

## THE TRANSPORT PART OF THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICS PLAN

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek the views of Members of the Committee on the "Transport" part of the Scottish Executive (SE) Statistics Plan for 2005-06.

1.2 It should be noted that, as the Statistics Plan covers (essentially) only the Government Statistical Service work of SE, the "Transport" part will cover only the work of the SE Transport Statistics branch: it does *not* cover numerical work which is the responsibility of others within SE, such as surveys to collect data for the Transport Model for Scotland, and the development of the Scottish Roads Traffic Database and the monitoring of congestion on trunk roads. The other SE representatives at the meeting may wish to mention their plans.

1.3 A copy of the current *draft* of the Transport Statistics plan is provided as an Annex. It is subject to revision in the light of developments and the advice of the Committee.

1.4 This paper covers some points on which the views would be welcomed. **Members of the Committee are also invited to comment on any other matters related to the plan.**

### 2 Publications

2.1 It is intended that the branch's publications (which are all annual, unless indicated otherwise) would continue to appear in the following months:

- *Key Road Accident Statistics* - June
- *Scottish Transport Statistics* - August
- *Key Transport Statistics* ("fact card") - August, with further edition(s) as and when appropriate (the main "statistical" update being in December)
- *Household Transport* - November
- *Road Accidents Scotland* - November
- *Transport Across Scotland* (**biennial**) - December
- *SHS Travel Diary results* - March
- *Bus and Coach Statistics* - March
- *Travel by Scottish residents* (**triennial**) - April, subject to the availability of National Travel Survey results for Scotland

The branch will also provide further SHS Transport-related results in short articles for the quarterly *Scottish Transport Review* and in some of the quarterly releases of SHS results. **Members of the Committee are invited to comment on the proposed schedule of publications.**

2.2 Where appropriate, improvements will be made to each publication. Views on ways in which *Scottish Transport Statistics* might be developed are sought in a separate paper. We also intend to improve other publications, as and when appropriate. For example, we will amend our bulletins of SHS results (*Household Transport*, *Transport Across Scotland* and *SHS Travel Diary results*) as and when information becomes available from the new questions that have been added to the survey. In due course, we will add analyses of contributory factors, and other new road accident statistics information collected with effect from 2005, to *Road Accidents Scotland*. **Are there other**

**improvements that Members of the Committee feel should be made to these publications and, if so, what are they?**

2.3 It should be noted that the only publications listed above are those for which the Transport Statistics branch has "editorial control". There are other Scottish Executive publications which include statistics about aspects of Transport in Scotland, for which the Transport Statistics branch is not directly responsible, such as *Transport Indicators for Scotland* (see the separate paper on this - although the branch provides the statistics, "editorial control" lies with policy colleagues and Ministers), the forthcoming *Guide to Scottish Ports* (the contents of which will be decided by the relevant policy branch), and the "transport-related" *SHS Topic Reports* (see below) and the *SHS Annual Report* (the branch contributes to decisions on the content of SHS publications, without having "editorial control" over them). **If Members of the Committee wish to suggest improvements to such publications, the Transport Statistics branch will be happy to pass their comments on to the appropriate people within SE.**

2.4 Views would be welcomed on possible subjects for further **SHS Topic Reports**. These provide "in depth" analysis of particular topics; focus on the results which are relevant to particular policy issues; and look at the SHS's results in the context of information available from other sources. They are written by external experts (e.g. academics or transport consultants), and are based mainly on SHS data / results (up to a third of the analysis can be based on non-SHS statistics). An SHS Topic Report on "Accessibility and Transport" has been commissioned, and one on "Modal Shift" should be commissioned within the next 2-3 months. As the survey has been running for almost six years, the numbers surveyed so far enable Topic Reports to look in detail at (e.g.) particular sub-groups of the population.

2.5 Do Members of the Committee feel that there is a need for **new publications**, and (if so) what topics should they cover? For example, should we take the material from one of the chapters of *Scottish Transport Statistics*, and use it as a starting-point for a separate publication on that topic? Depending upon the availability of additional data on that topic, such a publication could also include a lot of extra material (e.g. *Bus and Coach Statistics* covers much more than the "bus and coach" chapter of *Scottish Transport Statistics*). If a new publication were created in that way, one might well "prune" the corresponding chapter of *Scottish Transport Statistics*, as there would be no need for it to "duplicate" some of the material in the new publication (*Scottish Transport Statistics* does not cover bus and coach statistics, road accident statistics or SHS results in detail, because we have other publications on those topics).

2.6 Is there a need for **new publications which are not based on Scottish Transport Statistics topics** (which generally reflect modes of transport and/or sources of data)? For example, DfT has a series of "*Focus on ...*" publications on (e.g.) "personal travel", "public transport", "roads", "freight" and "ports". Each brings together figures from a range of sources (e.g. *Focus on Personal Travel* contains many National Travel Survey results, plus some statistics on personal travel from other sources). Such publications do not appear annually and, by their nature, may not provide up-to-date figures: their purpose is to provide a "broad overview" of the statistics on a particular topic.

2.7 Would a **Summary Transport Statistics bulletin** be useful, to provide an "overview" of the main trends in transport in Scotland? It could be created simply by copying (most of) the material on pages 13 to 37 of the latest edition of *Scottish Transport Statistics*. As a *Summary* bulletin would have only a couple of dozen pages, some readers might find the material more "accessible" than what

appears in *Scottish Transport Statistics* (does this appear daunting, because of its size - currently 276 pages?). As the *Summary* bulletin would simply "repackage" some material from *Scottish Transport Statistics*, it could be prepared quickly (once the latter had been sent to the printer), and the two could be published on the same day.

2.8 The concept of a *Summary* bulletin could be developed further. For example, a larger bulletin could include a commentary, by a named external expert author, drawing on information from other sources (in the same way as the SHS Topic Reports aim to augment the analysis of the SHS data with other material). The timescale within which the figures for *Scottish Transport Statistics* are gathered, and the rules governing the release of National Statistics, make it unlikely that an external author could receive all of the figures for a *Summary* bulletin sufficient early to enable the commentary to be produced in time for the bulletin to be published on the same day as *Scottish Transport Statistics*. Therefore, an **"expanded" Summary bulletin would have to appear a month or two later**: the "price" to be paid for the expert commentary would be a delay in the appearance of the *Summary* bulletin (plus, of course, the expert's fee).

2.9 Members of the Committee may also have views on the **formats / styles** which might be used for new publications. DfT's *"Focus on ..."* publications have what may be considered a more "user-friendly" format than "traditional" statistical publications: a "coffee-table" style, with a mixture of text, small tables and small charts. They also use colour and graphics, but that is not essential: one could produce them in the same efficient and economical way as our current publications (i.e. in black-and-white, using Word and Excel), although they might then have less "visual impact".

2.10 The branch's ability to produce new publications (or other outputs) is limited, of course, because it has only 4½ full-time equivalent posts, and a lot of its time is spent on other work (e.g. the collection of the road accident statistics). This leads on to the question of **whether all our annual publications should continue to appear annually**. At the previous meeting, when asked whether our most "specialist" bulletin (*SHS Travel Diary results*) should appear biennially, members of the Committee wanted it to remain an annual publication. We are happy to continue producing publications annually (apart from *Transport across Scotland* and *Travel by Scottish residents*, for which the sample sizes are too small for detailed analysis of the results for one year). However, if (say) *SHS Travel Diary results* or *Bus and Coach Statistics* were to appear only in alternate years, the time that was "saved" could be used to produce other publications or outputs, which some might regard as more valuable.

2.11 **Members' views on all these matters would be welcomed. For example :**

- **are they content with the proposed schedule of publications?**
- **what improvements would they like made to the branch's publications?**
- **... and to other SE publications that include statistics about aspects of transport?**
- **are new publications or other outputs needed?**
- **if so, what topics should they cover?**
- **and what formats / styles should they have?**
- **should more publications appear biennially, in order to make time available for the production of other publications or outputs?**
- **if so, which publications should appear biennially?**

3 Transport Statistics Web site

3.1 Members of the Committee are reminded that the Transport Statistics part of the SE Web site provides access to (e.g.)

- the "on-line" version of every Transport Statistics publication since Spring 1998;
- Excel spreadsheet versions of all the tables in the latest edition of each publication;
- Excel spreadsheet versions of some tables in some earlier editions of some publications;
- updated versions of some of the "key" tables in *Scottish Transport Statistics*, in cases when new data become available several months before the next edition is published;
- some extra *road accidents statistics* tables;
- other relevant information, and links to other Web sites.

3.2 All this material can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat) . More information about the Web site is given on page 273 of *Scottish Transport Statistics*, which also gives addresses that can be used to go direct to certain parts of the site.

**3.3 Members of the Committee who have used this site are invited to comment on it. Members of the Committee are also asked to suggest any additional material that feel should be provided there.**

#### 4 Other developments

4.1 The plan covers the development of the two main sets of data collected by, or on behalf of, the Transport Statistics branch.

4.2 First, the Transport-related questions in the Scottish Household Survey will be developed further, as described in the separate paper on the SHS.

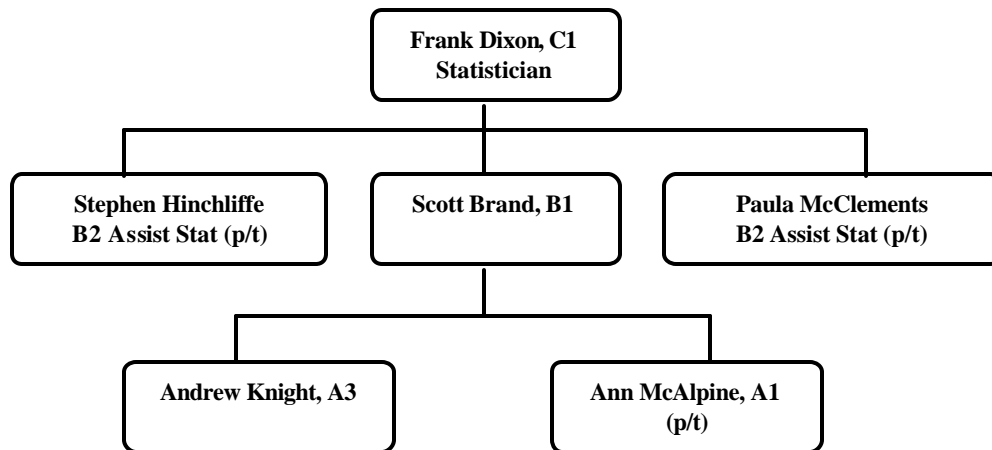
4.3 Second, following a Quality Review, there will be extensive changes to the road accident statistics system at the start of 2005, including the collection of contributory factors and some other new or revised information. Thereafter, the road accident statistics specification is likely to remain unchanged for several years, until the implementation of whatever is recommended following the next review. In that time, we will use the new information, and the better facilities that should be available from our new computer system (e.g. better links to GIS-based information). **Members of the Committee are invited to note the position on the road accident statistics.**

4.4 There are, of course, other developments in the collection of statistics about Transport in Scotland, such as those which follow Quality Reviews of the Department for Transport's surveys (a separate paper covers key developments in DfT statistics).

**4.5 Members of the Committee are asked for their views on what else the SE Transport Statistics branch might consider for the plan. For example :**

- **do they feel that particular information gaps or needs should be addressed, for example by the collection of statistics on new topics?**
- **if so, how feasible would it be to obtain the data, and what might be the costs to both the suppliers and the collectors of the information?**
- **if there are a number of possible developments, which do they feel should have priority?**

## **ANNEX: DRAFT TRANSPORT STATISTICS PLAN FOR 2005-06**



### **Background**

1. Transport Statistics (TS) provides statistical support to colleagues in Transport policy divisions and professional units. This includes providing statistical advice and analysis to inform policy development, providing information for briefing, PQs and research projects, and answering ad-hoc requests (e.g. for data for transport researchers and modellers). It has not yet been decided whether some or all of TS will be part of Transport Scotland (the agency which will be set up): a lot will depend upon how Transport policy work will be split between the agency and the Executive.
2. TS manages two major *sources of detailed statistical data*:
  - Scottish Household Survey (SHS) - transport is one of the SHS's main topic areas, and it provides information on households' transport facilities, some types of travel by their members, and adults' views on various aspects of transport. TS obtains the data from the contractors who conduct the survey for SE. TS contributes greatly to the development and analysis of the SHS, and a TS Assistant Statistician is the SHS Statistical Database Administrator, who maintains the SHS database and supports its use by colleagues;
  - road accident statistics returns - these provide information on the circumstances of each "personal injury" road accident, and about each casualty and each vehicle involved. TS obtains the data from Police Forces.
3. For its publications, TS also draws on a wide range of sources managed by *other collectors and providers of statistics on Transport*, such as a number of other branches within the Executive, the Department for Transport (DfT), the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and many others - see section 7.
4. TS *consults its customers* through:
  - the ScotStat Transport and Travel Statistics Advisory Committee (T&TSAC: it includes representatives of TS&LD-S&PT, TS&LD-TS&TRT, TRNMD and external users and providers of statistics);
  - the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS: it includes TD3-2, TRNMD, police forces, local authorities and other users of the statistics);
  - ASD "analytical strategy" and "business planning" meetings with policy colleagues;
  - the process of clearance and publication of its annual statistics plan; and

- ad-hoc discussions on particular issues.
5. Targets and indicators - the branch
- collects the road accident data, which have been used for many years to monitor progress towards casualty reduction targets;
  - obtains the figures for the "rail", "bus" and "ferry passenger" targets;
  - publishes figures relating to some of the other targets in (e.g.) *Scottish Transport Statistics*;
  - provides most of the figures which appear in *Transport Indicators for Scotland*.
6. **Main tasks for the Transport Statistics branch in 2005-06**

6.1 **Household / personal travel:**

- scrutinise the first results of new SHS questions on Transport, added in 2005, on topics such as views on traffic growth and road charging, perceptions of rail services, use of Traveline and frequency of use of concessionary fare pass;
- publish further analyses of SHS Transport-related results in new editions of the statistical bulletins and in quarterly articles in the *Scottish Transport Review*, including the initial findings from some of the new questions added in 2005;
- contribute to the Quality Review of the SHS, which will determine (e.g.) the size of the sample, types of topic covered by the questionnaire and the nature of the main outputs;
- contribute to work on the specification and selection of the contractor for the SHS for 2007 to 2010, and to other SHS developments and outputs (e.g. assist as required with the Transport-related parts of the SHS Annual Reports and Topic Reports);
- if appropriate, consider detailed follow-up surveys on Transport-related topics.

6.2 **Road accident statistics:**

- liaise with data suppliers to resolve any "teething problems" with their returns, following the "January 2005" changes to the "Stats 19" specification;
- scrutinise the Contributory Factors and the other new data;
- consult LGRAS on improvements to *Road Accidents Scotland* and revise the next edition accordingly.

6.3 **General user liaison / dissemination:**

- liaise with DfT, NAW and NI through the (UK) Transport, Travel and Tourism Theme Working Group, the (GB) Standing Committee on Road Accident Statistics, the (GB) Road Safety Advisory Panel Statistics sub-group and meetings on specific topics;
- contribute to the DfT-led review of the road traffic estimates;
- consult T&TSAC as and when appropriate - e.g.:
  - when *Transport Indicators for Scotland* is next reviewed;
  - when the next UK National Statistics Theme work plan is developed (particularly regarding the needs for further Transport statistics for Scotland); and
  - to obtain views on possible improvements to our publications and other outputs;
- if requested, prepare a presentation for the annual Transport Statistics Users Group / Napier University Transport Research Institute joint seminar;
- improve further *Scottish Transport Statistics*, in the light of the results of the 2004 survey of its users and the advice of T&TSAC;
- produce the branch's publications and other main outputs within the timetable set out below subject to (a) the availability of resources and (b) data suppliers providing data of sufficient quality in

good time. Improvements will be made in the light of (e.g.) users' comments, changes in the availability of data and our identifying other information that we feel it would be useful to include.

#### 6.4 **Statistical publications and other main outputs planned for 2005-06:**

##### 6.4.1 Statistical publications:

<i>Travel by Scottish residents in 2002 and 2003</i> (*, \$)	April 2005
<i>Key 2004 Road Accident Statistics</i>	June 2005
<i>Scottish Transport Statistics</i> , 2005 edition, accompanied by the <i>Key Transport Statistics</i> "fact card"	August 2005
<i>Household Transport in 2004</i>	November 2005
<i>Road Accidents Scotland 2004</i>	November 2005
<i>Transport across Scotland in 2003 and 2004</i> (*)	December 2005
main "statistical" update of <i>Key Transport Statistics</i>	December 2005
<i>SHS Travel Diary results for 2004</i>	March 2006
<i>Bus and Coach Statistics 2004-05</i>	March 2006
short articles for the <i>Scottish Transport Review</i>	quarterly

(\*): not published annually, because one year's sample is too small for the analyses.

(\$): this provides some Scottish results from DfT's GB-wide National Travel Survey

##### 6.4.2 On the SE Website - spreadsheet versions of

- all the tables from each publication;
- updated versions of some *Scottish Transport Statistics* tables (in some of the cases where a further year's data are available several months before the next edition is published); and
- extra road accident statistics tables.

##### 6.4.3 Other main outputs:

- send new and amended road accident statistics records to DfT and WDM (the consultants who maintain the database used by the TRNMD AIP Unit) every month;
- send "final" (for the purposes of initial publication) road accident statistics data for 2004 to DfT in accordance with the timetable specified by DfT;
- update and enhance the SHS "for analysis" database, when more data become available;
- provide anonymised SHS Travel Diary records for use in transport modelling, as and when appropriate; and
- provide figures for PQs, other bodies' publications, and in response to requests from policy colleagues, researchers and other internal and external enquirers, as and when required.

#### 7. **Some topics for which statistics are collected and/or provided by others**

Figures on some (but *not* all) of these topics appear in TS publications (principally *Scottish Transport Statistics*):

- Statistics from various GB/UK-wide systems and surveys (e.g. on vehicles, bus industry and patronage, road freight, overall road traffic volumes, ports and waterborne freight, personal travel, etc) - Department for Transport (DfT);
- Rail - Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), rail freight companies, Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT), Network Rail;
- Aviation - Civil Aviation Authority;
- Trunk road traffic and congestion measures, road lengths returns - TRNMD;
- Transport Model for Scotland (outputs and underlying data) - TS&LD-TS&TRT;

- Budget and expenditure - Finance Transport and RPGFD-F&BT;
- Environment-related statistics - Environment Statistics branch;
- Commissioned external research - Transport Research branch, TS&LD-TS&TRT and TRNMD;
- Numerical information on a range of topics (e.g. numbers of proposals approved, numbers of projects funded, measures of trunk road maintenance, etc) - policy and trunk roads colleagues;
- Numerical information on a range of topics (e.g. traffic and journeys on particular routes, concessionary travel, school transport, condition of local roads, operational information, etc etc) - SPT, local authorities, bus and ferry operators, etc etc.