and statistics on Covid-19 can be found here: [ONS.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://ons.gov.uk/coronavirus)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 July 2021 17:29

To: Athow, Jonathan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: For sign-off - letter to Ed Humpherson (OSR Review of population estimates and projections)

Dear Jonathan,

As you know [REDACTED] in PSD we have been working on our response to the OSR review of population estimates and projections. At 9:30am on Thursday 29 July we plan to publish an article, blog and letter.

For sign-off, I am sending you the [letter to Ed Humpherson](#) (SEE: EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A)) (which we plan for you to be the signatory of). Could you please review and suggest any further edits on Monday. This letter will also be published on the OSR website on Thursday.

To help with the context to the letter, the following will also be published on Thursday 29 July:

- [Article](#) – this has been submitted for editorial review (we therefore cannot make big changes at this point; editorial changes are pending).
- [Blog](#) (SEE: EMAIL 17 ATTACHMENT) – (we have this as being by Rich) drafted by [REDACTED] reviewed by Maggie Morgan and Miles Fletcher.

Should there be any issue in accessing the links, please let me know.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 69 END

EMAIL 70 START

From: McKeown, Liz <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 07 May 2021 08:49

To: ██████████ <██████████ [Statistics.gov.uk](#)>; Athow, Jonathan <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Cc: Humpherson, Edward <██████████ [statistics.gov.uk](#)>; Gregory, Mary <██████████ [Statistics.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: RE: OSR Population projections review

Thanks ██████████ There are a wealth of useful insights and recommendations here. I do however have a significant concern over one paragraph – namely paragraph 2.3

At the subnational level, it is widely understood by users that the accuracy of the estimates will be variable due to factors such as the size and mobility of the population in a given area. We found that in some smaller cities that had a large student population, the population estimates did appear to be higher than local evidence suggests. ONS's population estimates team recognises that areas with high population churn are harder to estimate and it has introduced a number of methodological changes, which are detailed later in this report, aimed at mitigating this issue. However, these fixes have not done enough to address the overestimation of these groups in some areas. This has led to an over reliance on insufficiently robust data to inform local planning decisions such as the need to build additional schools and housing.

In particular the statement that we haven't done enough to address overestimation implies that either the true value is known or that the local evidence (i.e. from Coventry) is closer to the true value than the official estimates. We can't see how that has been ascertained. The statement 'This has led to an over reliance...' also appears to go beyond the scope you have set yourself in your review.

The recommendation that follows this para 2.6a is also drafted differently to how it appears in the exec summary and letter and appears to have a different implication.

There are a few other areas where it would be useful to understand your thinking during the call but I thought it helpful to highlight this particular one ahead of it.

Best

Liz

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [@Liz_McKeown](#)

From: ██████████ <██████████ [Statistics.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 06 May 2021 14:34

To: Athow, Jonathan <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>; McKeown, Liz <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Cc: Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR Population projections review

Hi Both,

Ahead of the call tomorrow, please find attached our report and letter concerning the population estimates and projections.

If you have any questions in the meantime, do let me know.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: Athow, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 11:31

To: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>;

McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: OSR Population projections review

Mary,

That all sounds fine. And happy to see things today if that works for you.

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics

'phone [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] | Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

The latest ONS data and statistics on Covid-19 can be found here: [ONS.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://ons.gov.uk/coronavirus)

From: Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 11:13

To: Athow, Jonathan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Humpherson, Edward <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>;

McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: OSR Population projections review

Hi Jonathan,

Hopefully you are aware we are planning to publish our review of population projections on Monday, we plan to publish the report in the morning and publish the letter to you in the afternoon. Your team have seen the draft report and we're finalising it now including considering their comments. We thought it might be worth talking you through it very briefly before it's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Of course, if you don't want to or feel you need to that's fine and hopefully Liz feels she has been well sighted.

We can send you a draft of the report and letter later today or tomorrow first thing, but with no expectation that you will have had time to look at it before we meet (I'm not sure if you've already seen anything?).

Thanks,

Mary

Mary Gregory (she/her) | Office for Statistics Regulation

Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] [statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk) | Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](https://www.statistics.gov.uk) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](https://twitter.com/StatsRegulation)

You can access the interactive [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) here.

EMAIL 70 END

EMAIL 71 START

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2021 15:34
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Lines to take

Hi [REDACTED] I drafted this earlier but forgot to send it to you!

I've just looked at the lines to take that are being used. The signed off version is here =>
https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/w:/r/sites/PopStatsProjections/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B6CF2913C-7794-480B-9F09-6972B589D464%7D&file=OSR%20review%20-%20lines%20to%20take.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true (SEE: EMAIL 58
ATTACHMENT (B))

I had a look at yours and couldn't think of any extra questions. I may have tweaked the odd word but I can't remember now. I asked James to look at them and sign them off. It looks as though he's kept all of the ones that you drafted as they were, and added three questions...

One about the case studies and when we'd do them and why we'd not done them already, one about whether a more detailed response would be published, and one about whether the estimates and projections were still fit for purpose.

So thank you for drafting them, they were exactly what was needed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Public Policy Analysis, Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | www.ons.gov.uk

Please note: My working days are Tuesday and Thursday.

EMAIL 71 END

EMAIL 72 START

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 July 2021 15:21
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Keane, Beck <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Engagement roadmap

Hi all,

Items published forming the response to OSR are:

Letter

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/statementsandletters/jonathanathowtoedhumphersonosreviewofpopulationestimatesandprojections>

Article

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/futureplansforresearchonpopulationestimatesandprojections/2021-07-29>

Blog

<https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2021/07/29/ensuring-our-population-statistics-meet-the-needs-of-everyone>

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Thanks.

Best wishes

James

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:48

To: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Teague, [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Staples, Victoria <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Engagement roadmap

Hi Nigel

Thank you so much for the comments, and no problem on getting back to me, this is expected to be a 'living document' so happy to update and reflect.

I have included [redacted] and Vicky who are the leads on the engagement side and are holding the pen on the engagement stuff.

Thanks

From: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:45

To: Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Engagement roadmap

FYI, attached is the "roadmap" my reply to [redacted] email is talking about.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[redacted] | [redacted]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

From: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:44

To: Keane, Beck <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Engagement roadmap

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delayed reply to your email. I think the engagement roadmap is looking good. There are a couple of things you could add for population statistics:

1. The period for feedback on the outputs to be included in the 2020-based interim National Population Projections closes on 2nd September (having opened on Thursday 22nd July when we held a user engagement event)
2. OSR response to be published this Thursday (29th July) and we are planning to have a briefing session on this at 1pm on Thursday, to which we will invite users who initiated/contributed to the review as well as our wider stakeholders
3. We plan to publish "regular" updates on our work to address the OSR recommendations. In practice I think this means publishing (as a minimum) one update in October to include a timetable of research and plans, one update on progress in early 2022 and another, fuller update in May 2023, which is when OSR expect us to have "addressed" the recommendations.

I'm copying in James, who has led the work, and [REDACTED] who will be involved in the coordination of the subsequent research resulting from the OSR review.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 30 June 2021 10:44

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Engagement roadmap

Hi Nigel

Following on from the delivery roadmap session, the engagement teams have been thinking through the engagement roadmap.

I have 'had a go' at doing this for some of the things you mentioned around MYE and the OSR response work. Could you have a look to see if this seems reasonable?

If there is anything obvious I have missed please let me know and I can add it in. we hope this will be a living document so we expect to update regularly so it doesn't need to be everything you think you will do, just some overarching engagement that is happening

We are trying to categorise the engagement as one of the below broad areas

Influencing

Commitment

Collaboration

Feedback

Confidence building

Promotion

[Redacted]

From: Park, Neil
Sent: 07 May 2021 14:43
To: Henretty, Nigel <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Yep – I'll produce a few slides to aid discussion.

From: Henretty, Nigel <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 May 2021 13:15
To: Stickney, Chris <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi Chris,

I think the plan is for Neil to add his slides on the mid-year estimates to [James' slides on the plans for projections](#) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[Redacted] | [Redacted]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Stickney, Chris <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 May 2021 12:28
To: Henretty, Nigel <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi Nigel

Have you had a chance to look at the UKPTAB slides as a whole? [REDACTED]

Chris

Chris Stickney | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Stickney, Chris

Sent: 06 May 2021 14:15

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Thanks Nigel. I have added a placeholder for the OSR review [REDACTED]

Chris Stickney | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James

Sent: 06 May 2021 12:33

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Thanks – that's helpful to know.

I'll work some more with [REDACTED] on this.

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 11:04

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Well, there isn't anything about when any recommendations themselves should actually be implemented by, but the letter to be published will say that OSR expects us to respond with our initial thinking about actions we could take, by the end of July... It's just that we don't actually have to complete the recommendations by then!

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2021 10:58
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Thanks Nigel.

That sounds good. Do we know about the review timescales – when they will want updates from us?

Best wishes,

James

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2021 10:57
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi all,

I spoke to [REDACTED] at OSR this morning and she said that although it hadn't been announced, it is fine for us to state that the report will be published on Monday. Stakeholders who assisted with the review have been informed of the publication date and so effectively this information is in the public domain.

[REDACTED] confirmed that it's fine for us to include the publication date in a slide for UKPTAB.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2021 10:55
To: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi all,

I don't think OSR have preannounced – there's nothing about it in their release calendar or at the page about the review <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/our-regulatory-work/osr-review-of-population-projections-and-estimates/>

[REDACTED]
Best wishes

James

From: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2021 08:31

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Morning all! Has OSR preannounced the publication? If not, I might just put a placeholder saying 'other publications' as our prompt.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chris

Chris Stickney | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 May 2021 16:33

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Stickney, Chris <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi James,

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1. Do we want a placeholder slide to mention/discuss the recommendations of the OSR review? It's slightly tricky because it won't be published until Monday, which is after the papers for this meeting get sent, but might be odd if we don't mention it at all. Given that it'll technically be a "recent publication" by then, perhaps we should have a slide on it in agenda item 3?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 May 2021 15:53

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: First draft UKPTAB slides

Hi Nigel, Neil,

Nigel and I had a quick chat about UKPTAB at the end of next week.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

EMAIL 73 END

EMAIL 74 START

From: Robards, James

Sent: 20 July 2021 14:12

To: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: First draft of letter from Jonathan Athow to Ed Humpherson - OSR review of MYEs and projections

Hi Kerry,

Sending a link to the first draft of the letter.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James

Sent: 16 July 2021 15:35

To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: First draft of letter from Jonathan Athow to Ed Humpherson - OSR review of MYEs and projections

Hi Maggie, [REDACTED]

I've had a first go at a [draft letter](#) (SEE EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A)) from Jonathan to Ed. Do you have any advice or comments on this? Link to the draft article is [here](#) (SEE: EMAIL 62 (ONS RESPONSE TO OSR PUBLICATION DRAFT VERSION))

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

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EMAIL 74 END

EMAIL 75 START

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 July 2021 16:54

To: Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Barton, Susan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

James,

Sorry, again.

I know of no response being made to either.

Best regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

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[redacted]

Member, Work/Life Balance Group, leading on caring issues

From: [redacted] [redacted]

Sent: 12 July 2021 16:53

To: Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

James,

Sorry, I seem not to have forwarded the details.

2 people did:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#) |

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[REDACTED] | [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

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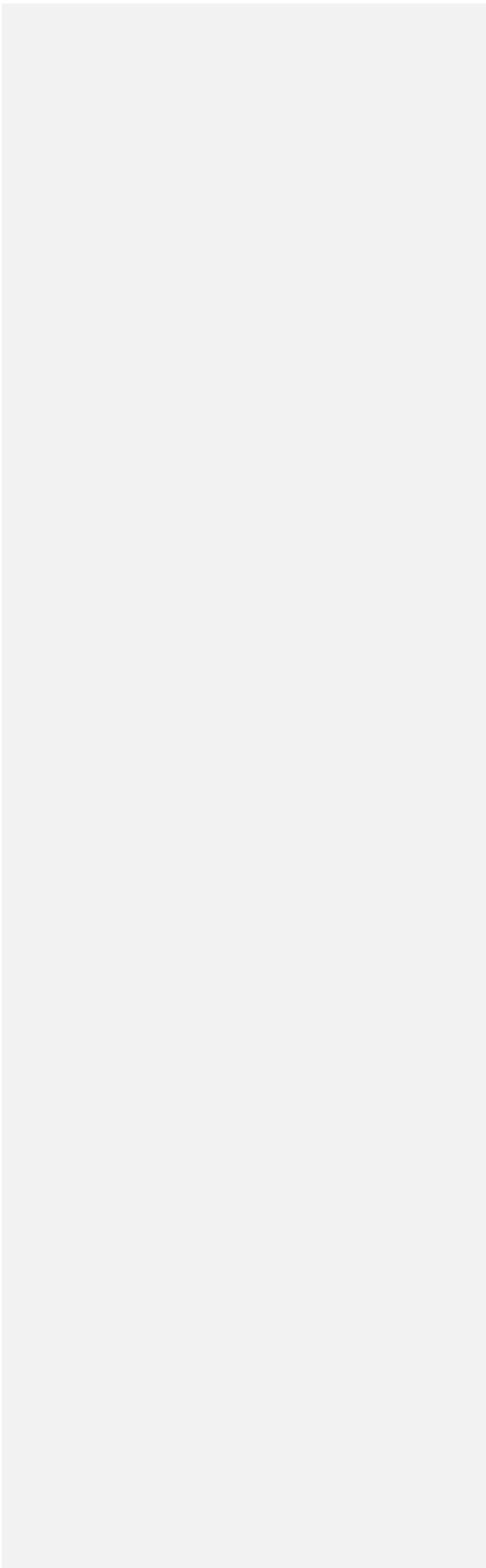
[REDACTED]

Member, Work/Life Balance Group, leading on caring issues

From: Robards, James <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](#)>
Sent: 12 July 2021 15:07
To: Barton, Susan <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](#)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](#)>
Subject: RE: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

Hi Susan, [REDACTED]

OSR called me earlier re. the below:



1. In response to the email which [REDACTED] sent out to the signatories of the original letter to OSR did anyone write in to us (we originally included the email address MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk)?
2. If anyone did write in then did we respond to them?

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2021 13:34

To: MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

Thanks [REDACTED] – I'll send that on now.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: Robards, James

Sent: 23 June 2021 13:09

To: MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

Thanks [REDACTED]

Bw

James

From: MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2021 13:02

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

[REDACTED]

Please see James suggested wording for the email.

If you send it to the relevant people they can decide whether they respond to the group email address provided. That should satisfy GDPR requirements.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#) |

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: McGhee, Marie <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

Hi James,

I think this sounds like a good idea. I think for GDPR purposes, I would probably need to forward your request to the relevant people and ask if they're happy for me to share their contact details with you. I can do that now and remove the reference to the plans to delay. Would you like me to include your email address in the request, or would you prefer me to just pass on their addresses once they're happy for us to share them?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 June 2021 10:40
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: McGhee, Marie <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - respondents to the OSR review

Hi [REDACTED]

Firstly, thank you for your email earlier this month in response to the specific questions I had about the OSR review – I will reply.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We are extending an offer to speak with us (Neil, Nigel, me) to some known contacts who have a particular interest in the estimates and projections. On this, we were wondering, if you consider it beneficial, and are able to provide any information on local authorities or other contacts who fed back to you as part of the review and who it would be good for us to approach and offer the opportunity to speak with on Friday or next week (after publication). Thanks.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 75 END

EMAIL 76 START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 12:27
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi [REDACTED]

Here are the 'lines to take' for the OSR review question. Please amend James's version to reflect Nigel's changes, highlighted below.

James has agreed that Nigel's version is confirmed and we can pass these on to SET.

Thanks again,

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 11:58
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi James,

I think it's fine to have a line to take if asked, and so I've just made a small tweak, as follows:

What does the Office for Statistical Regulation (OSR) review of population estimates and projections mean for your approach to the 2020-based NPPs?

Following the announcement by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) on 22 January 2021 about timescales for the review of population estimates and projections we have **engaged with OSR to assist with the review**. When a final report on findings from the review is available, we will review and understand recommendations for our population statistics system.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2021 11:37
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi Nigel,

In our lines for the Monday publication (2020-based NPPs) I have drafted the following passage re. the OSR review – can we include something on this? It seems like the sort of question we'll get from the users who have fed back to us and also been speaking to OSR.

There has been an email chain with Rich – below where he's not so much in favour of saying anything.

What does the Office for Statistical Regulation (OSR) review of population estimates and projections mean for your approach to the 2020-based NPPs?

Following the announcement by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) on 22 January 2021 about timescales for the review of population estimates and projections we have cooperated fully with the review. When a final report on findings from the review is available, we will review and understand recommendations for our population statistics system.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2021 09:57

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi [REDACTED] James

[REDACTED] thanks for passing Rich's response on. I wonder if we should leave this one for now? Unless you have some agreed lines already James. If we get a query we can respond then with what is happening with the review.

We plan to send SET our package of dissemination materials early today, however, these 'lines to take' can follow if necessary.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2021 09:46

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi James,

Please see Rich's response below about the lines relating to the OSR review.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2021 09:23

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Thanks [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

We can't say anything about the outcome of the review yet. All we can say is that it is happening.

Anything in lines should be drawn from this page about it:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/our-regulatory-work/osr-review-of-population-projections-and-estimates/>

Cheers

Rich

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[\[redacted\]](#) | [\[redacted\]](#) | [\[redacted\]](#) [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk) | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira](#) ONS

From: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Sent: 15 April 2021 08:54
To: Robards, James <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Cc: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Subject: FW: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi James,

Please see [\[redacted\]](#) response below regarding lines addressing the OSR review and its impact on our work. His suggestion is that we contact Legal Services to find out what we can say about the review process while it is still underway. I am happy to do this if necessary, or alternatively see if Rich or Nigel respond with any suggestions.

Many thanks

[\[redacted\]](#)

From: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Sent: 14 April 2021 21:45
To: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Cc: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>; Pereira, Rich <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>; Henretty, Nigel <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Subject: RE: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi [\[redacted\]](#)

Thank you for your email. Good question, and one that is worth considering given the releases going out over the next week or so.

[\[redacted\]](#)

[\[redacted\]](#) My instinct is that the Legal Services team (legalservices@ons.gov.uk) would be worth speaking to, simply because I don't know what we can and can't say about the review while the process is still ongoing.

I've copied Rich and Nigel into this response in case they have any suggestions, or in the event that I've missed something obvious.

Many thanks,

[\[redacted\]](#)

[\[redacted\]](#) | Stakeholder Engagement Team

[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#)

Public Policy Analysis | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[\[redacted\]](#) | [\[redacted\]](#) [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk) | www.ons.gov.uk | ONS

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From: [\[redacted\]](#) <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>
Sent: 14 April 2021 16:42

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Lines to take - projections user engagement report

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm drafting 'lines to take' in for the release of the use engagement report on Monday and James has requested that we include something about the OSR review of population estimates and projections. He has suggested that you in SET might already have something around this. It would be in response to a question along the following lines:

- What does the Office for Statistical Regulation (OSR) review of population estimates and projections mean for your approach to the 2020-based NPPs?

I haven't been able to find anything in previous lines taken and so would be grateful if you have anything to hand which could be included.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Population and Household Projections, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | [REDACTED] | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

EMAIL 76 END

EMAIL 77 START

From: Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 July 2021 15:12
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review of Populaton Estimates

Hi Nigel,

A heads up that [REDACTED] is a long time correspondent (back in 2014 he even attended one of our Local Insight Reference Panels).

He asks some good questions but some of them require a research programme (a census/reconciliation exercise would do the trick!) to answer comprehensively.

Neil

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 July 2021 15:08
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pop Info <pop.info@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review of Populaton Estimates

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for the additional information you have provided. We can use the information, along with the questions you have included, to help guide our thinking

with regards to investigating particular local authorities with relatively large student populations. There may be some initial thoughts relating to your questions which might help too, so we'll have a think about this and will let you know.

In addition, you may be interested to read our forthcoming article on future plans for research on population estimates and projections, which will be published on Thursday 29th July. The article will contain some broader information about the work we propose to undertake to address the recommendations of the OSR review of population estimates and projections.

Kind regards,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 July 2021 15:00
To: Park, Neil <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Review of Populaton Estimates

Hi both,

Just to let you know that one of the contacts in Guildford, who Rich has spoken to recently, has been in touch with some more info (attached) and an email (below) posing some questions about student areas and fertility in the MYEs. I don't think he's looking for immediate answers to his queries, but more to provide a suggestion of things we can investigate further as part of our response activities to the OSR review.

So, I will send a general response to [redacted], and copy you in, but if you would like to provide [redacted] with some thoughts in addition that's fine too (Neil I know some of this has been discussed/considered already).

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 July 2021 22:10
To: Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Pop Info <[pop.info@ons.gov.uk](#)>; Robards, James <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review of Populaton Estimates

Dear Mr Henretty,

Thank you for your message.

In connection with your identification of areas for your "deep dive" case studies in response to the OSR review recommendations, I have produced a simple Excel tool (attached) that enables a user to speedily identify candidate

local authority areas of interest. It is based solely on published ONS data (the complete set of Mid-Year Population Estimates for all UK countries, regions and local authorities each year from 2011 to 2020, and the most up-to-date Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFRs) for England & Wales for 2011 to 2019. Graphs similar to those presented for Guildford in the paper that I sent to Mr Pereira in June (see my e-mail of 21st June below) can be automatically generated simply by selecting any desired country, region or local authority area. Brief instructions for use are provided in red text on the "Select LA" worksheet.

To avoid any potential malware or security issues, the tool uses only standard Excel worksheet functions (rather than macros or VBA software functions). All worksheets have been protected to prevent inadvertent corruption by users, but no passwords have been set up, so that competent Excel users can modify the tool if they wish.

Using this tool, I have identified 47 local authority areas that exhibit a prominent spike in their population profile at about 20 years of age. It is clear that this spike is caused by the migration of students at the start of their higher education courses, and these 47 local authorities are shown in the dark blue column of the "Select LA" worksheet. I have coined the term "student local authorities" (or SLAs) for such authorities. However, detailed examination of the graphs reveals that there is a sub-category of 16 SLAs which display exactly the characteristics that have been highlighted previously for both Coventry and Guildford – namely that the width of the "student spike" grows with each succeeding year. This can easily be seen in the graphs of population versus age, because the black line (for MYE 2020) almost completely encloses the lines for all previous years. I have called these 16 local authorities "high growth" SLAs.

A key question is:

Why do the MYE population estimates for the 16 "high growth" SLAs show apparently never-ending population growth in the student cohort, when the other 31 SLAs do not (and in some cases show no year-by-year growth at all)?

The other key questions relate to a comparison of the number of females in the population against the number of births (ie the number of infants aged less than 1 year old). These two figures can both be obtained directly from the MYE data. By using the ASFR data for England and Wales for each of the years from 2011 to 2019 a further estimate of births can also be obtained (though this rests on an assumption that the AFSR figures for England and Wales are similar to those for the local authority in question). The attached Word document shows the resulting graph for England & Wales as a whole, and for Guildford. For England & Wales, the curves for infants under 1 year of age are a similar shape to those derived from the ASFRs but there are nevertheless significant differences – I had expected the dotted blue line to be a very good fit with the green line. In addition, I had expected that the trends for births would roughly correspond with the trends of the population of women of childbearing age. (This can be examined in detail by using the maternal age range facility in the tool, which is available on the "Select LA" worksheet.) I therefore conclude that – even at the scale of England & Wales as a whole – there is some systematic error in the MYEs.

Moreover, the trends of the corresponding curves for Guildford seem to be completely inexplicable.

So the other key questions are:

Why are there discrepancies between the England & Wales MYE figures for infants under one year of age, and the figure for ASFR-derived births based on the same MYE dataset?

Why do the trends of the Guildford curves for (a) MYE figures for infants under one year of age, (b) the ASFR-derived births based on the same MYE dataset (admittedly using England & Wales ASFRs), and (c) the population trend of the cohort of women of childbearing age, apparently bear no relation at all to each other?

I believe that the answers to these three questions should probably highlight the underlying cause of at least some of the apparently anomalous features of the MYE population estimates. I am very willing to discuss these matters further and to elaborate on the calculations in the attached Excel tool [REDACTED]

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

From: Henretty, Nigel
Sent: 28 June 2021 16:13
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pop Info <pop.info@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review of Population Estimates

Dear [REDACTED],

Rich Pereira forwarded the email you sent him regarding the selection of areas to review the mid-year population estimates, in accordance with the OSR's review of population estimates and projections. Thanks for your interest in this and for the information that you kindly provided. We are currently assessing potential research activities to conduct to help meet the review's recommendations, and we will report our proposed activity to OSR by the end of July.

We will also do work to determine which areas to review as part of case studies or "deep dives" into population estimates at the local authority level, and in doing so will determine some criteria for ascertaining which areas to review. The information you have provided will be useful in that work, and we will report back with regards to the areas to be selected and further engagement with those who would like to be involved.

Thanks again for your interest in this.

Kind regards,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Date: 21 June 2021 at 17:46:07 BST
Subject: Review of Population Estimates
To: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Pereira,

Having participated in the review of population estimates undertaken by the Office of Statistics Regulation which resulted in their report on "Review of population estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics", I examined Guildford's population estimates over the period 2012 to 2019. The attached paper examines trends in maternal age, births and primary school entrants, and it shows that although these three parameters would normally be expected to follow broadly similar trends, the ONS MYE population estimates for females in the 24-31 age band instead deviate very significantly from the other two parameters. The paper also shows (somewhat extraordinarily) that for each year in the period 2012 to 2019, the duration for which young people stay in Guildford is a year longer than the duration in the previous year's ONS MYE estimate – which I consider to be extremely implausible. These two counter-intuitive observations lead me to conclude that the ONS population estimates in that age band are very likely to have been overstated.

I understand that as Deputy Director (Population Statistics) your department is responsible for investigating the issues identified in the OSR report, and also that you are considering which geographic areas to focus on in carrying out these investigations. On the basis of the work reported in my paper, I would suggest that (amongst others) Guildford is an appropriate choice for such investigation, and I would be happy to support and to contribute to that process. If you wish to pursue this, there are a few more local residents who have also examined the ONS population estimates in detail, who might also be prepared participate and who could, I think, bring considerable value to your investigation. (In this context, it is worth noting that while the Council has worked intensively on the wider planning aspects of Guildford's Local Plan, I believe that such individuals are likely to be better informed about the details of the ONS population estimates.)

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

EMAIL 77 END

EMAIL 78 START

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 July 2021 11:05

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi all,

I have agreed 9:30am on Thursday 29 July with publishing and publishing coordination. I also just discussed it with Maggie for the MRO view (which is that this date looks OK). We'll proceed with this as the new publication date.

Nigel – I have contacted [REDACTED]

Best wishes

James

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 16:17

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Liz,

Ok, we'll look into that to pick the most suitable day next week re other publications. Just looking at the publication hub I think Thursday 29th would be best. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

James, could you liaise with the publishing team to see if they could publish all three elements of the release on Thursday? If that's a goer, could you then liaise with [REDACTED] to request that she notifies Jonathan about the need for him to approve the letter, on his return from leave on Monday?

I'll be meeting with Rich on Monday anyway, so can update him on the situation and seek his review and approval of the blog.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 16:07
To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

I think if feasible you'd do all three together later in the week.

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | @Liz_McKeown

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 16:06
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi all,

On the basis of the emails below, I think we're saying that we will go ahead with the publication of the main article on Monday, but publish the letter and blog afterwards (with the blog not going out before the letter).

Let me know if that's not what you think is best.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 15:42
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

The blog schedule can be pretty flexible. I don't think it should go out before we've exchanged letters etc... only afterwards as part of the package.

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 15:03
To: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

PST have indicated that if the editorial is complete and it is on the preview site then it can be published on any date. What I don't know / have a view of is what else is being published (including blogs) and any considerations about the fit alongside those items. There might not be anything to think about here but I know it is often a consideration in looking at dates.

We have been asked to respond by the end of July (a response could just be a letter as a minimum but clearly we are well ahead of doing just that).

Best wishes

James

From: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 14:56
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Did publishing give options for a new date? As think we committed to response by end July - is that right or was that an internal goal? So wondering if the option is to go later next week.

Becca

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2021 14:54
To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Liz,

We have sent this for editorial review. The final publication date can be changed. Nigel and I think we have two options:

1. Publish the article and blog on Monday (with Nigel as the author of the blog). Publish the letter later on.
2. On Monday confirm a new date for publication of the article, blog and letter all on the same date. Could work better with timing a stakeholder event.

Best wishes

James

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 14:52

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James. Let me know how you got on with publishing and if you need my help.

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | @Liz_McKeown

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 08:45

To: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks Becca and Liz for the comments.

Regarding the date and authorship – we can ask publishing about the potential to do this. (We could see if we can put it through editorial today and change the date meaning further changes are done through change control). However, when we were originally speaking with PST no other dates next week were possible. I do also see the benefit with reference to the date of the event. If we are unable to change the date then can / should we change the signatory of the letter and blog? I was going to follow up on this last point once we had agreed the article.

Best wishes

James

From: Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 08:20

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi James,

I'd looked through the article last night and had a few thoughts too – I've carried them over so they're in the same doc as Liz's and will also come back on the blog and letter (but if they're editable in sharepoint will add comments in there, as Liz suggests)

Becca

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 07:38

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James. I had some final thoughts on the article in the attached.

Can you make the blog and letter not read only so I can comment please?

I did wonder given that neither Jonathan nor Rich will have sight of the letter and blog they are authoring whether there is scope to publish later in the week, next week to give them a chance to review these items when they are both back on Monday. This would still be in the July window and could potentially allow you to align the event with the publication too?

Liz

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

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[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | @Liz_McKeown

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 14:19

To: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Liz,

Jay, Chris, Susan Barton and I started work on planning this last week.

Nigel and I have since discussed this and the plan is to set this up for WC Monday 2 August. We are working with our P&MSD stakeholder team on it.

Best wishes

James

From: McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 13:44

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James – can you remind me of where you got to on the stakeholder briefing too please?

Cheers

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@ons.gov.uk) | @Liz_McKeown

From: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 08:52

To: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay

<██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks Liz.

We can still make that work and submit the article first thing tomorrow morning.

Best wishes

James

From: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 08:31

To: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay

<██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Briggs, Rebecca <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi James – ██████████

██████████ If Nigel, Jay and Becca are content with the updated article I suggest that you load it onto the tracker and I will flag later if I see any remaining issues (but of course hopefully not!). Will also look at the blog and letter then.

Thanks

L

Liz McKeown | Director, Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol | www.ons.gov.uk | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@ons.gov.uk) | @Liz_McKeown

From: Lindop, Jay <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 08:00

To: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Stickney, Chris <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James, I think this is worse to be honest, sorry!

The point is modelling will always have a place, as we will need it to ensure the estimates are timely. [@Stickney, Chris](#), could you have a look with James today, perhaps reusing some of the words we have put out previously? Happy to have a look later,

Thanks

Jay

Jay Lindop | Deputy Director of the [Centre for International Migration](#) | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@jaylindop_ONS](#) | [@ONS](#)

We work flexibly at ONS. I sent this email at a time that suited me, I don't expect you to read it or reply outside of your working hours

From: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2021 16:02
To: Lindop, Jay <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Jay – in the letter we have edited the passage you mention to:

“Through spring and summer 2021 we have been open about our work to make more use of modelled migration data until the administrative data alternative is further developed.”

Hopefully this is better.

Best wishes

James

From: Lindop, Jay <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2021 09:29
To: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James,

I've had a read through of all three and I think they're really clear.

Slight apprehension about saying we're plugging the gap for migration in the interim until admin data is fit for purpose (especially highlighted in the Ed letter), as in order to make them timely we're likely to always need some modelling. However I think it still just about holds with the way you've set it out and we're keeping users informed anyway so that should be clear as we go forward.

Cheers

Jay

Jay Lindop | Deputy Director of the [Centre for International Migration](#) | Public Policy Analysis directorate |

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@jaylindop](https://twitter.com/jaylindop) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

We work flexibly at ONS. I sent this email at a time that suited me, I don't expect you to read it or reply outside of your working hours

From: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 July 2021 17:11

To: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Lindop, Jay <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Liz, Nigel,

We are now also sending the following for approval alongside the article:

- [Letter from Jonathan Athow to Ed Humpherson](#) (SEE: EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A)) – To be published on the ONS and OSR websites at 9:30 on Monday 26 July.
- [National Statistical blog](#) (SEE: EMAIL 17 ATTACHMENT) – ██████████ has written this, Becca, Maggie and I have read and fed back on it. This includes passages on two key areas: students and migration statistics.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James

Sent: 20 July 2021 09:49

To: McKeown, Liz <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Gadsdon, Kerry <██████████@ons.gov.uk>; ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: For approval by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July: updated article - ONS response to OSR review of population estimates and projections

Hi Liz, Nigel,

I am sending (for approval) an updated draft of the ONS response to OSR (review of population estimates and projections).

This has a publishing slot at 9:30 on Monday 26 July.

Please provide approval / final feedback by 2pm on Wednesday 21 July (when they will need to be uploaded on to the trackers and submitted):

- [Updated article](#) – thank you for your earlier feedback Liz. We have sought to take this onboard in this draft and this has also benefitted from input from MSD, SSTAR and M&PSD SET. The section providing an outline of the OSR findings has been cut back to reach the 3,000 word cap we face with this article.

Other items to follow later today (currently with others for input):

- [Letter from Jonathan Athow to Ed Humpherson](#) – I have drafted this and it has been reviewed by ██████████ in MRO. This is to be published on the ONS and OSR websites at the same time on Monday 26 July.
- [Blog](#) – This is to be a national statistical blog. I don't know who the author of this should be listed as: ██████████ has written this, Becca and I have reviewed.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 78 END

EMAIL 78 ATTACHMENT START

Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

An outline of future plans for research on population estimates and projections

1. Overview of ONS population statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Centre for Ageing and Demography produces a range of population statistics including [national statistics designated mid-year population estimates](#), [national](#) and [subnational \(England\) population projections](#) and [household projections \(England\)](#). We work with external experts and groups to:

- ensure we continue to monitor and understand UK population change and learn from international experts, research institutes and national statistical institutes;
- research and make methodological improvements to our statistical production processes including the use of data science and quality assurance techniques;
- understand and integrate new data sources to enhance our statistics; and,
- seek user, expert demographer and expert methodologist feedback and input through our review and development processes.

Some of these initiatives are part of the [transformation of the population and migration system](#). This is a long-term project which aims to change our approach to producing population and migration statistics by embedding administrative data sources into these statistics.

In June 2021 we published the latest [mid-year population estimates for 2020](#) and an update on [future plans for population and household projections](#) after Census 2021.

Wider context to population statistics around Census 2021

The mid-2021 population estimates for England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be based primarily on the results of the 2021 censuses adjusted for births, deaths and migration in the period between census day and mid-year 2021. Mid-2021 population estimates for Scotland will be rolled forward from 2020 as the census in Scotland is taking place in March 2022.

Following the publication of the Census [2021 results for England and Wales](#), we will conduct reconciliation work to understand how and why the estimates based on Census 2021 differ from those based on the mid-year estimates rolled from 2011. The insights gained will be used to improve the production of future population estimates and projections. They will also provide a revised back series of population estimates for the period 2012 to 2020, which will increase the coherence between the census and mid-year estimates, improve the quality of our estimates, and provide a revised back-series of input data for our projections.

2. OSR and its review of population estimates and projections

The OSR is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. The OSR assesses official statistics for compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and reports on system-wide issues and on how statistics are used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections

In May 2021 OSR published a [review of population estimates and projections](#) which was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the

Commented [5]: To meet the 3,000 word limit I have removed the OSR executive summary (in the earlier version we reproduced this in full).

population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based. The OSR review findings were summarised in the [executive summary](#).

ONS always welcomes and invites feedback on our statistics and engaged with OSR as part of the review. We are grateful for the review insights from OSR. Whilst we welcome the OSR have found our “approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally”, we recognise there are areas where we can make improvements, accept the recommendations made by OSR and set out in this article our plans for implementing them.

3. Planned responses to the Office for Statistics Regulation’s review

This section outlines our work plan to address OSR recommendations. As we progress through this work plan and publish our findings, we will continue to update OSR and our users through our regular Population Statistics newsletter (see the following link to subscribe to our migration and population statistics [mailing list](#)) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Some of the solutions and improvements will become clearer once data from Census 2021 are available, where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022. Where we are not able to implement a recommendation within this timeframe, such as longer-term work to transform the population statistics system, we will state what has been accomplished and advise users on when we plan to complete the necessary work. We will update users on our progress to meet the recommendations between now and May 2022 and we will publish a timeline of planned work with our next update. We always welcome feedback on our data, methods, outputs and statistics and welcome this on the plans we are publishing. For more information on how to provide feedback to us see section 4.

The following section provides an outline of the overall recommendations from OSR and under each recommendation our plans to address each of them.

Recommendation 1: Ensuring future population statistics are based on sound methods and suitable data

Complete detailed case studies on cities with large student populations

We plan to complete a detailed study of several cities with large student populations using a systematic selection criteria. This work will incorporate relevant, recently completed work and will use data from across the ONS which can contribute to this work, including the use of administrative sources. When Census 2021 data become available, we will seek to use this to understand implications for mid-year population estimates and projections for cities with large student populations. If possible we will use the Higher Education Leavers Methodology in our rebasing work. We will review how recent work using administrative sources can provide insights on student population movement in to and out of local areas and explore how student populations change in combination across our population estimates and projections. We will share insights with experts to gather input and consider further areas for development.

Discuss evidence provided to OSR in the review concerning the impact of assumptions being rolled forward

The ONS engages with experts on an ongoing basis and will seek their feedback on our current mid-year estimates methodology. We will review our user engagement ahead of rounds of subnational population and household projections to explore how we can further include local insights and information in our population estimates and projections.

Ensure concerns raised regarding the current methods are considered throughout the development of admin-based population estimates (ABPEs)

The ONS continues to engage with a range of stakeholders on the methods for the admin-based population estimates including topic experts, academics, NSIs and a range of users of population statistics. We plan to publish an update on what we have learnt about the quality of our ABPEs in the context of the pandemic and the impact it has had on administrative data sources and how we measure particular population groups, by the end of 2021. We will be engaging with users on the outcomes of this research to ensure concerns are considered in future iterations of the ABPEs and other transformed population statistics.

Commented [REDACTED]6]: [REDACTED] suggests this isn't necessary. Can delete but would need to refer to our workplan instead.

Commented [REDACTED]7R76]: I have edited this to reduce the text

Commented [REDACTED]8]: Nigel – are you comfortable with this commitment to users in our next update?

This is in response to feedback from Becca that we should have a timetable or “more steps along the way or idea of staging of priorities will help build confidence with users...”

Commented [REDACTED]9R78]: That's fine, notice I've removed the bit about doing [REDACTED] updates between now and May, just to give ourselves some wiggle room.

Commented [REDACTED]30]: I wondered if the language of the specific responses required by OSR from ONS read like we felt forced to make them so have suggested deleting.

Commented [REDACTED]31]: @Roberts, James@Park, Neil Do you think we should mention both the re-basing of previous MYEs following the 2021 Census and the HELM adjustment being applied to historic years, which we think will improve the quality of the age profile of areas with large student populations? I wasn't originally suggesting to include this, but since Liz is keen on detail where it's available, this feels like something tangible to include.

Commented [REDACTED]2R81]: HELM or something better from transformation is still up for grabs (probably will be HELM, could be something different...best not to commit at the moment). The rebasing is mentioned in the first section “wider context”?

Commented [REDACTED]3R81]: If we are to put anything in then I suggest we put it under “wider context.” in section 1

Commented [REDACTED]4]: Use work three times in this sentence - can we be a bit more specific about what we are referring to?

Commented [REDACTED]35]: LINK TO: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/populationestimatesfortheukmid2020methodsguide#appendix-2-understanding-the-impact-of-changes-to-internal-migration-methods>

Commented [REDACTED]36R85]: If possible will make greater use of the Higher Education

Commented [REDACTED]37]: Will we involve local areas/local knowledge in this exercise; probably worth being explicit if so.

Commented [REDACTED]38]: Perhaps better to say something like ahead of each publication or engage as each set of projections is developed in future. Not sure if rounds will work for all readers?

Commented [REDACTED]39]: spell out acronyms first time they are used.

Commented [REDACTED]40]: Will it be clear what this means? Perhaps say and throughout the development of the transformed population and migration statistics system as we build towards the 2023 recommendation?

Recommendation 2: Enhancing the transparency of developments concerning the quality of the statistics

Integrate a more flexible and responsive approach to methodological changes

We will seek and understand user feedback on our approach to methodological change and consider the best way to integrate the findings from this feedback in the timing, communication and planning of methodological change and the delivery of our statistics. Over the last five years we have made methodological improvements to our estimates and projections and we continue to welcome feedback on both the methodological changes we have made, the way we have gone about these and the resulting statistics.

Share insights gathered from work to understand the changing nature of migration and population as part of the transformation programme so user views inform the way this work is taken forward

Within our Transformation Overview updates, expert group meetings, blogs, conference presentations and publications we continually seek user feedback on our future plans. We will now seek to:

- o share the insights the work is providing in a timely manner.
- o continue using user feedback to inform the way the work is taken forwards and where possible outline how user feedback has done this already.

Recommendation 3: Continuation of plans for the future of migration data

ONS's migration team should be open with users about its short-term solution to bridge the gap of migration data until the administrative data alternative is fit for purpose and ready to use

In June 2020, alongside our 2020 mid-year population estimates, the ONS Centre for International Migration updated [plans for the development of administrative based migration estimates \(ABMEs\)](#). It reflected the challenges in using administrative sources to measure migration. First, they are estimated using actual behaviours, which entails waiting at least 12 months after a person has moved to or left the UK before being able to identify them as a migrant. This would result in significant time lags for migration statistics if these sources are used in isolation. Secondly, we have also identified gaps in these data that are harder to measure, such as students, children and UK citizens.

Reflecting this, the future development of ABMEs will need to be supported by statistical modelling. This will build on the development of [our previous modelling research](#) published in April 2021 and our [ABMEs research](#), with a greater focus on the use of Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) data. This will make these statistics timelier and improve coverage. ABMEs will also allow insightful analysis on subpopulations of migrants, including migrant workers, students and families and dependents.

In our future publications we will continue to address this recommendation, reporting on the development of Admin Based Migration Estimates (ABMEs) supported by statistical modelling to produce estimates of international migration. We will provide an update in autumn 2021 as we build on our methods to keep users informed of our progress.

Recommendation 4: Enhancement of approach to quality assurance

Collaborate with others to learn from best practice

We will engage with stakeholders and other producers of statistics to share and further learn from best practices on quality assurance. We will also continue to investigate sensitivity analysis around the estimates to further enhance our approach to quality assurance, and to better understand and describe potential uncertainty around the estimates and projections. This will include engagement with expert advisory groups and through speaking with other statistical offices and producers of population estimates and projections.

Incorporate local insight and evidence as part of its deep dives and investigations into issues

As part of our approach in developing case studies we will seek local insights and evidence. We will use the findings from these case studies and deep dives to shape our approach to the use of local insights in our development of estimates and projections while maintaining methodological consistency across local areas as far as possible, particularly through improvements to internal and international migration.

Run sensitivity analyses to accompany the existing estimates and explain to users how these analyses should be interpreted

Commented [191]: Wasn't sure what this meant? Perhaps the way these are presented?

Commented [192]: Do you mean that the user feedback is providing? Or analytical insights from transformation work?

Commented [193]: I guess made me wonder where wouldn't this be possible?

Commented [194]: worth adding 'under the UN definition'?

Commented [195]: Following our meeting with [194] earlier, could we add a line saying that we will publish uncertainty measures for the mid-2020 population estimates for local authorities, and provide analysis and commentary to help aid user interpretation of the estimates?

Commented [196]: I'm happy for something along this line to be added. When were you thinking we'd do this? The best version of this would be after census results are out as we've the intelligence from our quality information to compare with the reality of the Census - I suspect you are thinking of something sooner?

Commented [197]: Ideally it would have two stages [196], stage one before Census results where we do the usual uncertainty measures (maybe with some added commentary/explanations) and stage two, after Census results, where we do detailed comparison of our quality info against Census (and we would advertise stage two, in stage one). But, if that's unrealistic or otherwise unhelpful then do shout. For now I think we can get away with saying we'll publish uncertainty measures and analysis without giving a date yet, since we've said we'll publish a timeline of research in our next update. That ok with you [196]?

Commented [198]: I would agree with inserting a passage saying "We will publish updated uncertainty measures and analyses when these become available." but under recommendation 5, point 1, not under this recommendation.

Commented [199]: Worth referencing a few groups or forums we will use? To make it specific

Commented [200]: I think we should either use the term "deep dives" or "case studies" consistently throughout. I suggest "case studies" but I'm not too bothered.

Commented [201]: This is the text from OSR - each of the bold points is what they require under the recommendations

Commented [202]: Do you think we should add "...while maintaining methodological consistency across local areas as far as possible" to this sentence? Basically, do we need to say clearly to people that we don't intend on introducing a bespoke LA method for some areas?

Commented [203]: yes, I think we need to manage expectations about what is likely to happen as a result of all of this. We could be more specific "...in our development of estimates and projections particularly through improvements to internal and international migration."

We will explore the potential to include sensitivity analyses alongside the mid-year population estimates, their fit with our existing uncertainty measures and how users might interpret them.

Recommendation 5: Supporting users' understanding of the uncertainty associated with ONS statistics

Research and implement additional ways to communicate the uncertainty around the population estimates and projections, beyond the use of confidence intervals and variant projections.

In response to the OSR review we made several changes to the mid-2021 population estimates release to assist users in understanding the quality of population estimates. These changes included the use of warning boxes to highlight specific issues with the estimates and a more comprehensive explanation of the range of quality information available alongside each release of the mid-year estimates. Furthermore, the release referenced the short-and-medium term development of population estimates by discussing the incorporation of the 2021 Census data into the mid-year estimates, the OSR review into population estimates and projections and the development of new international migration estimates.

At present we publish measures of statistical uncertainty in ONS local authority mid-year population estimates. We will publish updated uncertainty measures and analyses when these become available. Furthermore, we will consider alternative ways to communicate uncertainty and consider publishing a paper on uncertainty which is accessible to a wide range of users and which explains the origins of uncertainty, helps with use of the population estimates and projections, explains limitations in their use and also refers to uncertainty work already published. In developing this we will ensure that we are meeting user need through seeking feedback to ensure this contributes to helping user understanding.

Provide more specific guidance on interpreting the levels of uncertainty associated with the statistics, to help users understand the appropriate use of the statistics for short-term planning compared with longer-term planning

Related to the point above on communicating uncertainty, we will provide more guidance in bulletins and other methodology documentation to help users to understand how to use the population estimates and population projections in short and longer-term planning.

Recommendation 6: Maximising the use of ONS variant projections

Expand on the support it gives users to illustrate where the use of these alternative projections may be beneficial and develop case studies of where they have been used in practice

We will explore the potential to provide more guidance to users on the variant projections which are normally included in each release. More specifically we will look at the benefits a user guide on variants would have for our users, including use of feedback from our recent [user engagement exercise](#) of autumn 2020 to help with this process. We will discuss with existing users how their use of variant projections may be used as case studies to help non-expert users understand when to use variant projections with reference to the principal projection.

Recommendation 7: Ensuring that ONS statistics remain relevant to users

Take a more open and constructive approach to responding to user engagement by improving its complaints procedure and viewing challenge as an opportunity to improve the statistics and outputs. A fully open approach will help ONS demonstrate its commitment to user engagement and ensure a range of perspectives are fed into the development of the statistics

We welcome and value all feedback. We will do more to inform users of population estimates and projections about how to share their views on the data and methods we use to develop these statistics. We will ensure our complaints procedure is clear and accessible. In addition to inviting feedback in our correspondence and publications, we will highlight this and any further guidance in newsletters and bulletins.

We have engaged with those who wish to comment on and challenge our methods and statistics. We are always looking to develop new opportunities to engage and involve users of our statistics and will also continue our ongoing engagement with users at relevant conferences and events.

Reflect and learn from its experience of challenging user engagement and identify potential solutions and best practice from the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics.

Commented [104]: LINK TO <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/measuresofstatisticaluncertaintyinlocalauthoritymidyearpopulationestimates/2011to2019#methodology>

Commented [105]: [@Mark_Niel](#) [@HelenSmyth_Niel](#) new text

Commented [106]: Do we want to be stronger than consider? Perhaps 'plan to' or something like that if it is likely you will?

Commented [107]: Wondering why this is explore the potential – is there a reason why we couldn't review/add more to the guidance where needed? Perhaps cut this and move to next sentence i.e. We will engage with our users to identify where a user guide would be valuable....

Commented [108]: Mention groups too?

All user feedback is important to us and we will review and redevelop our approach to handling challenging user feedback. In doing this we will also consider the [User Engagement Strategy for Statistics](#) in developing best practice and solutions.

Recommendation 8: Increasing public value of ONS statistics and supporting their use

Carry out user engagement to understand who is using the data and for what purposes. Through this, it should promote the appropriate use of the data.

User engagement and ensuring the relevance and suitability of our statistics is important to us. In autumn 2020 we completed a user engagement exercise on the national and subnational population projections to understand how these are used and what users require in the future. We will continue to complete such engagements across our statistics, including the mid-year estimates, to fully understand who is using the data and for what purposes. We will then respond to this to ensure that we are able to guide users on the appropriate use of our statistics.

Collaborate with experts to frame the statistics for different audiences and scenarios, presenting appropriate use cases of the data.

In collaboration with experts and users, we will explore the potential for case studies which will show how our statistics are being used. Examples of appropriate uses could be included in the proposed user guide on variant projections.

4. Future Developments

We continue to welcome feedback on the planned approach we have outlined to respond to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. Please provide feedback to us at pop.info@ons.gov.uk.

The ONS is committed to reviewing its population statistics through using Census 2021 and the wider transformation of the population and migration statistics system which will embed administrative data sources into population and migration estimates. Users can provide feedback on our [proposals for the content design and release of Census 2021 data and analysis](#) from now until 5 October 2021. Later this year, we will launch a further major phase of engagement to inform our plans for our longer-term journey to a near real-time measurement of our population and communities that makes the best use of all available data. We regularly engage with users to ensure they are aware of how this wider programme of work is progressing and to seek feedback from them on their future requirements and the planned direction of our work.

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to provide updates on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make. We will report back to OSR on a quarterly basis starting in October 2021, outlining our progress. We will make clear when we publish research which addresses the issues raised by the OSR review and also how it fits into the wider review of population statistics across ONS.

Sign up to the ONS migration and population statistics [mailing list here](#) to receive the latest updates and the Population Statistics newsletter.

EMAIL 78 ATTACHMENT END

EMAIL 79 START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 July 2021 10:26
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Article and template

Thanks [REDACTED] :-)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 July 2021 10:19
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Commented [09]: Link to <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2021/07/13/population-and-social-statistics-in-a-rapidly-changing-world/>

Commented [10]: From paragraph 6 of Pete Benton blog [Population and social statistics in a rapidly changing world | National Statistical \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Article and template

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes of course, please give me a call this afternoon to discuss anything more I can do to help with the publication.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 July 2021 10:04

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Article and template

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for doing this. I would have dropped the working version into the template earlier, but I was concerned comments would be lost and indeed they were, so thank you for adding them back in. I'm going to have a read of it next (after our meetings), and have a look at your comments and formatting - you said you had put in some different markers. My feeling is if we have followed the template but you have had to add something different, Publishing might be ok with this. I'll have a look but I'm tempted not to change for now. I was planning on asking Publishing to look at an early draft anyway so that we don't get any late surprises on things like this.

It's quite likely that I will need some more support from you if that's possible, as there's quite a bit to do. Can I maybe give you a call this afternoon and we can talk through the plan and what needs to be done and how that might fit with any further spare time that you may have.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2021 16:37

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Article and template

Hi James,

As requested, I have copied the content from the publication version of the article into the [template](#). [\(SEE: EMAIL 61 ATTACHMENT\)](#). The comments made by your and [REDACTED] weren't transferred so I have inserted these myself.

In section 4 I have removed the numbering for each of the recommendations as you requested, replacing with just a simple bullet-point. Recommendation 2 has bullet-points within a bullet-point so I have used a different marker to distinguish these. However, I don't know if formatting in this way would be acceptable for Publishing or if you think there is a better way to do this.

I have also included tracked changes for a few suggested amendments to the article.

I'm happy to discuss any of this if either of you have any queries. Please also let me know if there is anything further I can do to help.

Many thanks

██████████
From: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 11:45
To: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: ██████████ ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Article and template

Hi James,

Yes, that's no problem. I'll crack on with it this afternoon and let you know if I have any questions.

Many thanks

██████████
From: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 10:56
To: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: ██████████ ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Article and template

Hi ██████████

Hopefully ██████████ has already mentioned this to you – ██████████ and I are hoping you are able to assist with the publication we have responding to the OSR recommendations. The current status is that we have a draft article and are planning to send this on to Jonathan Athow and Liz McKeown later in the week.

Before we do this, we want to swap the format over into the template which ██████████ has. Please can you copy the content in the publication version into the template (see links below) and let us know when you have done this. I'm not sure of your capacity to do this today – would be great if you have a couple of hours spare this afternoon to do this. Please do also read this and track in any edits to the text to improve or comment where you think further edits or clarification would be helpful.

Best wishes

James

From: ██████████ ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 July 2021 17:12
To: Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Article and template

Hi James,

Thanks for your time this afternoon. I'm sending you two links, to the 'publication' [version](#) (SEE EMAIL 79 ATTACHMENT) of the article, that we've just been working on and the [template](#) (SEE EMAIL 61 ATTACHMENT) for the article. It will be great if ██████████ can help out with this tomorrow.

Thanks

██████████
██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) |
Public Policy Analysis, Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#)

Please note: My working days are Tuesday and Thursday.

EMAIL 79 END

EMAIL 79 ATTACHMENT START

Official sensitive draft until 9.30 on 26 July 2021

Future plans for research on population estimates and projections

An outline of future plans for research on population estimates and projections

1. ONS population statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Centre for Ageing and Demography produces a range of population statistics including [national statistics designated mid-year population estimates, national](#) and [subnational \(England\) population projections](#) and [household projections \(England\)](#). At the same time we work with external experts and groups to:

- ensure we continue to monitor and understand UK population change and learn from international experts, research institutes and national statistical institutes;
- research and make methodological improvements to our statistical production processes including the use of data science and quality assurance techniques;
- understand and integrate new data sources to enhance our statistics; and,
- seek user, expert demographer and expert methodologist feedback and input through our review and development processes.

Some of these initiatives are part of the [transformation of the population and migration system](#). This is a long-term project which aims to change our approach to producing population and migration statistics and when complete, aims to embed administrative data sources into these statistics.

In June 2021 we published the latest [mid-year population estimates for 2020](#) and an update on our [future plans for population and household projections](#) after Census 2021. Data from Census 2021 will provide the latest, most granular detail on the population of England and Wales enabling us to reconcile and rebase our population estimates for 2012-2020 and provide a revised back-series of input data for our projections.

2. OSR and its review of population estimates and projections

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. It assesses official statistics for compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and reports on system-wide issues and on how statistics are used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

In May 2021 OSR published a [review of population estimates and projections](#) which was initiated in response to concerns raised with OSR in November 2020 regarding the population projections and mid-year population estimates for Coventry. The concerns were around the perceived inaccuracies of the population estimates on which the household projections and subsequent housing need are based.

ONS engaged with OSR as part of the review. Over several years, and in many different forms, ONS has met, engaged with and responded to signatories of the letter requesting that the UK Statistics Authority consider a review of estimates and projections from the ONS. We welcome that the OSR have found that *our approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally* and are now outlining how we plan to respond to the recommendations published in the final review.

3. Outcomes from the OSR review of ONS population estimates and projections

OSR review - overall findings

In its [executive summary](#), the OSR review recognised that:

1. *ONS collaborates with a range of experts to determine the methods, data and assumptions which underpin the population estimates and projections. Its approach is generally seen as fit for purpose and is highly regarded internationally. One area of challenge has been migration, where there are limitations in the data available. ONS has sought to address this challenge by introducing some methodological fixes, such as the way students leaving university are identified. However, more needs to be done to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with students and outward migration.*
2. *ONS has a number of methods for quality assuring the statistics, including deep dives, triangulation of data it holds and comparisons against historic data. ONS developed a range of variant projections to cater for the different uses of the data. We recommend that ONS develops case studies of how these variants are being used in practice to support their use more widely, as some users were unclear on which variants would best cater to their needs.*
3. *ONS engages regularly with experts, academia, and other users, and participates in relevant events and conferences. We found that while ONS is good at sharing its work outwardly, there is room for improvement in the way it takes on board feedback and handles challenge. We would like to see ONS be more open and responsive to issues when they first arise and view challenge as an opportunity to improve outputs and not a criticism of its approach. We recognise that ONS is balancing competing priorities, but a more open and constructive approach to responding to user feedback would create opportunities for ONS to continually improve the population estimates and projections, and ensure users feel listened to.*

Areas for action by ONS

There were three areas of action for ONS to take in response to OSR findings – these were grouped under the headings of ‘Improving Methods’, ‘Enhancing Communication’ and ‘Embracing Challenge’. They are described in the [executive summary](#) of the report and each of the recommendations is addressed in Section 4 on ‘ONS planned responses to the OSR review’.

4. ONS planned responses to the OSR review

This section outlines actions we have in progress which contribute towards meeting the recommendations and further planned actions to address the OSR review recommendations. As we progress through this work plan and publish our findings from this work we will continue to update OSR and our users through the Population Statistics newsletter (convert to link) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022. We always welcome feedback on our statistics, outputs, data and methods. We welcome feedback on the plans we are publishing and for more information on how to feedback to us please see Section 5.

Commented [111]: Need to check whether it's a year from May 2021 or July 2021.

Under the three overall areas for action there were eight more specific recommendations. For each of these we are outlining how we plan to respond.

Recommendation 1: Ensuring future population statistics are based on sound methods and suitable data

Under this recommendation there were three more specific points. Our planned responses as follows will address the overall recommendation and actions required.

Complete detailed case studies on cities with large student populations

We plan to complete a detailed study of several cities with large student populations using a systematic selection criteria. This work will incorporate relevant recently completed work and will use data from across ONS which can contribute to this work including the use of administrative sources. We will review how recent work using administrative sources can provide insights on student population movement in to and out of local areas and explore how student populations change in combination across our population estimates and projections. We will share insights with experts who can review our findings, and then consider any further areas which need to be addressed with regard to our measurement of cities with large student populations.

Discuss evidence provided to OSR in the review concerning the impact of assumptions being rolled forward

The ONS Centre for Ageing and Demography engages with experts on an ongoing basis and will seek their feedback on the impact of assumptions being rolled forwards, discuss and review the implications of this and update users on our plans around this.

Ensure concerns raised regarding the current methods are considered throughout the development of admin-based population estimates (ABPEs)

We will ensure that the concerns raised are considered in the development of ABPEs.

Recommendation 2: Enhancing the transparency of developments concerning the quality of the statistics

Within this recommendation there were two specific points, one on methodological changes and the second on user feedback.

Integrate a more flexible and response approach to methodological changes

We will seek and understand user feedback on our approach to methodological change and consider the best way to integrate the findings from this feedback in the timing, communication and planning of methodological change and the delivery of our statistics.

Share insights gathered from work to understand changing nature of migration and population as part of the transformation programme so user views inform the way this work is taken forward

Within our Transformation Overview updates we continually seek user feedback on our future plan. We will now seek to:

- share the insights the work is providing in a timely manner
- continue using user feedback to inform the way the work is taken forwards and where possible outline how user feedback has done this already

Recommendation 3: Continuation of plans for the future of migration data

There was one, more specific passage on this.

ONS's migration team should be open with users about its short-term solution to bridge the gap of migration data until the administrative data alternative is fit for purpose and ready to use. Through the early part of 2021 the ONS Centre for International Migration has published on the progress and current solutions being developed for 2020 (when the International Passenger Survey (IPS) was stopped) and on the transition towards predominately using administrative data sources. This has culminated in publications on '[International migration: developing our approach for producing admin-based migration estimates](#)' and a further update in the form of '[Population and migration statistics system transformation – recent updates](#)'.

In our future publications we will seek to address this recommendation and be clear on the short-term solutions planned ahead of a fully integrated administrative data system which will use Admin Based Migration Estimates (ABMEs) alongside our traditional long-term international migration (LTIM) measure.

Recommendation 4: Enhancement of approach to quality assurance

There were three elements to this recommendation and our plans to respond are as follows.

Collaborate with other to learn from best practice

We will engage with stakeholders and other producers of estimates and projections to share best practices on quality assurance. We will also continue to investigate sensitivity analysis around the estimates to further enhance our approach to quality assurance, and to better understand and describe potential uncertainty around the estimates and projections.

Incorporate local insight and evidence as part of its deep dives and investigations into issues

As part of our approach in developing case studies (outlined above) we will seek local insights and evidence. We will use the findings from these case studies and deep dives to shape our approach to the use of local insights in our development of estimates and projections.

Run sensitivity analyses to accompany the existing estimates and explain to users how these analyses should be interpreted

We will explore the potential to include sensitivity analyses in the mid-year population estimates, how these might be included and explained to users.

Recommendation 5: Supporting users' understanding of the uncertainty associated with ONS statistics

Research and implement additional ways to communicate the uncertainty around the population estimates and projections, beyond the use of confidence intervals and variant projections.

We will consider the alternative ways to communicate uncertainty, possibly seeking feedback from users on suggested approaches. We will consider publishing a paper on uncertainty which will be accessible to a wide range of users. This paper could discuss uncertainty, uses and limitations but also refer to more technical uncertainty work already published.

Provide more specific guidance on interpreting the levels of uncertainty associated with the statistics, to help users understand the appropriate use of the statistics for short-term planning compared with longer-term planning

We aim to provide more guidance in bulletins and other methodology documentation to user help users to understand how to use the population estimates and population projections in short and longer-term planning.

Recommendation 6: Maximising the use of ONS variant projections

This recommendation centred on the variant projections published as part of all population and household projections releases.

Expand on the support it gives users to illustrate where the use of these alternative projections may be beneficial and develop case studies of where they have been used in practice

We will explore the potential to provide more guidance to users on the variant projections which are normally included in each release. More specifically we will look at the potential contribution a user guide on how variants can be used would offer to our users,. possibly using feedback from our recent user engagement exercise of autumn 2020 to help with this process. At the same time, we will discuss with existing users how their use of variant projections may be used as case studies to help non-expert users to understand when to use variant projections with reference to the principal projection.

Recommendation 7: Ensuring that ONS statistics remain relevant to users

The relevance of our statistics is of great importance to us.

Take a more open and constructive approach to responding to user engagement by improving its complaints procedure and viewing challenge as an opportunity to improve the statistics and outputs. A fully open approach will help ONS demonstrate its commitment to user engagement and ensure a range of perspectives are fed into the development of the statistics.

We will do more to inform users of population estimates and projections about how concerns and feedback can be provided on the data and methods we use to develop these statistics. This may include further guidance in newsletters and bulletins.

Reflect and learn from its experience of challenging user engagement and identify potential solutions and best practice from the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics.

All user feedback is of great importance to us; we will review and redevelop our approach to handling challenging user feedback. We frequently engage with users, always welcome feedback and have engaged with those who wish to comment on and challenge our methods and statistics. In doing this we will also consider the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics in developing this best practice and solutions.

Recommendation 8: Increasing public value of ONS statistics and supporting their use

Carry out user engagement to understand who is using the data and for what purposes. Through this, it should promote the appropriate use of the data.

As already outlined, user engagement and ensuring the relevance and suitability of our statistics is important to us. In autumn 2020 we completed user engagement on the national and subnational population projections to understand how these are used at present and what users require in the future. Where possible, we will continue to complete such engagements across our statistics to fully understand who is using the data and for what purposes. We will then respond to this to ensure that we are able to guide users on the appropriate use of our statistics.

Collaborate with experts to frame the statistics for different audiences and scenarios, presenting appropriate use cases of the data.

further user engagement on use of estimates. In collaboration with users we will use case studies to outline what users are doing with our statistics. Examples of appropriate uses could be included the proposed user guide.

Commented [112]: Needs work

5. Next steps and stakeholder feedback on our planned approach

ONS continue to welcome feedback on the planned approach we have outlined to respond to the OSR review and on our statistics and methods. Please do provide feedback to us at pop.info@ons.gov.uk.

As we address the recommendations made by OSR we will continue to update you. We will update on the findings from the work we complete and resulting changes to our processes and plans so all users are aware of the changes we make. We will make clear when we publish research the way in which this addresses the OSR review.

Sign up to the Population Statistics newsletter (convert to link) to ensure you don't miss the latest news on progress.

6. Related links

[Population and migration statistics system transformation -- overview](#)

Latest update on our population and migration statistics transformation [REDACTED]

[Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 June 2021

National and subnational mid-year population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries by administrative area, age and sex.

[National population projections: 2018-based](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 October 2019

Population projections indicating the potential future population size of the UK and its constituent countries.

[Subnational population projections for England: 2018-based](#)

Bulletin | Released 24 March 2020

Indicate potential future population size of English local and health authorities. Widely used in planning – for example labour market, housing, health and education.

[Household projections for England: 2018-based](#)

Bulletin | Released 29 June 2020

Indication of the future number of households in England and its regions and local authorities. Used for planning in areas such as housing and social care.

EMAIL 79 ATTACHMENT END

EMAIL 80 START

From: Robards, James <no-reply@sharepointonline.com>

Sent: 08 July 2021 16:12

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk)>

Subject: Robards, James replied to a comment in "Publication version - article-ONS-response-to-OSR"



Publication version - article-ONS-response-to-OSR.docx



You left a comment

Need to check whether it's a year from May 2021 or July 2021. **END EMAIL 79 ATTACHMENT**

Robards, James replied

Now waiting to hear back from OSR.

...I continue to update OSR and our users through the Population Statistics newsletter (convert to link) and subsequent published updates, making clear the contributions of these items in addressing the recommendations.

Where possible, we aim to meet the recommendations by May 2022. We always welcome feedback on our statistics, outputs, data and methods. We welcome feedback on the plans

we are publishing and for more information on how to feedback to us please see Section 5.

Under the overall area...

EMAIL 80 END

EMAIL 81 START

From: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 July 2021 09:29
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Hi James

I'm sorry, this isn't something that SET would do. [REDACTED]

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Barton | Head of Stakeholder Engagement Team

[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#)

Public Policy Analysis | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

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From: Robards, James
Sent: 12 July 2021 17:36
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see link in the email to the general request template mentioned by [REDACTED] I'm not sure if we can complete it or draft it at the moment – please can you check. Thanks.

You will also see in this about contacting [REDACTED] at OSR – I did that and you should have been cc'd into the reply as well.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 July 2021 13:15
To: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Thanks Susan – can I leave it with SET to do a first draft of the letter?

Best wishes

James

From: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 July 2021 11:06
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Hi James – I'm happy to help as set out in my reply of 7th [REDACTED]

SET can help with the stakeholder engagement side of things as that's their remit, but booking the publication slot etc isn't something we have any experience in as that's ordinarily dealt with by the outputs teams. Let me know exactly what you need help with, and if I've confused anything in your request it would perhaps be easier to talk about this.

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Barton | Head of Stakeholder Engagement Team

[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#)

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From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 July 2021 10:22
To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Thanks Maggie.

Re. letters:

[@Barton, Susan](#) – are SET able to assist with the letter?

[REDACTED] (OSR) has confirmed that OSR and ONS normally publish at the same time.

Best wishes

James

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 July 2021 09:37
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Hi James,

Yep, we'll kick off the blog for you.

Maggie

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 July 2021 06:57
To: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Hi Maggie, Susan,

Thanks for the information in the email chain here. So far we have the following:

1. [Draft article](#) (SEE: EMAIL 61 ATTACHMENT)
2. [Plan for a blog](#) (SEE: EMAIL 60 ATTACHMENT (A))
3. [Plan for a letter](#) (SEE: EMAIL 68 ATTACHMENT (A))

Is anyone able to help with 2 and 3 (or at least do you have comments on what I have planned out)? The letter and blog are too similar at the moment.

Maggie – can [REDACTED] help with drafting the Blog using our article as a guide?

Susan – can SET help with the letter using the content in the article and the Sam Beckett response below. I think the best way to go is for the article to focus on each recommendation and the blog and letter instead to focus on the three parts (Improving methods, Enhancing communication, Embracing challenge).

Best wishes

James

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 16:04
To: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

I should think it is normal to line up with OSR and publish at the same time, but I don't know for sure. And I also suspect you'd be right to follow the format.

On both points, I suggest asking Suzanne Halls in OSR to help agree the approach and coordinate.

Maggie

From: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 15:52
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Letter back from OSR from Jonathan Athow

Thanks James

So that all of our conversations around this are together in one chain I've pulled them all together.

The link you've given to [REDACTED]'s article is on the ONS site in the media section, ([it was co-posted by OSR here](#))

Maggie, do you know if this simultaneous posting is part of the process [REDACTED] has signposted for James? If not can you suggest someone in Comms to approach to line this up.

James – it looks to me like you'd do this much in the same way you'd arrange to publish a release so you wouldn't need SET intervention or support for that. I'm happy to look at any draft before it goes to Maggie, but before you make a start let's just check: Maggie is the [layout and approach Sam Beckett has used](#) the right style to use to respond to OSR.

We'll take you up on your offer to check the draft and advise too please.

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Barton | Head of Stakeholder Engagement Team

[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#)

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From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2021 13:50

To: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Quick Question

Hi [REDACTED] Susan,

Susan – thanks for asking about this.

This morning [REDACTED] from the HoPS office has suggested these go on the OSR website but I'm not sure where or the arrangements for getting one on there. I have also been reading [Sam Beckett to Ed Humpherson: OSR assessment of the Living Costs and Food Survey - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) which I think is a good starting point for the letter.

We also need to do a blog.. Chris Stickney has pointed us in the right direction for that but our list is long and there doesn't feel like there is much time.

Best wishes

James

From: Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2021 13:53

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Quick Question

Hi Susan,

Happy to give tips as I have done a few of these.

Maggie

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 13:50
To: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Morgan, Maggie <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Quick Question

[REDACTED]

We'll need sight of the drafting, plus consider how to handle.

In terms of getting it uploaded, you need to complete a general request here...

<https://shareapp.sp.ons.statistics.gov.uk/sites/DigitalPublications/SitePages/HomePage.aspx>

I'm copying Maggie in, not because she's an expert on getting statements on our website (she is, of course!), but because I'm disappearing for most of the summer so likely won't be around for this exciting exchange of letters.

From: Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2021 13:45
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Quick Question

Hi [REDACTED] – how's things?

I'm hoping you can answer a quick question for me please.

You'll know about the PSD OSR review, there's a publication at the end of July in response to this.

However in addition there will be a letter from Jonathan Athow back to Ed Humpherson which we'll need to publish, and my question is where and how?

I can see letters are published in the [Media](#) page – is this the location? If so, are you or the media team involved in the drafting, and what's our process to get the letter on here (assuming it's the right place)?

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Barton | Head of Stakeholder Engagement Team

[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | [Centre for International Migration](#)

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Hi Susan,

With regard to the OSR review we are planning the response, have a first draft and a publication date in the calendar (unannounced) for 9.30 on Monday 26 July.

Letter

Alongside the response we need to write a letter from Jonathan Athow back to Ed Humpherson. Do you know where these letters get published and are you able to help with drafting one? Who receives the letters and publishes them on the ONS website? Is any of the draft material which we started on (writing back to [REDACTED].) of any help for this?

Comms

To mention that we're also starting to look at the Comms needed around this at the moment.

Thanks.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

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[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 81 END

EMAIL 82 START

From: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:57

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Yep that's fine. The report is long!

Do you know of the sources of difference between 2014-based and 2016-based projections?

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:49

To: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Missed this bit and not read the report – I'll include [REDACTED] if that's ok?

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: 26 July 2021 14:35

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ors.org.uk

Subject: Fw: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear James,

I sent two e-mails on Friday including the one below. Hopefully they got through.

[REDACTED]

Look forward to speaking in an hour or so.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2021 12:25
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ors.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ors.org.uk>; Nigel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ors.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear James,

On Monday, I'd like to talk about the consequences of the (mis)use of the projections at local level. I imagine you regularly consult local authorities and other organisations but this would be a view from, as it were, an ultimate end user (ie local residents).

In particular, I'd like to

- briefly go through the submission I made to OSR and highlight the difficulties in using the projections for Oxfordshire, and Oxford in particular
- discuss how paras 2.48 and 2.49 in the OSR report can be addressed.
- be given a simple explanation of why the 2014-based and 2016-based projections for Oxford (and Cambridge) differ so dramatically

Overall, I'd like to talk about ways in which the limitations of the projections at local level can be better understood by those attempting to use them for assessing housing 'need'.

Could I also ask if you would be willing to send an invitation to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -if that's acceptable, could you send him an invitation also - he's copied in to this message. I also attach the submission which OSR made to OSR for information in case you haven't seen it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I look forward to speaking on Monday.

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2021 15:42
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ors.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ors.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear [REDACTED]

I will shortly send an invitation to an online meeting at 3.30 on Monday 26 July. I will extend this to [REDACTED]

Please do let me know if there are any particular issues you would like to discuss when we speak. Thank you once again for sending what you provided to OSR.

With best wishes,
James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 21 July 2021 14:14

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Thank you again. 3.30 next Monday (26th) is fine. I look forward to speaking to you then.

There are two other people from CDWA who observed the OSR meetings and would like to listen to our

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They may not be able to make it but could you send them the invitation anyway, please. I'm copying them into this e-mail.

Best Wishes

Alan.

From: Robards, James

Sent: 21 July 2021 10:40

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

[REDACTED],

I mean Monday 26 July.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James

Sent: 21 July 2021 10:39

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear [REDACTED],

Who else would you like to extend the invitation to? Is Monday 27 July at 3.30 suitable? If it is then I will send a meeting invitation.

Thank you for forwarding the submission you made to OSR.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Henretty, Nigel <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 21 July 2021 10:05

To: Park, Neil <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>; Robards, James <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Count me in too.

Thanks,

Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

██████████ | ██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Park, Neil <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 21 July 2021 09:36

To: Robards, James <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Hi James,

I can make that.

Neil

From: Robards, James <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Sent: 21 July 2021 09:28

To: Park, Neil <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>; Henretty, Nigel <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: FW: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Hi both,

How about 3:30 on Monday to speak with ██████?

(Email chain below and note the attachment).

Best wishes

James

From: ██████████ <██████████ [@hotmail.com](#)>

Sent: 20 July 2021 11:17

To: Robards, James <██████████ [ons.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: Re: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Thank you James.

██

████████████████████

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I do appreciate you making the time to speak to people about this. Would you be happy for one or two others to attend (mainly to listen)?

[REDACTED]

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 July 2021 10:39

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Invitation to speak to ONS staff. Fw: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and I am sorry for the delay in responding to you.

If you would like to speak with us this week or next please can you let me know of any times to avoid so I can book in an online meeting for us.

With best wishes,
James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2021 13:47

To: Regulation Support <Regulation.Support@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Mid-year estimates and projections publications - contacts from OSR review

Dear All,

As key stakeholders for OSR's review of population estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics, I am contacting you to pass on the offer below from ONS to speak with them about the 2020 mid-year estimates and the plans for 2021. If you are interested in taking up this opportunity, please contact the MPSD email address below.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk
<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

Dear all,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you would like to arrange a time to speak with us please contact MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk who will be helping us set up suitable dates and times.

With best wishes,
James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
EMAIL 82 END

EMAIL 83 START

From: Robards, James
Sent: 03 February 2021 10:27
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi [REDACTED]

This is the recent email from OSR on the review.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James
Sent: 01 February 2021 16:34
To: Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Smallwood, Steve <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi all,

The approach OSR plan to take is outlined below.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 February 2021 15:42

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi James,

Apologies for the slow response. Broadly speaking, our plan for the review is the following:

1. Carry out desk research into the statistics and concerns raised through casework
2. User interviews with academics, demographers, interest groups and local authorities
3. Meet with the relevant producer teams in ONS to share early findings from user interviews and clarify gaps in our understanding
4. Bring together evidence from desk research, user interviews and interviews with producers to produce a document setting out our findings (the format of this output will depend on what our findings highlight – i.e. may be an annex to a letter if we do not believe there to be serious issues or it may be a more formal report if needed)
5. Run our findings past ONS for fact checking
6. Publish our findings

Happy to chat through if helpful.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK Statistics Authority
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/> | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 January 2021 18:00
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi James,

I'm copying in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as they are leading on the review so they'll be better placed to answer this than me.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 January 2021 16:35
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi [REDACTED]

I was wondering, further to your email of last week; do you have a plan of the form the review will take?

Best wishes

James

From: Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2021 10:31

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Smallwood, Steve <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Thanks James.

Liz, Iain – to note.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) Public Policy Analysis

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | [@RichPereira](#) ONS

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2021 10:15
To: Park, Neil <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Smallwood, Steve <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi all,

OSR have published an update.

Best wishes

James

From: Robards, James
Sent: 22 January 2021 10:15
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for letting us know. I've sent this on to a Neil and a couple of others in PSD.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2021 09:47
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Good morning all,

Our webpage announcing the review went live this morning:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/our-regulatory-work/osr-review-of-population-projections-and-estimates/>

If you need any further information or have any questions please let us know.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Office for Statistics Regulation

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk) | Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](https://www.statistics.gov.uk/office-for-statistics-regulation)

UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig | [@StatsRegulation](https://www.stats.gov.uk)

You can access the interactive **Code of Practice for Statistics** [here](#).

Important - Privacy Policy

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 January 2021 17:30

To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi James,

Thanks for this. I'll [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of course I will make sure that everyone is kept in the loop.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk) | Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](https://www.statistics.gov.uk/office-for-statistics-regulation)

UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig | [@StatsRegulation](https://www.stats.gov.uk)

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From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 January 2021 17:26

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: McGhee, Marie <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Keeping in touch - OSR and UKSA announcements on the review of population estimates and projections

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please can you keep in touch with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Nigel and myself about upcoming dates when you are making announcements on the review so we're all aware of what is coming out and when with reference to our publications through the spring. Thanks.

With best wishes,

James

Dr James Robards | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

EMAIL 83 END

EMAIL 84 START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 May 2021 09:23
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR paper - draft vs published

Thanks James.

Nigel, I'll be updating our response doc today (which includes our lines to take), to reflect these changes, where necessary.

[REDACTED]

From: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 May 2021 09:14
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OSR paper - draft vs published

Thanks [REDACTED] – this is a really helpful overview of changes to the final report.

Nigel – see below for a summary of changes.

Best wishes

James

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 May 2021 17:10
To: Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: OSR paper - draft vs published

Hi James,

I've done a comparison of the draft OSR report with the final published report. I've summarised the changes below but essentially, they are very similar and the report follows the same structure and headings. The main differences are minimal and are listed below:

- i) There is a forward which was not included in the draft. I've cut and pasted the conclusion here which I think is the most important bit, as some readers might not read beyond this.

“We found that ONS is taking a sensible approach, particularly at the national level, drawing on its own expertise and that of external experts. It conducts a very wide range of engagement activities to keep users informed about the statistics. The estimates are highly regarded, but there is a risk that ONS misses the bigger picture of what the population data inform and is not regularly sense checking what it does against local insight. Part of this sense checking involves drawing on the challenges from users in different parts of the country – in effect, for ONS to be open to the insights that come from people who say “those figures don’t reconcile with what we see in our area”. That is not to say that the insight should be taken without question. We are simply urging a creative conversation that regards this sort of feedback as useful intelligence to help sense check and quality assure the ONS estimates.

In short, then, we conclude in this review that ONS needs to build on what it does already and enhance its approach in three ways: improve methods; enhance communication; and embrace challenge.”

- I. In the introduction, the report notes the timing in relation to the Census. It acknowledges that some estimates from the past decade may be rebased but says the recommendations look forward.
- II. A statement saying there has been an over-reliance on insufficiently robust data to inform local planning, has been deleted.
- III. The para on UPC has been deleted. The para had concluded by saying that not including UPC had led to an overestimate of international students whose emigration was not captured. This has all gone and there is no reference to UPC in the final report.
- IV. The final report has some positives added. It recognises the roadshows held to talk to users, and includes links to a number of recent publications including the recent (March 23) blog, papers on admin based statistics and the paper on ‘early indicators of UK population’. It also refers to the user engagement paper and decision to publish 2020-based interim NPPs. There was also new text acknowledging our engagement with demographic experts.
- V. There’s a new sentence saying that some users were reluctant to use variants where there were issues with the MYEs as this could lead to implausible scenarios.

And the names of individual academics who contributed, have been taken out. A small number of recommendations have been edited slightly, mostly to simplify. I'll make sure this is reflected in the document on our actions, lines to take etc.

Thanks

■

