

IHS update for the Scottish Population Survey Co-ordinating Committee (SPSCC)

1. The following announcement was made on Monday 26th March to all IHS, EFS, GSL and LFS survey steering group members.

"The purpose of this note is to bring you up-to-date with IHS developments, following postponement of the March IHS Steering Group. ONS has been looking at the best timetable for implementation of the IHS in the light of when the new Survey Case Management System is expected to be delivered, and to ensure a smooth introduction.. The SCMS is essential to support the new data collection infrastructure and unclustered sample design which are integral to the IHS.

Accordingly, ONS plans for implementation are as follows:

- introducing the new IHS questionnaire and core questions to three modules in January 2008 (currently the EFS, GSL and Omnibus surveys)
- extending this to the Work module (currently LFS and boost surveys) in April 2008.
- changes to the sample design and the field operation will be introduced in October 2008, after testing in conjunction with the new SCMS in May/June 2008.
- we will undertake field trials this year and next, ahead of each main implementation phase, to test processes and help us to estimate any impact on response or outputs.

We are aiming to reschedule the next IHS Steering Group towards the end of May/early June. In the meantime, we plan to send out by correspondence a stakeholder engagement plan corresponding to the above, a revised continuity work programme and up-to-date information about the proposed IHS core module".

2. Given the replanning work that is underway and the availability of key project staff, the next IHS Steering Group has been provisionally scheduled for June 20th and a formal invite will be sent out to SG members later this week. Revised plans and an up-to-date version of the IHS core questionnaire will be sent out via correspondence over the next few weeks.

3. In summary, the key milestones in the revised implementation timetable will be as follows:

March 2007	Finalise IHS 2008 core topics/questionnaires
June/July 2007	Conduct pilot fieldwork (Wave 2 LFS test in Sept/Oct 2007)
January 2008	Introduce IHS core questions onto EFS, GSL & Omnibus, with clustered sample designs as now
April 2008	Introduce IHS core questions onto LFS & boosts and new English Housing Survey module, with unclustered samples
April 2008	Use new survey case management system to support all ONS household survey fieldwork
June 2008	IHS Dress Rehearsal with fieldwork based on fully unclustered sample and fieldwork design using the SCMS
October 2008	Introduce new unclustered sample and fieldwork design

4. The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) based at Manchester University hosted an IHS presentation on Thursday 29th March at the RSS. The presentation provides up-to-date information about the project in an easy to read and accessible format. Therefore, members of SPSCC are invited to go through the presentation slides (separate powerpoint document) and to bring any queries to the SPSCC meeting for the IHS representative to address.

Nikki Bennett
April 2007