An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

Memorandum of understanding between the General Registrar Office (GRO) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Statement of purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure that there is effective co-operation between the GRO and the CSO so that both organisations fulfil their respective obligations for the production of vital statistics.

Relationship between operational and statistical needs

The CSO recognises that the primary purpose of the GRO is to act as the central civil repository for records relating to births, stillbirths, adoptions, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths in Ireland but the information collected is also to be used to produce statistics on vital events such as, but not limited to, births, deaths and marriages, as under section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952 (as amended by section 7 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1972) remains in force, pending commencement of section 73 of the Civil Registration Act 2004.

Provision of data from the GRO to the CSO

The GRO will provide micro-data from its information systems to the CSO for the production of vital statistics. The micro-data is also used in producing population estimates for Ireland. The content of these data files and the timing of their transfer to CSO will be agreed and updated periodically by the GRO and the CSO. The transfer of such data will be in line with best data confidentiality and security practice.

Use of micro-data for statistical compilation and analysis purposes

The CSO will use the micro-data from the GRO to generate and publicly disseminate quarterly and annual vital statistics. The CSO may also use the data in conjunction with its other demographic sources or other administrative sources to provide additional statistical information.

The data will also be used to meet statistical requirements under Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 205/2014 of 4 March 2014 laying down uniformed conditions for the implementation of

Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on European demographic statistics.

Confidentiality

All GRO data supplied to the CSO will be subject to the highest standards of protection and confidentiality. It shall not be disseminated, shown or communicated to any other person or body in a form that can be related to an identifiable person or undertaking. This shall be done in accordance with the Statistics 1993, the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and EU statistical law.

Research community access to the micro-data

Subject to the expressed agreement of the GRO and the consent of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the CSO may provide micro-data for research purposes. This will be done in accordance the CSO's RMF policy, which maintains confidentiality while maximising the use and value of data. This is covered under section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952 (as amended by section 7 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1972) remains in force, pending commencement of section 73 of the Civil Registration Act 2004, and allows the Minister to grant consent to release data to persons engaged in medical or social research.

Data gaps

The GRO collect details of the postal code on registration of life events.

The CSO and the GRO collaborate to meet any new additional EU data requirement(s) that may arise in the future.

Communication

This agreement shall be published on the CSO website.

Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding

Mr Brendan O'Loughlin
Acting on behalf of Registrar General
General Register Office

Mr Padraig Dalton
Director General
Central Statistics Office