

The 2007 Census Test

What is the Census?

Every 10 years since 1801, the UK sets aside one day for the Census – a count of all people and all households. The last Census was held on 29 April 2001.

The Census is important because every person and every household answer the same questions. Their responses paint a detailed picture of life in the UK as it is lived now.

Using this information, central and local Government, health authorities and many other organisations can improve their services to local people. Education, planning, housing, health and transport are all affected by what we learn from the Census.

In England and Wales, the Census is planned and carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), a government department. Elsewhere in the UK, responsibility lies with the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

What is the Census Test?

Because the Census is so important, the Office for National Statistics starts planning and testing its questions several years in advance. We need to make sure that the questions are clear and easy to understand and that we collect the information that is most needed.

13 May 2007 is the first day that we will test possible questions for the 2011 Census with the public. You and many other people in your area have been chosen to take part in the test, so we would like to tell you a little bit about it.

With this test ONS will:

- try out new ideas and procedures developed since 2001
- learn which questions are best for getting the information we need
- help the public find out about the importance of the Census and how they can take part
- judge how well our Census representatives work with the public and
- try out new ways of working with local authorities and community groups.



Telephone
0845 603 2011



Textphone (for hearing impaired people)
0845 604 2011



Web
www.statistics.gov.uk/censustest

Where is the 2007 Test taking place?

100,000 households within five Local Authority areas have been chosen to take part in the Test. Each includes a varied cross-section of the population and types of housing in England and Wales that would be covered in a full census.

They are:

- Bath and North East Somerset
- Camden in North London
- Carmarthenshire
- Liverpool
- Stoke-on-Trent.

Who is responsible for taking the Census and Census Test?

The Office for National Statistics, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the National Assembly for Wales are co-operating on the 2007 Test. In 2011 these organisations and the General Register Office for Scotland will work together to carry out a full UK Census.

What will happen on Census Test day?

Census Test Day is 13th May 2007. On this day you and every member of your household should complete the Census Test Questionnaire. You will have received this either through the post or from a Census representative who gave one to you in person.

You should remember to include any visitors who are staying overnight on 13 May and also babies and children.

Once you have completed your Questionnaire, post it back to Census headquarters in the pre-paid envelope.

Will Census returns be confidential?

Information returned on the forms will be treated as confidential and only used to evaluate the test and carry out research. No information that could identify individuals will be used outside ONS.

The confidentiality of personal information is extremely important to ONS. The Census forms are collected and processed in secure conditions, and the Census (Confidentiality) Act 1991 gives legal protection by making it illegal to disclose personal information from the Census.



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How long will it take to fill in the questionnaire?

The questionnaire should take around 20 minutes per person to complete.

How will people know about the Census Test?

Households chosen to take part will receive a card to let them know that they have been selected to take part in the Census Test. Questionnaires will be delivered shortly after that. You might also hear about the Test on local radio or in the local paper.

Further information about the Census Test is available on the National Statistics website:
www.statistics.gov.uk/censustest

Will the results be available?

No, information returned on the forms will only be used to evaluate the test and carry out any further research.

How to recognise a Census enumerator

All Census representatives (called enumerators) will carry an Authority Card. This will have a photograph of the enumerator, the Office for National Statistics logo and a telephone number which you can call if you have any queries. Enumerators will also carry large black shoulder bags with the National Statistics logo.

What help will be available?

If you have any questions or comments about the Census Test 2007, please contact the Census Helpline:

by phone on: **0845 603 2011**

A Textphone is available for people with hearing impairment: **0845 604 2011**

Large Print and Braille booklets are available to help people with a visual impairment to complete the questionnaire.

Translation booklets are available in a selection of other languages:

Albanian	Polish
Arabic	Portuguese
Bengali	Punjabi
Cantonese	Russian
French	Somali
Mandarin	Urdu



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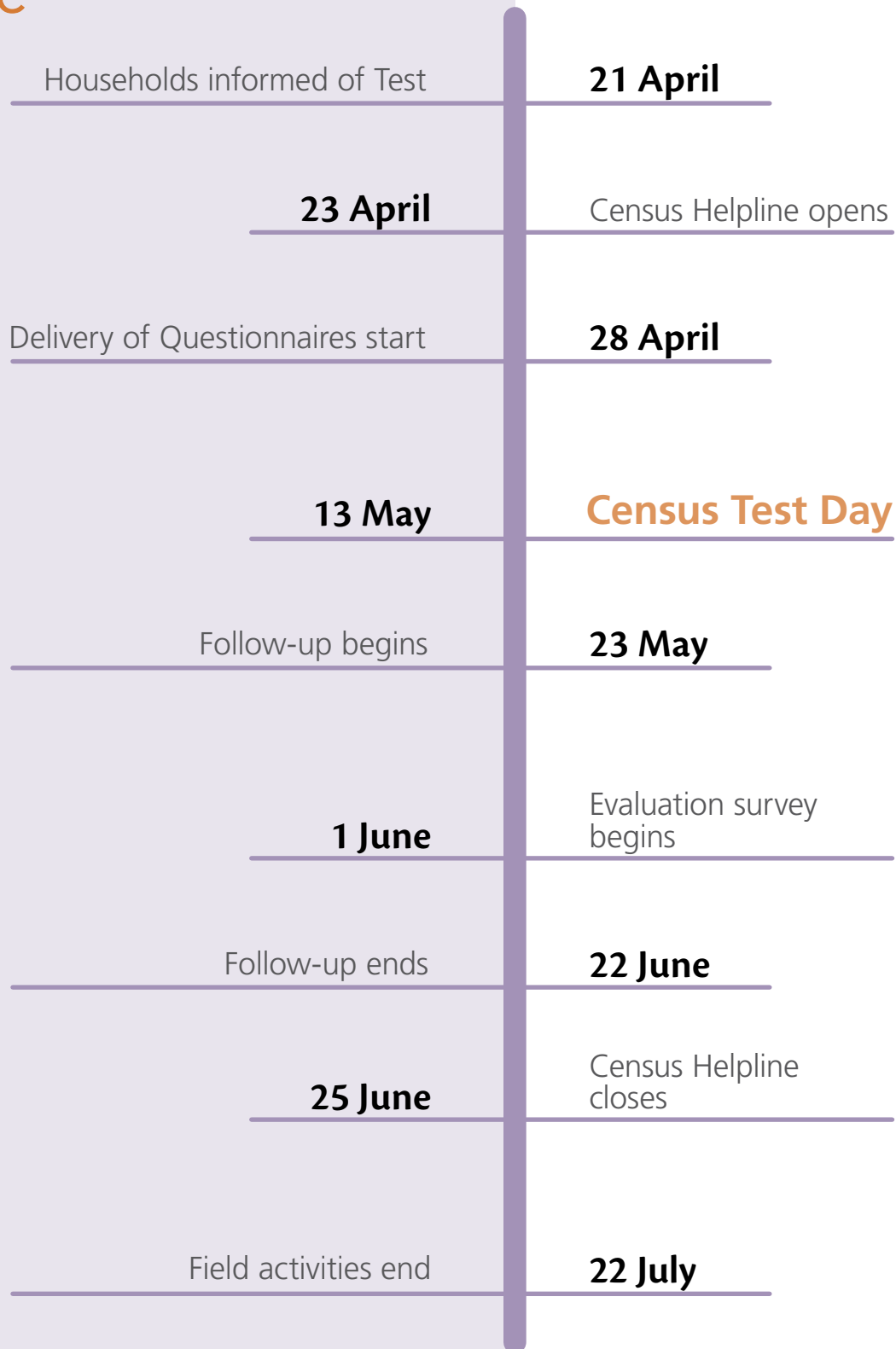


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Key Census Tasks Timeline



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