

## THE TRANSPORT PART OF THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICS PLAN

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 2007-08.
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 or Transport Scotland, such as surveys to collect data for the Transport Model for Scotland, the development of the Scottish Roads Traffic Database and the monitoring of congestion on trunk roads. The representatives of other parts of SE and of Transport Scotland may wish to mention their plans.
3. A copy of the current *draft* of the Transport Statistics plan is attached. It is subject to revision in the light of developments and the advice of the Committee. Also relevant is paper T&TSAC(06) 6, as it refers to the development of the Scottish Household Survey, to which the branch will contribute.
4. **Members of the Committee are invited to comment on any of the points in the plan.**
5. Members of the Committee may feel that that the SE Transport Statistics branch should also do some other things. The branch's ability to collect more data, and to produce new publications or other outputs, is limited, as it has only four people (Statistician, Assistant Statistician, B1 Executive Officer and A3 Administrative Officer), and much of its time is committed to tasks which continue from year to year (e.g. the collection of road accident statistics data). However, there is some capacity for new work, and we are therefore interested in Members' comments and suggestions on how they would like us to improve SE's Transport statistics.
6. **Members of the Committee are asked for their views on what other work 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?**
7. The SE Transport Statistics branch's draft plan for 2007-08 will be amended as appropriate in the light of the discussion of this paper and the other papers. **Are Members of the Committee content with the plan on that basis?**

## TRANSPORT STATISTICS: *DRAFT* BRANCH PLAN FOR 2007-08

### **Background**

1. Transport Statistics (TranStat) 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).
2. TranStat 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. TranStat obtains the data from the contractors who conduct the survey for SE. TranStat contributes greatly to the development and analysis of the SHS, and the TranStat Assistant Statistician is the SHS Statistical Database Administrator, who maintains the SE's internal 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. TranStat obtains the data from Police Forces.
3. For its publications, TranStat 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) and many others - see section 7.
4. TranStat *consults its customers* through:
  - the ScotStat Transport and Travel Statistics Advisory Committee (T&TSAC: it includes representatives of SE Transport Strategy Division, Transport Scotland Strategy & Investment, Transport Scotland Trunk Roads Network Management and external users and providers of statistics);
  - the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS: it includes SE Bus Freight & Roads Division, Transport Scotland Trunk Roads Network Management, the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, police forces, local authorities and other users of the statistics);
  - "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" and "bus" targets;
  - publishes figures relating to some of the other targets in *Scottish Transport Statistics*;
  - provided most of the figures which appeared in *Transport Indicators for Scotland*.
6. **Main tasks for the Transport Statistics branch in 2007-08**
  - 6.1 **Household / personal travel:**
    - as they become available, scrutinise the first sets of data produced from the many *new* SHS questions on Transport added to the survey at the start of January 2007. These cover a wide range of topics such as: travel to/from work (effects of congestion on usual journey, circumstances in which car commuters would use public transport, what else is usually done in the course of a car journey home, car sharing); travel from school (mode of transport usually used); problems faced by drivers; congestion (e.g. impact on person and on Scotland, views on what might be done to reduce it, etc); park and ride; non-users' views of some aspects of bus services; experience of criminal/anti-social

behaviour on public transport; travel to doctors surgery, dentists and hospital outpatients department (normal mode, possible use of bus/train, reasons for not using bus/train, etc); traffic calming; and use of the Thistle card and Taxicard. Check that the new questions are collecting credible information;

- check that the questionnaire's new "modular" structure is working correctly and, in particular, that the quality of the information obtained from the "ongoing" questions has not been reduced by the extensive changes to the questionnaire;
- check that the redesigned data collection procedures for the Travel Diary are working correctly and, in particular, that the SHS is now collecting information about "short walk" trips, and also about the "short walk" stages of journeys, and therefore obtaining much more complete information than hitherto about the previous day's journeys;
- publish initial results from some of these new questions in quarterly articles in the *Scottish Transport Review*;
- contribute to other SHS developments and outputs - (e.g.) assist as required with the Transport-related Topic Reports and parts of the SHS Annual Report;
- if appropriate, consider detailed follow-up surveys on Transport-related topics;
- revise the processing arrangements, structure and documentation of the SE's internal SHS datasets, where necessary (a) following consultation with users and (b) to take account of the more complicated "modular" questionnaire, including the many new "Sports and Culture" questions.

## 6.2 **Road accident statistics:**

- consider whether and, if so, how to present the first "trend" information that can be produced from Contributory Factors and the other new data which were first collected in 2005;
- consult LGRAS as and when appropriate - e.g. regarding initial suggestions for the next Quality Review of road accident statistics, and if views are needed on possible improvements to *Road Accidents Scotland*.

## 6.3 **Other work, including general dissemination and user/provider liaison:**

- National Transport Strategy:
  - contribute to the analytical work required to inform and monitor the strategy;
  - advise on any consequent needs for transport statistics for Scotland;
  - assist with the preparation of whatever "National Transport Strategy measuring and monitoring" documents the Executive decides to produce;
- 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 any DfT-led Quality Reviews of GB-wide Transport statistics systems;
- consult T&TSAC as and when appropriate - e.g. to obtain views on possible improvements to publications and other outputs;
- if requested, prepare presentations for the annual SHS User Day, the annual Transport Statistics Users Group / Napier University Transport Research Institute joint seminar, and other events involving users and/or providers of the statistics;
- liaise with users and providers of Transport statistics in other ways - e.g. by visiting police forces and local authorities to discuss the supply and use of the road accident statistics data;
- improve further *Scottish Transport Statistics* and other publications, in the light of users' views, the advice of T&TSAC, changes in the availability of data and our identifying other information that we feel it would be useful to include;
- produce the branch's publications and other main outputs within the timescales specified in section 6.4.

## 6.4 Statistical publications and other main outputs planned for 2007-08:

### 6.4.1 Statistical publications:

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Target (#)</b>
<i>Key 2006 Road Accident Statistics</i>	June 2007
<i>Main Transport Trends, 2007 edition</i>	August 2007
<i>Household Transport in 2006</i>	October 2007
<i>Road Accidents Scotland 2006</i>	November 2007
<i>Scottish Transport Statistics, 2007 edition</i>	December 2007
<i>Transport across Scotland in 2005 and 2006</i> (*)	December 2007
<i>SHS Travel Diary results for 2005 and 2006</i> (*)	February 2008
<i>Key Transport Statistics "fact card"</i>	as/when appropriate
short articles for the <i>Scottish Transport Review</i>	quarterly
<p><b><u>NB:</u></b> the following appear biennially, so will <i>not</i> be produced in 2007-2008 but <i>will</i> be published in 2008-09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Travel by Scottish residents</i> (*, \$)</li> <li>• <i>Bus and Coach Statistics</i> (*)</li> </ul>	

(#): some targets may be revised if suppliers do not provide data of sufficient quality in good time, or if the branch is badly affected by staff changes and/or vacancies

(\*): this publication does *not* appear annually, because of its specialist nature and/or because one year's sample is not large enough to support the detailed analyses which appear in the publication.

(\$): 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 spreadsheet versions of most of the *Scottish Transport Statistics* tables when *Main Transport Trends* is published in August. Updated spreadsheet versions of most of the other *Scottish Transport Statistics* tables (and of the corresponding *Main Transport Trends* tables) as and when appropriate in the months from (a) September to November and (b) January to April, following a further year's data becoming available;
- extra road accident statistics tables;
- updated versions of the *High Level Summary* pages once the relevant publications have appeared, and following the release of updated versions of the relevant *Scottish Transport Statistics* tables.

### 6.4.3 Other main outputs:

- every month, send new and amended road accident statistics records to DfT and WDM (the consultants who maintain the database used by the Transport Scotland Trunk Roads Network Management AIP Unit);
- send "final" (for the purposes of initial publication) road accident statistics data for 2006 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 TranStat 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 - Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), rail freight companies, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Network Rail;
- Aviation - Civil Aviation Authority;
- Trunk road traffic and congestion measures, road lengths returns - Transport Scotland Trunk Roads Network Management;
- Transport Model for Scotland (outputs and underlying data) - Transport Scotland Strategy & Investment;
- Budget and expenditure - Finance Transport and Transport Group Finance & Business Planning;
- Environment-related statistics - Environment Statistics branch;
- Commissioned external research - Transport Research branch, Transport Scotland Strategy & Investment and Transport Scotland Trunk Roads Network Management;
- 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.