

Approach to Accessibility – DiAG (08) 02

Census Diversity Advisory Group members are asked to note the proposed plans for development of the group below and register any interest in the proposed workshops as appropriate.

Plans for development of the DiAG

1. The UK Statistics Authority's proposals for the 2011 Census will be published shortly in a Government White Paper, which will include the proposed topics and current thinking about questions. The focus of ONS's planning for the Census will therefore move from consultation and development of the questionnaire to continued development of the operational systems and procedures as well as planning for outputs.
2. ONS therefore proposes to divide the Census Diversity Advisory Group into two sections to allow members of the group the opportunity to contribute in a smaller forum, focused on issues of relevance to them.
3. The proposed groups are
 - Faith and ethnic groups
 - Disability and those groups concerned with accessibility.
4. We are proposing to run the groups on two halves of the same day to reduce travelling for the small number of advisory group members who might wish to attend both meetings.

We will trial this revised arrangement for the Spring 2009 round of advisory groups and then assess its effectiveness.

Accessibility workshops

5. In addition, ONS is planning a series of themed workshops during the first half of 2009. These workshops will be held to discuss Census plans and proposals to ensure that population groups are able to participate in completing the Census. The first three of these workshops will cover
 - Visual impairment
 - Hearing impairment
 - Other – learning disabilities, low literacy etc

Further details of these workshops will be available early in 2009, but Census Diversity Advisory Group members are invited to register an interest in

attending any of the workshops now by responding to
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