



News Release

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2011 Census to be processed in Manchester

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) today confirmed that the data processing operation for the next census on 27 March 2011 will be based in Manchester.

The paper data processing operation will be run by UK Data Capture Limited on behalf of ONS. The 180,000 square foot secure facility in Trafford Park, Greater Manchester will be the centre of all the data capture activity and home to 1,300 new jobs.

ONS Census Operations Director Ian Cope said: "Securely capturing all of the information from the returned census questionnaires is a vital part of the census process.

"We're very pleased that the site has been confirmed, it is a significant milestone in our planning for the next census which is now just over a year away."

Stephen Meyler, Director of UK Data Capture Limited said: "The Manchester processing centre will be critical to the successful delivery of the 2011 Census. This is an exciting project for UK Data Capture Limited and we are looking forward to fulfilling our role in this vital and important programme, with Manchester as our base."

The two year operation will create 1300 new temporary jobs in the Greater Manchester area. UK Data Capture Limited will start recruitment for the roles in late summer this year.

The data processing centre in Manchester forms part of the wider 2011 Census programme that will create 35,000 temporary jobs across England and Wales.

A small number of roles are being recruited now nationally, with the bulk of nationwide census recruitment to follow in March and September.

Background notes

1. The census provides an estimate of the population of England and Wales and is carried out every ten years by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The information given is confidential and is protected by law.
2. The statistics derived from the census underpin the allocation of billions of pounds of public money on local services like education, transport and health. They are also used by policy makers in central and local government to understand the needs of communities.
3. In March 2011 each household in England and Wales will receive a questionnaire either through the post or delivered by hand. The questionnaires can then be completed and returned by post or using the new secure online questionnaire.
4. ONS is responsible for carrying out the census in England and Wales.
5. UK Data Capture Limited focuses on large scale data capture operations and is a sub-contractor to Lockheed Martin UK.
6. UK Data Capture Limited is responsible for the facilities, operations and staffing needed to capture the information from the paper census questionnaires returned in 2011. Website: www.ukdatacapture.co.uk.
7. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.
8. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for official statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs.

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