

Welsh Census Forum

Q. Are unpaid careers still identified?

A. Yes

Q. Why are there not questions on volunteering?

A. The user need was there, but we couldn't get a question wording that worked. There wasn't a q on this in the last census.

Q. Wasn't there a q on that in the national survey of wales?

A. National survey for wales is interview led, which makes a big difference.

Q. Is the same the case for disability? (Disability Cymru)

A. No, I don't think this was a user need identified for this through our consultations, but we'll get back to you on that.

Q. What accessibility requirements have been considered? (Disability Cymru)

A. One member of the family can complete on behalf of the whole household. We also have ensured online forms meet accessibility standards. Iain has to get feedback from everyone or he can't succeed. It is in his interest to ensure we include everyone.

Q. You said you were including a question on the armed forces community. What form does that take?

A. Have you ever been a member of the armed forces. Will check that and get back to you.

Q. Is it aimed at the regular army or the TA as well?

A. The regular army.

Q. Is it focussed on UK Armed forces (as opposed to those of other countries)?

A. Yes

Q. If the idea is for the form to be completed unaided what is the contact centre for?

A. If people want to ask for a form, where to find it etc. For people who have questions about it etc. The aim is to get people to do it unaided, but have provision there for the people who can't.

Q. Number of bedrooms - how do you define what a bedroom is. People may have different interpretations, which could also be impacted by the bedroom tax.

A. Census relies on people to give their perspective from their circumstances. We can't get over prescriptive. The more guidance we give, the more likely it is to go in the bin. This is easier to provide online with hover over guidance etc.

Q. Welsh language provision on online survey? (Welsh Language Commissioner)

A. Can transfer between English and Welsh versions

Q. What considerations are being made for the guidance notes in Welsh language? (Welsh Language Commissioner)

A. Yes, well need to consider that as we design the form, but we will build a Welsh Language survey from the ground up in collaboration with yourself and others. We want it to be the same experience in Welsh as English.

Q. How do you know if you are excluding people from the census? How do you monitor whether you've had an acceptable response from different groups.

A. We already know which people are harder to count, so we have our field force working to target those people. Everyone will get an invite to take part with a unique access code, which links to their address. As such, we will know where responses are coming from as they come in, and be able to monitor the responses. We can also deploy more paper forms or access codes if needed. Online will allow us to track more easily where responses are coming from etc. Administrative sources will also be used to sanity check the number of responses from different groups.

Q. In terms of duplication, where to student fall in with the census? Would they be recorded at their uni residence, family home or both?

A. The form accounts for that by asking what their usual residence is. They are placed at their uni residence, not their parents'

Q. Sexual orientation - people may give incorrect answers if somebody is filing it out on their behalf, because they don't know/are unwilling to accept their sexual orientation.

A. People can provide their own private form or access code. Anybody can send data without revealing it to any other members of the household. Will work better online than it would have before.

Q. Migration status - are asylum seekers, refugees etc meant to fill it in?

A. Yes. Citizenship can be derived from passport numbers etc. The census by law cannot be used for any other purpose.

Q. Some of the ethnicities we'd identify as religions. The ethnitisiation of religions can cause problems.

A. Iain explained the different views within communities and the equalities act.

Q. What about the religion question?

A. There are people who might consider themselves ethnically Sikh, but other religiously Sikh. The person asking the question did not agree that religions should be considered ethnicities as well. Iain explained that he had many MPs write to him asking him to include a Sikh tick box, but events like this help to give him the balance of views that allow him to make a decision.

Q. Is there going to be anything to cover people who live regularly within a community, but don't have an address (e.g. Travellers)?

A. Census Operations Group will be established, who will work with local authorities within Wales to try and work these things out, and raise where there are communities that don't have addresses. The engagement will really ramp up in 2019 ready for the dress rehearsal.

Q. Was the UK governments recent race audit based predominantly on census data?

A. Mainly based on admin data from across government. In theory this work, but there were different ways of categorising things between government departments. The race audit highlighted this as an issue that needs to be resolved. It didn't include Welsh govt data. Other sources being used to gather that data within wales. Census data will be used to make sense of some of that.

Q. For race question, will there be a drop down menu?

A. The drop down will be Jewish, but people can self identify at a more granular levels (e.g. Bangladeshi Welsh). We can also cross tabulate using country of birth data. There are some very particular and unique communities. We try to get data through a range of questions: country of birth, national identity and ethnic/religious identity. What is being highlighted is that the days of a tick box are numbered, because the ways people identify are becoming more diverse. We tried a more free form approach in testing, but it didn't work.

Q. Pleased to see you are looking to introduce gender ID questions. In Newport we ask this, but we are not convinced the date is accurate – will be good to see what you come up with and copy that.

Q. Didn't hear reference to inter-sex. People who can't easily be assigned a gender, and go through horrific treatment/operations.

A. We have tried to reach out to these groups, but it's difficult. To design a census question to meets that category is going to be very very difficult. Legislation is binary in a lot of cases, which makes things complicated. Yes we have thought about it, but haven't got very far in terms of how we meet that user need. Starting to explore with our social surveys about how we meet that need. It may be that surveys might be better for meeting that need than a census. There are some things that it is too difficult to try and measure.

Q. Appreciate you are looking into this. It is the most complex category (Sex and gender). The guidance provided will have to be considered very carefully so we don't offend communities, or have incorrect data. Young peoples commissioner considering how we can educate young people on the census.

Q. Was initially concerned when using the term public accessibility, but hadn't fully considered that the way you word the questions has an impact on response rate.

A. This work is so critical to the rest of the statistical system. This work guides behaviour on other surveys etc.

We've had a lot of feedback from the feminist lobby. There is a group of them who think this is men trying to control the nature of gender, and erase the male/female question. Our research has shown that actually there is a very high public accessibility for this. We are going to ask a question on sex still.

We are on a journey with these questions. The way you have looked at this has reassured Chwarae Teg that we have considered this.

■ - we all play a part in communicating this, and can help as we approach the census.

Q. We should be careful not to discriminate. Need both gender ID and sexual orientation to not discriminate. The questions could be "What you are assigned at birth and how you identify".

A. We are at a point where we are working through this, there are a range of options on the table. The point is identity matters - it matters to us all, so it matters to the census.

Q. You haven't yet tested the Welsh language versions of these questions? (Welsh Language Commissioner)

A. We have done some, but it is challenging. Will need to work with stakeholders to get it right

Q. The terminology is very sensitive and can translate in Welsh. (Welsh Language Commissioner)

A. Will look to develop these from the ground up in Welsh soon. Would be happy to work with you to formulate that (Welsh census)

Q. Will there be a LGBT/gender ID questions?

A. No decision has been made. Our core decisions are public accessibility and user need. Have high levels of both. Further research needed to come to a final decision. Also we could recommend it but, the National Statistician or the government could disagree.

Q. Have you engaged with LGBT community?

A. Yes, but we are meeting more now with people who might object, eg with people on the gender equality/feminist side. Of those, they were actually quite supportive of the need to do something when we explained our position. We don't want the census to be out of date the moment it has been concluded. The world is moving more rapidly on gender issues than before. Looking at the global position - no other country has done this, we would be the first. Gender ID was tried in Australia. Would be great to be first, but there may be some good reasons why haven't!

Q. How old do you have to be to answer the census?

A. Have an event in the coming weeks about where the age cut off should be. There is highly likely to be an age cut off for this question. For 16 and over, there was much greater accessibility. I can't imagine this being an all age question.

Q. If you're 15 and your father says you are straight when you think you are gay, how do you get around that?

A. We'll have to factor that into our thinking, but it feels like 16 should be in terms of people being accurately identify their own sexual orientation as well.

lains summary

- this needs to be a Welsh census, and need to consider Welsh specific issues
- Need to ensure this an inclusive census, with good accessibility
- Need to work with us for reaching hard to reach community etc
- Need to think through some of the detailed bits of design around the gender I'd/sexual orientation questions

- For asylum seekers and other sensitive groups, it's important to ensure we protect that data