

2006-based Subnational Population Projections: Summary of Part Two Consultation Response regarding proposals for outputs

1. Background

As part of the usual biennial programme for Subnational Population Projections (SNPPs) the Office for National Statistics Centre for Demography (ONSCD) ran a consultation on the SNPPs. In addition to the usual consultation on initial migration assumptions¹ we consulted on the outputs that we produce for SNPPs. The consultation ran from 6 March 2008 to 17 April 2008.

Part 2 of the consultation was formed of two parts; consultation on the outputs that form the SNPP release and consultation on the possibility of producing variant projections. This report provides a formal summary of feedback received as part of the consultation on the tables that form the SNPP release. Feedback on the variant side of the consultation will follow later in the year.

All responses to the outputs part of the consultation were considered and as a result some changes were made to the proposed set of tables. This report provides a summary of the responses, a discussion of why changes were or were not made as a result, and a summary of the changes that were implemented. The report also details the tables that will form the final set of 2006-based SNPP outputs.

2. Summary of responses

In total there were 35 responses to this part of the consultation with some responses representing the view of more than one organisation. Annex A shows those who responded and therefore those whose views are represented in this report. In general most users welcomed the restructuring of the outputs. In particular the restructuring of LA level data by geography/region rather than LA type was welcomed. Users also welcomed the reduction in the number of tables presented to users.

A summary of the responses received is provided below with our conclusions *in italics*. Table numbers, where used in this section, refer to the table numbers used in the **initial** consultation document. This document can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/closed-consultations/2006-based-subnational-population-projections/consultation-on-2006-based-subnational-population-projections.html>

¹ A report of Part One of the consultation, on initial migration assumptions, can be found from this page: www.statistics.gov.uk/snpp

- Several respondents wished to see England totals in Government Office Region (GOR) tables and the Local Authorities by GOR tables (Tables 1-4).

It was agreed that England totals should appear in these spreadsheets. These totals will appear at the top of the spreadsheet, prior to the other geographies presented in the tables.

- Several respondents thought that tables for the components of change should be available as standard output (tables A and B for LAs and PCTs respectively). It was thought that these are essential outputs.

These tables will appear as standard output given the demand shown in consultation responses. These will be tables 6 and 8 in the new set of tables.

- There were several requests for a breakdown of births and deaths to be included in the components of change tables (tables A and B).

These tables will now present births and deaths separately under natural change.

- Several comments related to the proposal for some tables only to be available on request. Given that the components of change data have been 'promoted' to standard outputs the only data that will now be only available on request are the excel files containing data related to particular area e.g. a Local Authority. The responses to the proposal to supply tables on request and the reaction to the responses are detailed below.

- It should be made clear exactly what tables are available to users on request.

It will be made clear to users what tables are available to users via information presented on the product page.

- A system should be provided where data are requested once and then automatically sent out in subsequent years

Given that the data are published biennially the resource required to maintain the list, and the number of contact who change in this period, the benefits of running such a data service are outweighed by the costs. This is not an option we will pursue at this point.

- Tables available on request should automatically be issued to the relevant LA/PCT at the time of release.

Keeping an up-to-date contact list can be a labour intensive task. Contacts frequently change and so much time is spent maintaining this list. For these reasons this option will not be pursued.

- Some responses thought that all tables should be available on the Web, even if some were only available in a separate area.

This will not be implemented at present. Although it was agreed that this could reduce our administrative burden, the demand for these tables will be assessed and the provision of the data via the web will be considered for the future. This is a decision we will revisit when ONS implements its new website design.

- Some responses related to the provision of component data for only selected years (Tables A and B). Bristol LA reported that they could not produce aggregations of the statistics for the time periods they required because of the limited data.

The reason why only certain years of component data are provided is because of current system limitations. If these limitations were not present then data for all years would be supplied. Because of these system limitations we cannot currently supply data for all years. We hope to have new systems in place for 2008-based subnational population projections that will enable us to show data for all years.

- There were many responses relating to requests for other age-bandings to form additional tables/outputs in the individual spreadsheet (Tables C-G). Although these mainly focused on the younger age groups, there was little similarity between the exact age-banding requests. There was recognition from some LAs that the single year of age (SYOA) data (available in the proposed table F) would allow the construction of custom age groupings.

There was little similarity between the exact age-banding requests from respondents. The provision of SYOA data allows the user to construct the age-bandings of their choice and additional custom age-bandings will not be provided.

- In relation to the above responses it was requested that the SYOA data (presented in table F) should be available un-rounded. This was so that errors would not be introduced if custom age groupings are created.

It has been agreed that un-rounded SYOA data will be supplied in this table.

- Many responses were to do with way in which table titles are shortened in 'Statbase'. Clearer titles were requested so that the user could more easily identify the required table.

The way in which table titles are shortened in Statbase cannot be changed at present. We have attempted to provide clearer table titles providing the most critical information in the first 60 characters visible via the Statbase page. In the longer term ONS is due to move to a new website design. We understand this limitation will then no longer apply.

- There were mixed responses regarding the publication of components of change table for PCOs (table b) because of the health warnings outlined in the consultation document. Some welcomed the production and release of this table whilst others thought that they were unlikely to use the data given the caveats.

It has been agreed that this table will be published as part of the standard output but accompanied by strong health warnings. The user can then decide whether the data are fit-for-their purpose.

There were several responses which were outside the scope of this consultation and outside of the immediate control of ONSCD e.g. the way in which data are disseminated to the user. The issues raised are currently being considered by ONS.

4. Tables for publication

The tables presented below describe the set of tables that will form the outputs for the 2006-Based SNPPs.

4.1 Standard outputs published on the web

1: GORs (Government Office Regions); 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age

This table is equivalent to table 1 of the 2004-based SNPP outputs. This table shows the projected population for the English GORs for the years 2006 to 2031 by quinary age. There will be three separate tables within the file, for all persons, males and females.
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2: LAs and counties in NW, NE and Y&H GORs; 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age
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3: LAs and counties in EM, WM and East GORs; 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age

4:LAs and counties in SE, SW and London GORs; 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age

Tables 2, 3 and 4 show the projected population for all English LAs for the years 2006-2031. There will be three separate tables within the file, for all persons, males and females.

These replace tables 3 – 8 in the 2004-based projections. Population projections at the LA level need to be split in order to reduce file sizes for ease of download. Previously these data were split into six tables according to the type of LA and in the case of non-metropolitan districts by alphabetic groupings. It is assumed that users of these tables are generally searching for data for a specific LA. By restructuring the counties and LAs by Government Office Region it is assumed that it will be easier to identify a particular LA. Also, these tables should benefit those working in county councils as non-metropolitan districts will be grouped with the county they belong to.

Grouping LAs and counties from several GORs into one table means fewer overall tables and helps users to pick the correct table first time.

5: All LAs, counties and GORs; 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age

This table is equivalent to table 20 of the 2004-based SNPP outputs. This table provides all of the data from tables 1-4 above. There will be three separate tables within the file, for all persons, males and females.

The file will be large and is designed for those users who need the whole dataset for all local authorities and higher administrative areas.

6: All LAs, counties and GORs; natural change and migration summaries 2007-11, 2016, 2021, 2026, 2031 for population projections components of change

This table provides natural change and migration summaries for all local authorities, counties, and GORs. Natural change is broken down into births and deaths and net migration figures are broken down into internal migration (in and out) and international and cross border migration (in and out).

Detailed data on these components are available for the years outlined above. Due to the vast volume of data that support population projections, and the systems used for projections, the data are only retained for selected years. The retained selection of years is designed to meet the assumed user requirements.

7: PCOs and SHAs; 2006-2031 population projections by sex and quinary age

This table shows the projected population for strategic health authorities and primary care organisations for the years 2006 to 2031. There will be three separate tables within the file, for all persons, males and females.

Previously data have been provided for SHAs but not PCOs. Tables for PCOs have been proposed, as there is an emerging demand for SNPPs at this level.

The SNPP outputs are for the 354² district level local authorities in England. Of the 152 PCOs 130 comprise one or more whole LAs so data for the LAs can be aggregated simply, when necessary, to produce the SNPP outputs for these PCOs. For the remaining 22 PCOs a simple apportioning methodology will be used to produce the SNPP outputs.

8: PCOs and SHAs; natural change and migration summaries 2007-11, 2016, 2021, 2026, 2031 for population projections components of change

This table provides natural change and migration summaries for PCOs and SHAs. Detailed data on these components are available for the years outlined above. Due to the volume of data that support population projections and the systems used for projections, these component data are only retained for selected years. The retained selection of years is designed to meet the assumed user requirements.

Limitations of these data

There are some limitations to the data and these will be conveyed to the user. Traditionally we have provided summaries for natural change and migration for SHAs and there are no significant difficulties in producing these as these are straightforward aggregations of LAs.

At the PCO level, data for internal migration would only be available for net migration. More importantly it is debatable whether data for components are meaningful after the PCO apportioning methodology has been applied. The data would **not** be based on direct assumptions for the components due to the use of the apportioning methodology. The data are artefactual and provide information of limited meaning only. They will provide information on what is driving the projection, but do not convey direct meaningful projections of the components in their own right.

² Although the City of London and the Isles of Scilly are not shown in published tables because of the lack of reliability for these areas due to their small population size.

4.2 Standard tables issued on request

These workbooks will not be published as main outputs but prepared in advance and issued free on request.

Tables A – E: Detailed individual workbooks

Individual workbooks are created to provide all the information for each area type (LAs, GORs, PCOs, SHAs and Counties).

Information would include sub-national population projections for:

- Quinary age groups by sex (Table A)
- Summary age groups (0-15, 15-64M/59F, 65M/60F+) (Table B)
- CLG selected age summaries (Table C)
- Single year of age by sex (Table D)
- Components of change breakdown (Table E)

Annex A – List of Responding Institutions

Barnet (London Borough)	Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Newham (London Borough)
Berkshire East PCT	Norfolk County Council
Berkshire West PCT	North Kesteven District Council
Boston Borough Council	North Tyneside Council
Braintree District Council	North Yorkshire County Council
Bristol City Council	Northamptonshire County Council
Bristol PCT	Northamptonshire Police
Calderdale Borough Council	Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust
Cambridgeshire County Council	Nottingham City Council
Camden (London Borough)	Oxford City Council
City of London (London Borough)	Oxfordshire County Council
Durham City Council	Plymouth City Council
Durham County Council	Sheffield City Council
East Lindsey District Council	Shropshire County Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	South Holland District Council
Greater London Authority	South Kesteven District Council
Hampshire County Council	South Tyneside Borough Council
Haringey (London Borough)	Sunderland City Council
Haringey PCT	Tameside & Glossop PCT
Islington (London Borough)	Tameside Borough Council
Kent County Council	Torbay Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Torbay PCT
Kirklees PCT	Tower Hamlets (London Borough)
Leeds City Council	Tower Hamlets PCT
Lincoln Council	Tyne & Wear Research and Information
Lincolnshire County Council	Waltham Forest (London Borough)
Lincolnshire PCT	Warwickshire County Council
Lincolnshire Police	West Lindsey District Council
Manchester City Council	Westminster (London Borough)
Manchester PCT	Plus one other county