

# Aberdeenshire Citizens' Panel

## Report on Panel Refreshment 2006

### Refreshing the Aberdeenshire Citizen's Panel

This short report outlines the results of the recent refreshment of the Aberdeenshire Citizens' Panel. The last major refreshment of the Aberdeenshire Citizens' Panel took place in 2004 with more than 400 additional Panel members recruited.

In general, it is sensible to undertake regular Panel recruitment, to cover the steady (but low level) loss of Panel members recorded at each survey and to anticipate the future retirement of tranches of members, and the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership commissioned Craigforth to undertake a further refreshment exercise during April and May 2006. The exercise sought to recruit an additional 125 new recruits, and to retire long-standing members who had not responded to recent Panel surveys.

In total, 2700 recruitment packs were issued during April and May 2006. Craigforth issued 1000 packs to a random sample of households drawn from the edited Electoral Register (and de-duplicated against existing Panel members). The Electoral register sample was stratified into the six administrative areas within Aberdeenshire, with response rates from the 2004 recruitment exercise used to set the sample size for each area. In addition to this sample, a further 1500 packs were issued by the Council to a random sample of its own tenants across Aberdeenshire and 200 packs were issued by Grampian Housing Association to a sample of its tenants.

By the end of July 2006, a total of **198** new Panel members had been recruited representing an overall response rate of **7.3%**. This exceeded our minimum target for new Panel members considerably, and is a slightly higher level of response than achieved in 2004 (6.7%). Welcome letters were issued to all new Panel members in June and July 2006.

In addition to new Panel members, a total of 100 existing members were retired as part of the refreshment exercise. Retirees were identified primarily on the basis of length of time spent on the Panel, and non-response to recent Panel surveys (ie the last 3-4 surveys). In addition, socio-demographic profile was taken into account for some, for example to maintain the maximum number of active social rented tenants - this group is under-represented by the Panel as a whole.

This resulted in a net addition to the Panel of +98 members. Due to natural loss of Panel members during the recruitment process, Panel numbers actually increased from 1261 at the time of survey 7 to 1324 at the time of survey 8 (+63 members). It should also be noted that survey 8 was used to update demographic information for existing Panel members - this updated information is incorporated into the revised Panel profile presented below.

## Profile of New Recruits and Retirees

Table 1 presents the profile of new recruits and retirees, by gender, age, housing tenure and area. While recruits broadly matched the profile of the wider Aberdeenshire population, there were some significant differences. In particular, females were over-represented by new recruits by +8%, while males were correspondingly under-represented (-8%). New recruits were also more likely to be in the 55-64 age group; 24% of new recruits compared to just 17% of the wider population (+7%).

The targeting of the social rented sector through sampling of Council and Grampian HA tenants appears to have been successful to some extent. New recruits over-represented social rented tenants by as much as +13%, and under-represented owner occupiers by -10%.

The Panel as a whole aims to maintain broadly equal numbers of members in each of the six administrative areas, and the recruitment exercise sought to target specific areas in order to address imbalances between areas. This is reflected primarily in the over-representation of Kincardine and Mearns residents (by +14%). However, as table 2 indicates, recruitment has been largely successful in achieving equal numbers of Panel members across the six areas.

**Table 1: Retirees and New Recruits as of July 2006**

	New Recruits		Retirees		Aberdeenshire <sup>1</sup>
	Num	%	Num	%	%
<b>GENDER</b>					
Female	116	59%	48	48%	51%
Male	78	40%	52	52%	49%
<b>Base</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>100</b>		
<b>AGE</b>					
18- 34	43	22%	41	41%	23%
35-44	39	20%	19	19%	21%
45-54	41	21%	24	24%	20%
55-64	47	24%	9	9%	17%
65+	29	15%	5	5%	20%
<b>Base</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>100</b>		
<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>					
Owner occupied	120	61%	70	70%	71%
Social rented	66	33%	18	18%	20%
Private rented/other	12	6%	12	12%	9%
<b>Base</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>100</b>		
<b>AREA</b>					
Banff & Buchan	34	17%	19	19%	16%
Buchan	24	12%	22	22%	17%
Formartine	26	13%	16	16%	16%
Garioch	31	15%	17	17%	19%
Kincardine & Mearns	57	29%	16	16%	15%
Marr	28	14%	10	10%	17%

<sup>1</sup> Aberdeenshire figures for gender and age based on 2005 Mid Year Estimates published by GRO(S). Figures for housing tenure and area, and all subsequent comparisons based on 2001 Census.

<b>Base</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	
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Note: full demographic information was not available for a small number of new recruits and retirees. Numbers may not sum to bases.

Retirees matched the gender, housing tenure and area profile of the wider Aberdeenshire population closely. In terms of age, retirees were more likely to be aged under 35; 41% of retirees compared to just 23% of the wider population. This reflects the generally lower level of response to Panel surveys amongst this group.

### **Revised Aberdeenshire Citizens' Panel Profile**

Following the refreshment exercise and subsequent Panel survey on Community Safety, there are currently 1321 active members of the Aberdeenshire Citizen's Panel. Here we discuss the profile of the revised Panel membership.

#### ***Demographic and Geographic Profile***

Table 2 compares the profile of the revised Panel membership with the previous Panel and the wider population, and looks specifically at gender, age, housing tenure, current geographical location and place of birth.

The revised Panel composition is broadly similar to that of the wider Aberdeenshire population. The main points to note are:

- The Panel still over-represents females to a small degree, and the strong response from females has exacerbated this slightly - +3% compared to +2% for the previous Panel makeup. Males are correspondingly under-represented.
- Under 35s remain under-represented by the Panel (by -6%), although the proportion of under 35s on the Panel has increased by one percentage point as a result of the refreshment. Those aged 45-64 are over-represented (+14%), as was previously the case.
- The current Panel membership is more representative of the wider population in terms of housing tenure. While the revised Panel membership still under-represents social rented tenants, the degree of under-representation has decreased somewhat as a result of the refreshment exercise; under-representation of this group is now -7% compared to -11% previously. Owner occupiers remain over-represented (by +10%) although again the degree of mis-representation has decreased.
- The refreshment exercise has achieved broadly equal numbers of Panel members across each of the six administrative areas, with at least 200 members in each area.
- It is interesting to note that the revised Panel somewhat over-represents residents born elsewhere in the UK (by +10%), as was the case previously. Those born in Scotland (whether in Aberdeenshire or elsewhere) are correspondingly under-represented (by -11%).



**Table 2: Summary Profile of Current Panel membership**

	Revised membership (Total 1324)		Prior Membership (Total 1261)	Aberdeenshire
	Num	%	%	%
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	712	54%	53%	51%
Male	602	46%	47%	49%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	
<b>AGE</b>				
18- 35	223	17%	16%	23%
35-44	254	19%	21%	21%
45-54	366	28%	29%	20%
55-64	287	22%	21%	17%
65+	177	13%	13%	20%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	
<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>				
Owner occupied	1067	81%	86%	71%
Social rented	171	13%	9%	20%
Private rented/other	67	5%	5%	9%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	
<b>AREA</b>				
Banff & Buchan	223	17%	17%	16%
Buchan	224	17%	17%	17%
Formartine	206	16%	16%	16%
Garioch	222	17%	17%	19%
Kincardine & Mearns	238	18%	16%	15%
Marr	211	16%	16%	17%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>				
Aberdeenshire	558	42%	44%	84%
Elsewhere in North East	149	11%	12%	
Elsewhere in Scotland	266	20%	21%	
Elsewhere in UK	300	23%	24%	13%
Elsewhere in Europe	19	1%	2%	1%
Outside Europe	22	2%	2%	2%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	

Note: full demographic information was not available for a small number of Panel members. Numbers may not sum to bases.

### ***The Socio-Economic Profile***

Table 3 compares the socio-economic profile of the revised Panel membership with the wider population. In terms of types of employment, the revised Panel matches closely to Aberdeenshire as whole, although part-time employees are slightly over-represented (+5%). However, the only significant area of mis-representation is in relation to retired Panel members, who are somewhat over-represented (+9%). This is a common feature of Citizens' Panel-type consultation mechanisms.

**Table 3: Employment/ Economic Activity Profile**

	Panel Members (Total 1324)		Prior Membership (Total 1261)	Aberdeenshire
	Num	%	%	%
Full-time employment	536	41%	42%	43%
Part-Time employment	237	18%	17%	13%
Self Employment	155	12%	12%	10%
Government sponsored training scheme	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	17	4%	2%	3%
Retired	280	21%	21%	12%
Student	33	2%	3%	3%
Not working due to ill health/disability	69	5%	5%	4%
Looking after home or family	102	8%	8%	6%
Voluntary Unpaid Work	61	5%	4%	
Other (please specify)	13	1%	1%	3%
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	

***Equal Opportunities***

Finally we look at the representation of minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities. In terms of ethnic profile, the revised Panel closely matches the profile of the wider population with 98% white British or Irish and 2% in other ethnic groups (99% and 1% respectively across Aberdeenshire as a whole. Comparable data on disabilities in Aberdeenshire are not available. In total, just over 1 in 5 current Panel members reported having one or more disabilities (22%), similar to levels in the previous Panel membership.

**Table 3: Equal Opportunities Profile of Panel Membership**

	Revised membership (Total 1324)		Prior Membership (Total 1261)	Aberdeenshire
<b>ETHNICITY</b>				
Scottish	1015	77%	77%	99%
English	231	17%	18%	
Irish	6	1%	0%	
Northern Irish	8	1%	0%	
Welsh	10	1%	1%	
Pakistani	1	0%	-	1%
Caribbean	1	0%	0%	
Chinese	1	0%	0%	
Multiple	11	1%	1%	
Other	17	1%	2%	
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	
<b>DISABILITIES</b>				
Impaired hearing	94	7%	7%	-
Poor sight/blindness	32	2%	2%	-
Problems with physical mobility	152	11%	10%	-
Other disability	117	9%	8%	-
<b>Base</b>	<b>1321</b>		<b>1261</b>	

## **Summary**

Overall, the refreshment exercise exceeded the minimum target for new recruits, achieving **198 new recruits** against a target of 125. This meant that we were able to apply more rigorous standards for retiring existing Panel members, retiring 100 rather than the original target of 50.

In terms of the revised Panel profile, the current membership is broadly representative of the wider Aberdeenshire population on most socio-demographic measures. A strong response from females has exacerbated the over-representation of females slightly, but the refreshment exercise had some success in redressing the under-representation of social renters, cutting this from -11% to -7%.

**Craigforth**  
**10 August 2006**