

Appendix 1: New Evidence. - Foreign Students leave the city after graduation.

There is new evidence, from 30 Jan 2019, that ONS has grossly under counted the numbers of foreign students leaving Coventry after graduation – which has led to a huge exaggeration of population growth since 2011.

The new research leads to the inescapable conclusion that they have overestimated population growth by at least 2000 per year and probably 3000/yr for Coventry. Over the plan period, the overestimate is likely to be 42,000 - 76,000.

Their new research is contained in
“Transforming population and migration statistics Emigration patterns of non EU students....html¹

Using Home Office visa data, they tracked non EU students all over the country from 2015-2017 to find out if they stayed in the country after graduation. The sample was very large – they were able determine the whereabouts of 80% of all graduating non EU students.

Of these, they found that 74% left the country promptly after graduation and did not return.

Apply this to Coventry.

Assume that the 74% national figure applies to Coventry (which is consistent with separate and independent HESA destinations data see appendix 3 – that information said that 82% of the students left after graduation)

Then

At the two Coventry universities 6530 non EU students graduated in 2014/15. Based on the work above, it is fair to conclude that 74% of these left the country after graduating. That means that at least 4832 (=0.74*6530) have left the UK²

However, SNPP2014- the ONS population projection which formed the basis for the Coventry Local Plan - stated that international emigration was far smaller, just 2650. **It inescapably follows that international emigration was understated by at least 2182/per year.** Over the plan period that means that ONS undercounted the number of people leaving the city by at least 43640.

(Note – population projections work by adding the number of people entering a city (through birth, or immigration) and subtracting the leavers (through emigration or death). If the number of leavers is too small, the net grand total balloons. In this case, it has ballooned by at least 43,640).

The overestimate could be far larger. - the numbers above are worked on the assumption that all of the 26% remaining in the country, stay in Coventry. that's highly unlikely

Two Other sources of data, indicate that the 26% actually all leave Coventry – see argument in Appendix 3

- The HESA destinations survey indicates that 99% of all non EU graduates leave Coventry within one year.

1 <https://www.slideshare.net/statisticsONS/transforming-population-and-migration-statistics-emigration-patterns-of-noneu-students-129833903>

2 Source: FOI query to HESA

- Warwick university alumnae data, for students of all types, shows that there is no magnet effect at work. Students are not attracted to stay in Coventry after graduation. 4% of all entrants to Warwick University come from the city of Coventry, and 4% of all alumnae live in the city of Coventry.

Given this data, the number of leavers, of the non EU graduates, is much more likely to be very close to 6464 ($=0.99*6530$). the students either leave the UK or go somewhere else outside of Coventry (bump up the total of internal emigration) .. Over 20 years, this would lead to a spurious ballooning of population growth by **76,294** $=(0.99*6530) - 2650)*20$

The true population growth of Coventry, over 20 years, is going to be far less than the 101,000 predicted in the Coventry local plan. After taking into account the movement of international students, it is much more likely to be between 24706 and 57356.

The consequent housing need (at 2.36 people/house) is thus between 10468 and 24303 and NOT 42400 (as in the local plan)

that is not the end of the story – both Coventry and ONS have consistently overestimated the number of births, by approximately 800 per year, and underestimated the number of deaths by 150/year. The net effect is to further reduce the need for housing, especially in the later years of the plan (when babies have grown up and may need housing in their own right).