

EQUALITY BRIEFING

Re: International Migrants Day 2016;
Myth-busting
Migration patterns for Scotland and Fife

Context

This briefing on International Migrants Day is particularly relevant in the post-brexit context that has seen a rise of racism and xenophobia-related incident across the UK.

This has been particularly observed in England and Wales, where the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded in July 2016 was 41% higher than in July 2015.¹

The same pattern has not been observed in Scotland, however racial crime still remains the most commonly reported hate crime. Figures reported by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service reported 3,712 charges in 2015-16, i.e. 3% lower than in 2014-15, and the lowest number reported since 2003-04.²

Within this brief, Fife Centre for Equality wants to demonstrate the importance of migration to the economy of Fife. FCE is committed to support our partners in attracting and retaining more talents to live and work in Fife, and working to build a positive picture of Fife's modern and diverse population.

Background

International Migrant Day 2016: Origins

In 18 December 1990 the UN adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and over time the data became known as the **International Day of Solidarity with Migrants**.

From around 1997, this became a celebration day for Asian and Filipino Organisations worldwide. Migrant Rights International then began campaigning for the official UN designation of an International Migrant's Day (IMD now on), which became established in 2000.

The IMD celebrations worldwide are now seen as a focal point for all individuals and organisations working on the protection of migrants by promoting the sharing of

¹ Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16 Statistical Bulletin 11/16. URL: <http://report-it.org.uk/files/hate-crime-1516-hosb1116.pdf>

² Hate Crime in Scotland, 2015-16. COPFS Media Release. URL: <http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1329-hate-crime-in-scotland-2015-16>

information on human rights, freedoms of migrants, sharing experiences, and undertaking action to ensure the protection and integration of migrants within their host countries.

IMD is also an occasion to highlight the contributions made by migrants to the economies and civic life of their host and home countries.

Migration: the state of play

Estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2015 was **5,373,000**³, amounting to a net increase in population of 25,000 over the previous year. This increase was mainly due to migration with 85,000 people coming to Scotland (mainly from the UK) and 57,000 leaving for overseas.

In 2015, Fife's population was **368,080**; an increase of 0.2 per cent from 367,250 in 2014.⁴

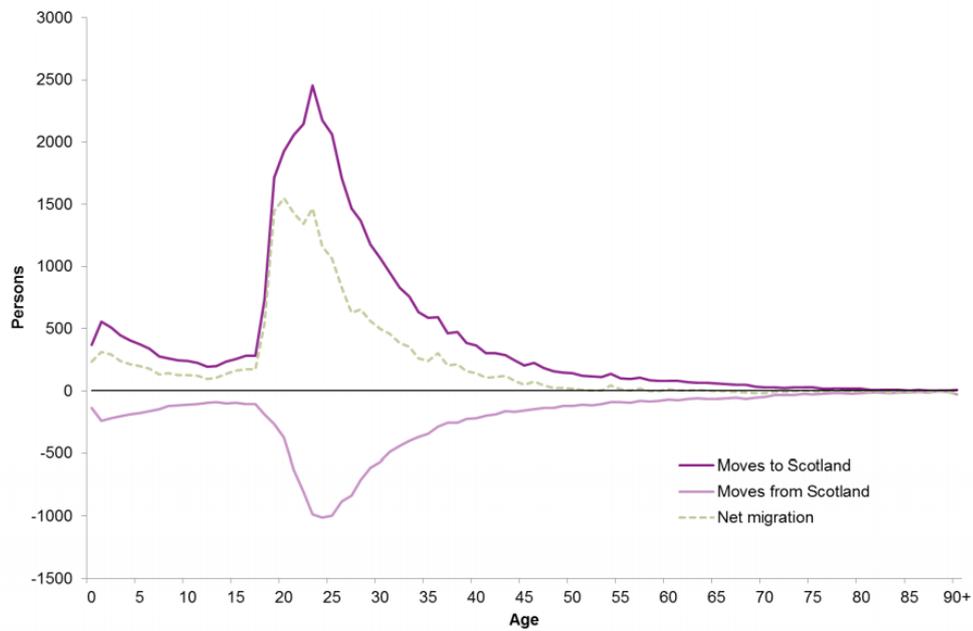
Interesting facts: Scotland and Overseas Migration

The peak age for migration **into Scotland** from overseas are ages 21 to 25. The largest net migration gains are for ages 19 to 23, with net migration losses for all age groups over 65.

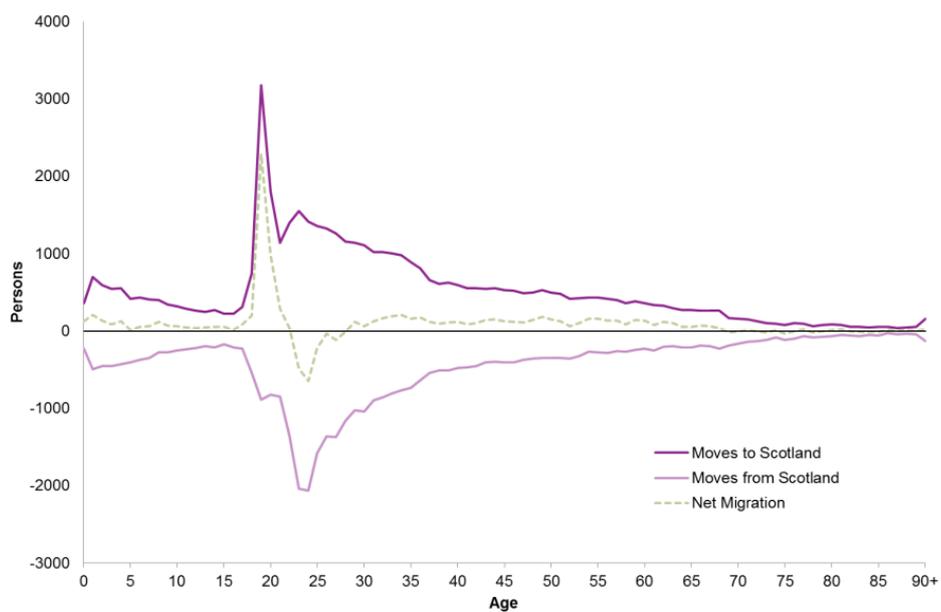
³ [Scotland's Changing Population, National Records of Scotland, 2016](#)

⁴ [Fife Council Population Fact Sheet, National Records of Scotland, 31 November 2016](#)

Movements between Scotland and overseas, by age, mid-2014 to mid-2015



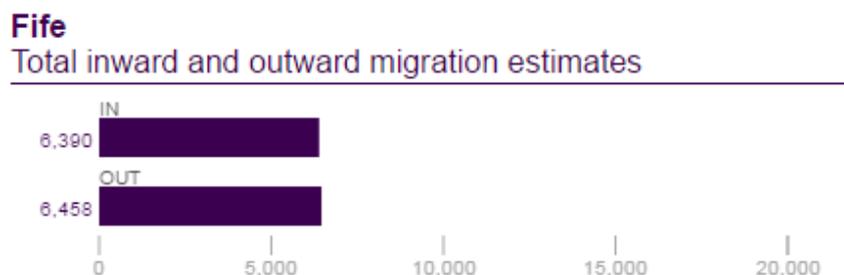
Migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK, by age, mid-2014 to mid-2015



Interesting facts: Fife Migration

On average in 2013-15 there was a net inflow of 730 people into Fife per year, meaning that more people entered Fife (10,882 per year) than left (10,152 per year). The 16 to 29 year olds age group accounted for the largest group of in-migrants into Fife. The largest group of out-migrants was also the 16 to 29 year olds:⁵

Overall, Fife loses people of working age due to internal migration (to other Councils in Scotland) but this a relatively small number (<100 people):



Internal(within UK) Migration for Fife (year ending 30 June 2015)⁶

The peak age for migration **into Scotland** from the rest of the UK is 19, at which age there is a marked migration gain⁷. The peak ages for migration **out of Scotland** to the rest of the UK are 23 and 24 and this results in a net migration loss at these ages.

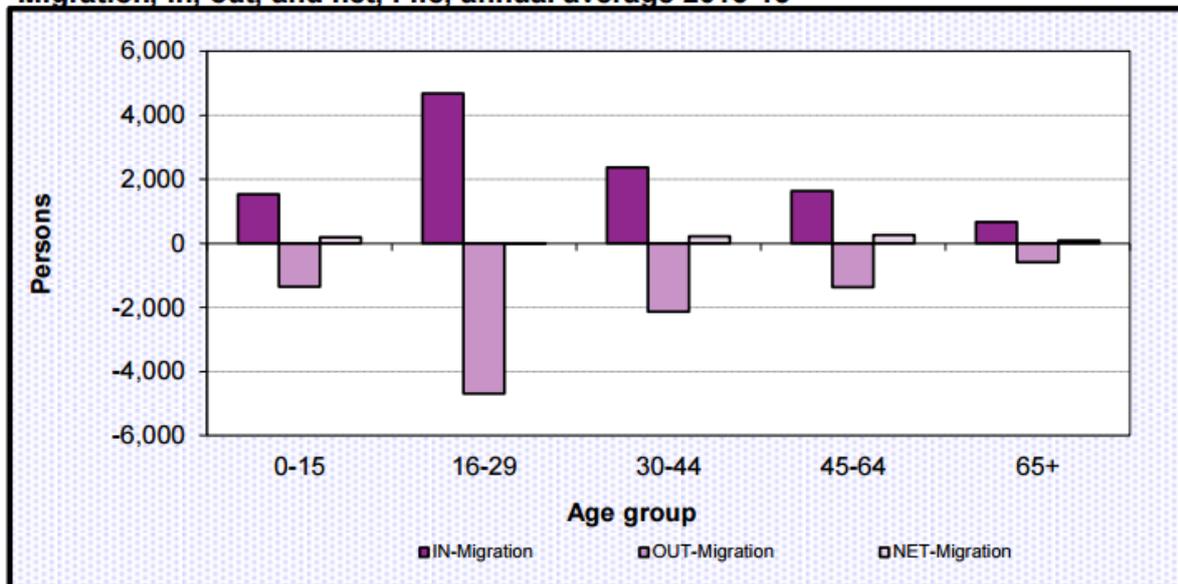
These large in and out flows result from an influx of **students** from outside Scotland starting higher education, followed by a move out of Scotland after graduation.

⁵ [Fife Council Population Fact Sheet, National Records of Scotland, 31 November 2016](#)

⁶ [National Records of Scotland \(NRS\) - Data on migration within Scotland \(NRS website\)](#)

⁷ POPULATION and MIGRATION Scottish Government High Level Summary of Statistics. April 2016. URL <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00504229.pdf>

Migration, in, out, and net, Fife, annual average 2013-15*



Migration: Myth-busting

The figures above describe migration as a complex process of movement both in and out of Scotland’s regions, and also predominantly the story of younger people relocating to learn skills and make their livelihoods.

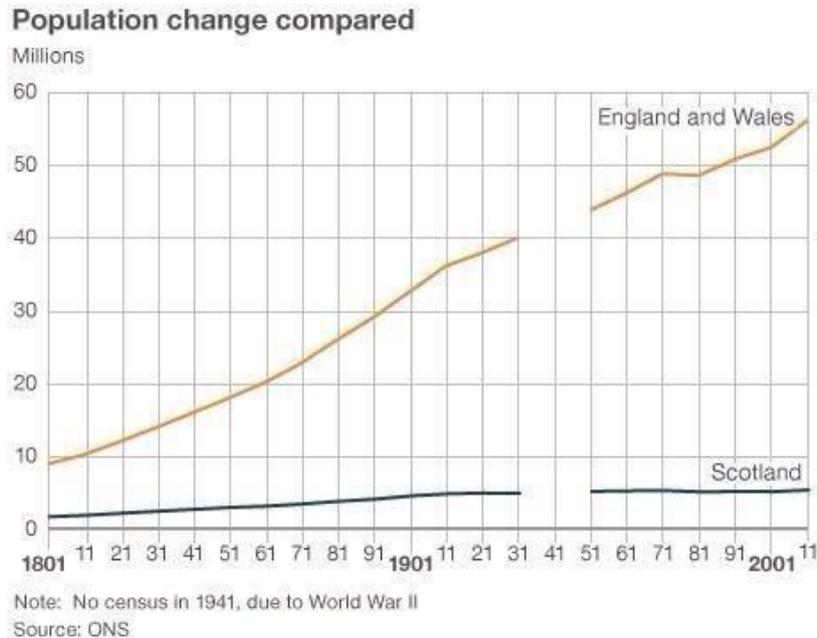
FCE considers that it is a point of view that contrasts with much of current media trends and as such FCE would like to highlight 4 key messages.

1. Immigration levels are high: It’s a good thing for the Scottish economy (and for Fife)

Scotland’s economy is growing and needs more workers to generate further jobs and wealth. This is dependent on **productivity; participation in the labour market; and population growth** – 3 key areas of national policy.

Immigration and Population Growth

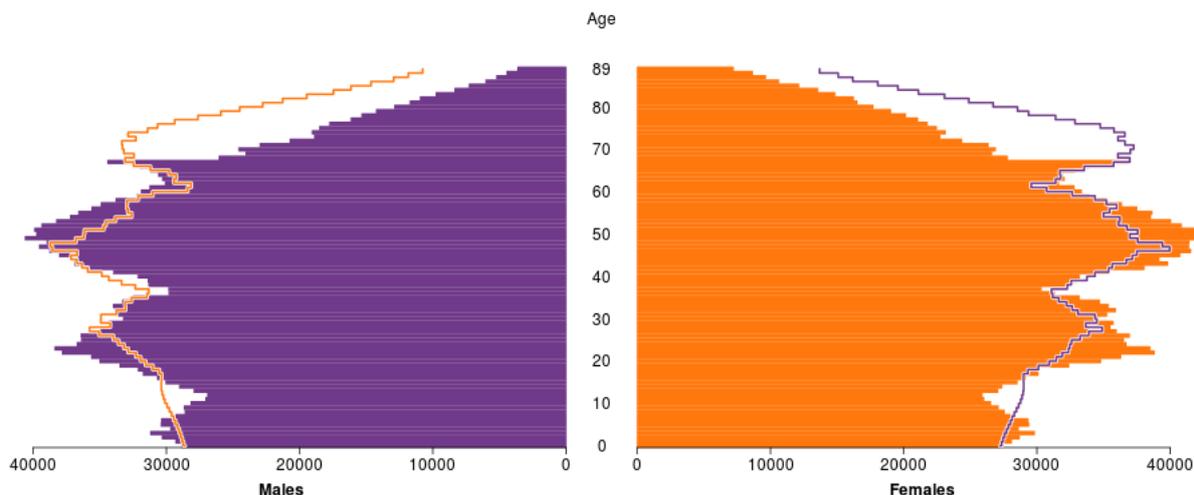
Over 200 years of census records, it is clear that Scotland's population growth has stagnated (particularly when compared to those of England and Wales) and the trend only recently has been reversed⁸:



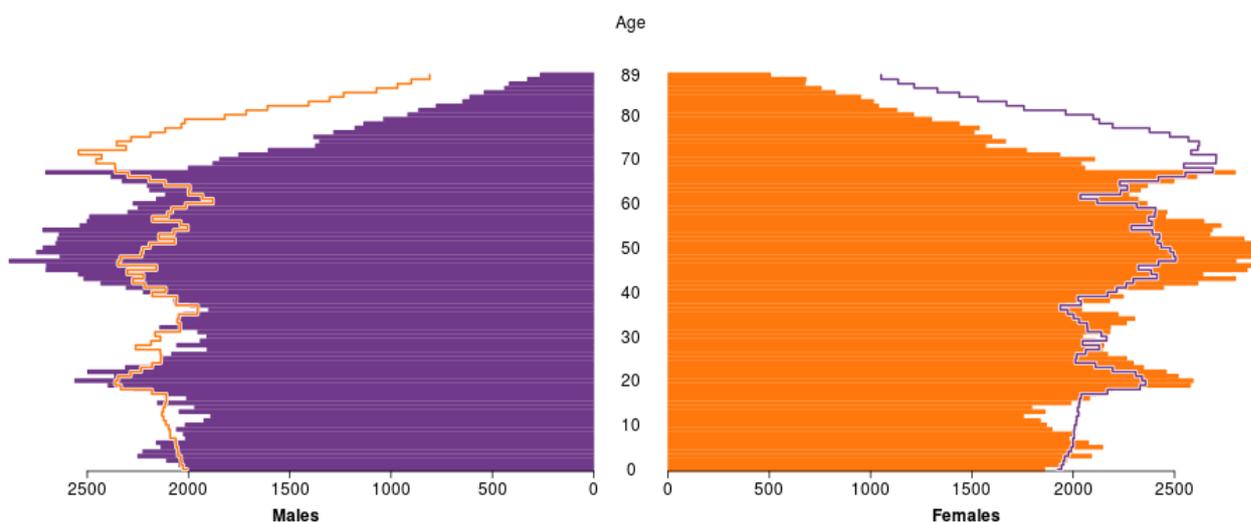
Stagnation of population growth, along with the increases in the number of people of pensionable age has been flagged up in population profiling at national and local level several times as a worrying picture of time to come⁹.

⁸ Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2015
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/latest>

⁹ NRS Infographics, 2016: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/population-projection-pyramids/>



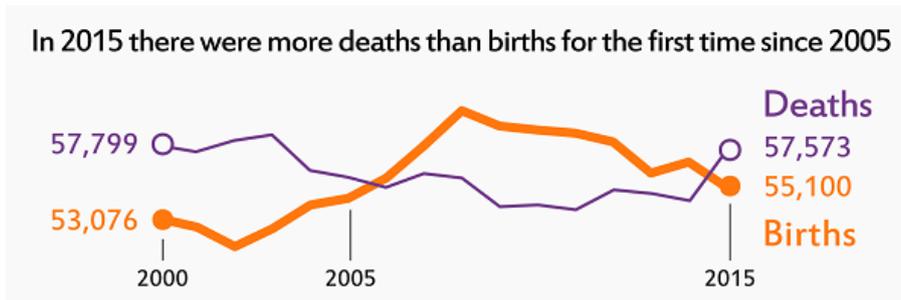
Scotland Population pyramid, 2014 (solid) 2039 (line)



Fife Population pyramid, 2014 (solid) 2039 (line)

In Fife, 17.1% of the population is current aged 16 to 29 years, compared to 18.2% across Scotland. Persons aged 60 and over make up 25.8% of Fife’s population, compared to 24.2% aged 60 and over across Scotland.

As well as the population getting older overall the population, birth rates are also dropping. In Scotland this has been decreasing since approx. 2009 and the current death rate is higher than the birth rate:



Births and deaths Scotland, 2015¹⁰

In Fife, between 2014 and 2015, there was a 3.4% decrease in the number of births (compared to 2.9% across Scotland)¹¹. Scotland (and particularly Fife) faces an ageing population that is worrying for the health of the economy. The pressing question is: **‘Who will keep the economy going when so many have retired?’**

In this situation, migration of a younger workforce coming to Fife is a **good thing**.

2. Immigrants do not overburden the public sector: they make a net contribution

Immigration and productivity; participation in the labour market

Based on the Scotland 2011 census¹²:

Of the 370,000 migrants were in Scotland at the time of the, two thirds had arrived between 2001 and 2011. 62% of those aged 16 to 74 are currently employed or self-employed.

The majority of migrants working are full time employed, with 12% working long hours of 49 or more hours a week.

¹⁰ NRS Infographics, 2016: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/population-projection-pyramids/>

¹¹ Fife Council Area - Demographic Factsheet NRS. URL <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/fife-factsheet.pdf>

¹² Migration Policy Toolkit: An online guide to welcoming, integrating and engaging migrant communities in Scotland. COSLA. URL: <http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/migration-toolkit/migration-scotland/2-2-scottish-context>

Inactive migrants the majority were students, who make up just under a third of all recent non-EEA migrants.

At the UK level, a pro-migration study by UCL ([CReAM](#)) showed that overall, migrants contribute 34% more than they receive, and this amounted to over £20bn from 2001-2011¹³ - specifically pointing out that EU migrants pay £1.34 in tax for every £1 they get in state assistance. The opposing view taken [Migration Watch UK](#) is that 'that immigration has any significant impact on GDP per capita, whether negative or positive'¹⁴.

Aggregate expenditure on state education and public services (health and personal social services) in the UK was calculated using 2009-10 data. Analysis indicated that an estimated 12.5 per cent of total expenditure on state education and public services was allocated to non-UK migrants and their children. As migrants made up 13 per cent of the population as a whole at the time, this was slightly less than their share.

FCE's position on this is that if at worst, migration has little effect on productivity (GDP) while otherwise participating actively in the labour market in areas such as the NHS¹⁵, **immigrants overall make a valued and welcome contribution to the public sector.**

3. Migrants mainly speak (and also learn) English

The 2011 census showed that only 138,000 of the 7.5 million non-UK born residents in the country don't speak English (**i.e. 1.84%**). This prevents social isolation for the

¹³ Dustmann C and Frattini T (2013) -The Fiscal Effects of Immigration to the UK, Discussion Paper Series CDP No 22/13 Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), London, 2013

¹⁴ Are Migrants an Economic Benefit to the UK? <https://www.migrationwatchuk.org/briefing-paper/386>

¹⁵ 'The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland' Scottish Government October 2016. URL: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/10/5974>

individuals, fosters good relation within communities and is beneficial in the long-term for young families.

For instance, recent research¹⁶ looking at the experience of Polish migrant children in schools in Scotland has showed that language constitute barriers to the equitable benefits of education – the key determinant of long-term health and wellbeing.

While the provision of interpretation services for service providers is enshrined in the Equality Act 2010, good English language skills are crucial for migrants so that they are able access Health and Social Care services and those provided by the Third Sector at the preventative stages of intervention and thus less likely to rely on the already pressured emergency services.

On this point, FCE's position is that **learning English is a key stepping towards participation and making a positive contribution in society** and is encouraged for all.

4. Most UK migrants do not make UK their permanent home

Interesting fact:

The census 2011 data shows that that migrants from the UK (i.e. people leaving the UK an intention to change their normal place of residence and to stay there more than a year) were mainly from overseas:

- **57%** were almost equal numbers of European Union (EU) citizens and non-EU citizens returned to their country of origin
- **43%** (149,000) were UK citizens

The data on this movement out of the UK also shows that most moved because they had been offered a job overseas – the key group of UK Migrants being 70,000 middle-managers or professionals moving overseas for work.

In the post-brexite context, the numbers coming from EU and non-EU countries was found to be almost identical, with 284,000 from the former and 289,000 from the latter.

¹⁶ Moskal, M (2016) Spaces of not belonging: inclusive nationalism and education in Scotland, *Scottish Geographical Journal*, 132:1, 85-102

Again, against the main media messages, the data shows that out of 189,000 of the Europeans came to Britain for work, 108,000 already had a job offer and that 207,522 of out the non-EU nationals were in the UK on study-related visas.

For Scotland, recent analysis of the 2011 census also showed that overall, a third of migrants arrived in Scotland to study, but that those who settled were equally as likely to be employed or economically active as the average citizen¹⁷.

FCE's position is that the less heard understanding of current migration patterns is that of **circular movement, of a flux of people in and out of a healthy inclusive and diverse society**.

Further Information:

Fife Centre for Equalities (FCE) is an independent charity which emerged from an innovative joint project between Fife Council, NHS Fife and Fife Voluntary Action.

FCE is helping to develop more inclusive and responsive services for people in Fife, and working to build a positive picture of Fife's modern and diverse population.

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¹⁷ Characteristics of Recent and Established EEA and non-EEA migrants in Scotland: Analysis of the 2011 Census. (2015) URL: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/7658>

APPENDIX: Additional Resources / Media

- 'Scotland's population swelled by migration' 10 August 2016. BBC News. URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-37031666>
- [Talking Business 01.10.2016 BBC News \(video\)](#)

FAMOUS EMIGRANT FIFERS

In this section, FCE would like to highlight that people move in and out of Fife and that there are Fife Migrants outside of Fife as well as within:

- [Guy Berryman from Kirkcaldy, Coldplay Bassist](#) – lives in London
- [Barbara Dickson from Dunfermline, Folk Singer](#) –live in Lincolnshire
 - *Barbara Dickson is now moving back to Fife:
[‘Songstress Barbara Dickson set to return to her roots with move back to Scotland after 35 years away’](#) - Daily Record
- [Stuart Russell, from Fife – just recently moved to Sutherland](#)
 - His Youtube video points out that it is not that different:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01C4N5mBB3M&feature=youtu.be>

REFERENCES

Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM)
<http://www.cream-migration.org/>

Migration Matters Trust
<http://www.migrationmatterstrust.co.uk/>

Migrant's Rights Network
<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/>

Migration Scotland
<http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/>

Migration Watch UK
<https://www.migrationwatchuk.org/>

National Records of Scotland
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/migration>