

Census 2011: Managing discussions in Wales

1. Mechanisms for engaging the Assembly over the next few years were discussed at Cabinet on 18 September 2006. The proposals included:
 - Discuss the 2011 Census at each Assembly Committee by early 2007 so that views on topics for the 2011 Census questionnaire, as well as any areas of concern, can be taken into account when providing ONS with the Welsh Assembly Government view.
 - Cabinet papers to coincide with key milestones in the ONS decision making process including:
 - Possible plenary debate by Summer 2007 to discuss the content and conduct of the Census in Wales prior to the ONS beginning work on drafting the White Paper.
2. The Local Government and Public Services Committee discussed plans for the 2011 Census on November 8th, the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee will discuss the Census on December 13th, and both the Health and Social Justice and Regeneration Committees will discuss the Census in early 2007.
3. The Assembly's Statistical Directorate held a workshop on the 2011 Census for Welsh Assembly researchers leads on 27 October. At this workshop, SD officials shared information on Census 2011 planning, recent developments, forthcoming issues/decisions and the role of the Welsh Assembly Government. Research leads were asked to discuss information requirements within their departments, before providing feedback to SD.
4. In addition to the forthcoming ONS user consultation events, officials from the Assembly's Statistical Directorate are organising workshops for key stakeholders (including equality groups, local authorities, police and health authorities, public bodies etc) in North and South Wales during early 2007. The purpose of these workshops is to understand the Welsh user needs and views in order to advise Ministers.
5. A timetable of events and plans over the next 6 months is given at Table 1.

November 2006

Table 1
Census 2011: Meetings/Workshops to discuss likely content

Event	Date
WAG Senior Business Team (directors of all Assembly departments)	24/10/06
Workshop for WAG Researchers	27/10/06
*Assembly Committee: Local Government and Public Services	08/11/06
*Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee (most of meeting will focus on 2011 Census)	05/12/06
*Assembly Committee: Environment, Planning and Countryside	13/12/06
*Assembly Committee: Social Justice and Regeneration	Early 2007 (requested discussion, exact date to be confirmed)
*Assembly Committee: Health	Early 2007 (requested discussion, exact date to be confirmed)
Workshop for equality groups	mid-January 2007 (exact date to be confirmed)
South Wales workshop for local authorities, police authorities, health authorities, other public bodies, national parks etc	Jan/Feb 2007 (exact date to be confirmed)
North Wales workshop for local authorities, police authorities, health authorities, other public bodies, national parks etc	Jan/Feb 2007 (exact date to be confirmed)
*Other Assembly Committees (to be confirmed)	Jan-March 2007

* ONS official(s) also present.