



# News Release

Help tomorrow take shape

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## Census rehearsal teams take to the streets of Newham

In just four days time on Sunday 11 October, 38,850 households in Newham will be asked to complete their 2009 Census Rehearsal questionnaires. This Saturday, special census rehearsal teams will be taking to the streets of the borough to provide help and guidance in anticipation of the rehearsal and to answer questions from the public.

Newham is one of just three areas in England and Wales taking part in the 2009 Census Rehearsal which will road test the new online questionnaire and the postal delivery of paper questionnaires planned for the 2011 Census. The rehearsal will also help to test whether the community activities and census publicity do help all members of the community to access the information and advice they need to take part.

The census, carried out every ten years by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is an estimate of the population of England and Wales. The information given is confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the ONS. The results are used to provide the information local authorities need to plan local community services such as transport and housing, and allocate funding.

Commenting on the importance of supporting the 2009 Census Rehearsal, Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales said: "The borough is a highly socially mobile area so it is important for us to get our fair share of

resources from Government to enable us to provide the very best services for everyone."

ONS Census Director Glen Watson, said: "These activities in Newham are important because they give members of the community who may never have heard of the 2011 Census, or who may have difficulties in understanding the questionnaire, the help and information they need.

"By taking part in the rehearsal, people in Newham will help to make sure we get it right in 2011. So please fill in your questionnaire and help make the rehearsal a success."

#### 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 56 questions in total, 14 are about the household and its accommodation and 42 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 telephone 0300 0200 901.

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

For further information or imagery please contact Colin Pridmore on [H10100@census.gov.uk](mailto:H10100@census.gov.uk) / 07827 820510