



Department for

**Social  
Development**

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**WITHDRAWAL OF THE NATIONAL STATISTIC ENTITLED “NINO ALLOCATIONS TO OVERSEAS NATIONALS ENTERING NORTHERN IRELAND”**

**The above mentioned publication was due to be published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2008. This publication will no longer be produced by the Department for Social Development (DSD) and all previous versions will be removed from our internet site. A link to an alternative data source within the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will be provided from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008.**

**Detail**

Recent consultation with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) clearly suggested that it would not be in the best interests of the Department for Social Development (DSD) to continue to produce this National Statistic. Statistics and Consultancy Branch therefore intend to withdraw this National Statistic forthwith along with all previous publications for 2006 and 2007 which are currently listed on the departmental internet site.

As an alternative, from the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2008, DSD will be providing a link to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Tabulation Tool, which will provide enhanced National Insurance Number (NINO) allocation statistics on UK adult overseas nationals.

This information will be available at a disaggregated regional level meaning that Northern Ireland data will still be available.

2. The reasons for the planned withdrawal are as follows:

- The coherent publication of migration statistics across Government has been building momentum since 2006 when the Cross Government Taskforce on migration statistics was launched. DWP have been reviewing the way in which the NINO statistics on UK adult overseas nationals are compiled and disseminated, with the main objective being to publish a definitive set of statistics on NINO registrations which reflect a migrant's location at the time of registration.
- The UK level National Statistics to be released in August via the Tabulation Tool will replace all figures previously released by DWP.
- As a result the NINO Registration and Allocation data which was supplied to DSD from DWP is no longer available.

3. The proposed changes to the dissemination of NINO allocations to UK adult overseas nationals does however have a number of advantages. These are as follows:

- The data will now be reported on by financial year and calendar year as opposed to tax year. *Calendar year and financial year reporting makes the statistics more readily comparable with other sources of migration statistics*
- The arrivals series data will be replaced entirely in favour of the registrations series data. *The arrivals series was always subject to retrospection. The registrations series enables DWP to release a set of statistics which will not subsequently change.*
- Benefit claims will now be able to be tracked for an extended period of 18 to 24 months after registration
- The statistics will be produced will relate to a migrant's location at the point that they registered for a NINO i.e. the statistics are derived from a database of

'frozen' geographies rather than using the latest cumulative data scan showing migrants last known address. *'Freezing' the geographies produces an accurate measure of in-flows over time which is not subject to retrospection. I.e. historic figures will not be subject to change as the address of individuals change over time.*

- UK comparative analysis between various regions will now be readily available

4. In line with the Statistics Concordat which is included in the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, DWP will consult with DSD during the dissemination process and prior to the publication of Northern Ireland figures on NINO allocations to overseas nationals.