



# News Release

Help tomorrow take shape

29 September 2009



**Issued by**

Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Titchfield  
PO15 5RR

**Contact**

Media Office  
01329 44 7654

**Email**

[2011censusmedia@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:2011censusmedia@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

**Visit**

[www.census.gov.uk/Media](http://www.census.gov.uk/Media)

## Anglesey buses herald census rehearsal

One of just three areas in England and Wales taking part in the 2009 Census Rehearsal, Anglesey has seen a workforce of 50 created and a revival of the ancient art of origami on the side of the island's buses.

The rehearsal is a road test of the systems and procedures in place for the 2011 Census and the people of Anglesey will be among the first in the country to test the new postal and online questionnaire options. Eye-catching origami shapes will also be popping up on the island, including on the side of buses, to help raise awareness and understanding. The origami images symbolise how communities can help shape services in their local area by taking part.

The rehearsal has created around fifty new temporary jobs in Anglesey especially suited to local residents, as first-hand knowledge of the island's geography is essential.

Peter Moore, census area manager for Anglesey said: "There has been a great response from local residents while recruiting for the rehearsal roles and now that we've got our team in place, we can't wait to get started. Questionnaires started dropping through people's letterboxes today."

Census co-ordinator, Alison Davies from Anglesey said "I grew up in the area and so I won't have any trouble finding my way around and it's a great opportunity to help the local community."

ONS Census Director Glen Watson, said: "Census statistics are used for local service planning, allocation of funding and monitoring discrimination and so it's very important that they are as accurate as possible. We're asking the residents of Anglesey to help us get it right for the 2011 Census by completing and returning their rehearsal questionnaires. It's easy to fill in, confidential and now can be completed online."

The census also shows us a vivid picture of how life has changed over the past 200 years:

- The population in Wales grew five-fold between 1801 and 1991.
- In 1991, one in five households in Wales had no central heating, consistent with the national average
- Population density grew between 1831 and 1991 in Wales from 0.2 people to 0.5 people per acre, still only half the national average
- The average number of people per household in Wales went down from six people in 1801 to 2.5 people in 2001.

-ENDS-

#### Facts about the 2009 Census Rehearsal:

- The rehearsal is taking place in three areas - Lancaster, the London Borough of Newham and Ynys Môn – Isle of Anglesey
- In total, around 140,000 households in these areas will be asked to take part on Census Rehearsal Day, 11 October 2009
- These areas represent a cross-section of the population and include a broad range of housing types
- In parallel to the rehearsal a small scale test in Birmingham will be undertaken
- The small scale test in Birmingham will include 17,000 addresses and will utilise some of the procedures and processes being delivered within the rehearsal
- Everyone is asked the same questions on the same day in order to take a snapshot of the population at one moment
- The census is easy to fill in, confidential and can be filled in online for the first time
- The results from the rehearsal will not be published but used to improve procedures for 2011
- There are 57 questions in total, 14 are about the household and its accommodation and 43 questions are for each individual member of the household to complete
- Most questions can be answered by a simple tick
- Taking part in the 2009 Census Rehearsal and test in Birmingham is voluntary. Everyone will be obliged to take part in the 2011 Census

For more information on the 2009 Census Rehearsal or to request a copy of the census questions in braille or alternative languages, please visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or [www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk](http://www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk) or telephone 0300 0200 930.

British Sign Language video clips and audio recordings are also available on the site.