



Consultation document

The 2011 Census:
Initial View on Content for England and Wales

Office for National Statistics, May 2005
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Summary

This paper provides an initial view on the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire for England and Wales. **The views expressed in this document are preliminary.** Their aim is to promote discussion and encourage the development of strong cases for topics to be included in the 2011 Census. The focus of this paper is on information required from the 2011 Census, not the detailed questions that should be asked on the questionnaire. The content of the questionnaires for the 2007 Census Test and 2011 Census will only be finalised after further research and consultation.

As in previous Censuses, there will be separate Censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland, while the Census questionnaire in Wales is also likely to differ slightly from that in England. The Census Offices in the UK are working together closely to ensure that the different UK Censuses are as similar as possible with the aim of consistent UK outputs. This paper focuses on the Census in England and Wales and, where appropriate, notes the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It forms the starting point of consultation on the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire within England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland have already started their consultations and this document reflects their findings so far.

The findings of user consultation conducted in the run-up to the 2001 Census have been considered. However, due to changes in user requirements and the options available to meet them using other data sources, the cases made for information prior to 2001 will need to be made again.

Interested parties are invited to:

- **comment on the proposals for the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire in England and Wales;**
- **complete a response for all topics, classifications and derived variables of interest; and**
- **make a case for any other information that should be considered for collection from the 2011 Census that is not discussed within this paper.**

Responses to this consultation paper are invited until **Friday 5th August 2005**. Submissions should address the criteria described in Annex A of this document and use the template for responses in Annex D. Responses should be completed in *MS Word* and emailed to the address given in Section 4.

1. Introduction

Consultation on the content of previous censuses resulted in much larger demand for census topics than was possible to accommodate. This paper seeks to give a first idea of the information that may be collected by the 2011 Census, so that users have a clear view of the constraints and trade-offs from the start of the consultation process. The criteria against which cases for topics will be assessed are set out in order to contribute to a transparent process for determining the content of the 2011 Census questionnaires.

This document forms the starting point of consultation on the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire within England and Wales, summarising the initial view of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It also reflects the current position in Scotland and Northern Ireland where appropriate. Where differences in user requirements have been identified these are noted. However, there is agreement between the three Registrars General on the need to work towards consistent UK Census outputs.

The focus of this paper is on the information required from the 2011 Census, not the specific questions that should be asked on the questionnaire. The three Census Offices will work together to develop questions for the 2011 Census questionnaires on the basis of users' data needs, the detail of which will be the subject of topic-specific consultation over the next two years.

In addition to individual topics, **user requirements for classifications and derived variables should be identified as part of this consultation.** A paper providing further information on the issues surrounding derived variables is available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_derived_variables.pdf

Responses to this paper will assist the Census Offices in prioritising research leading up to the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales and consequently influence the content of the Test questionnaires. Results of the Test will inform the content of the 2011 Census. Responses should be submitted electronically and details of how to respond are given in Section 4. When responding to this consultation, it is important that users consider what their requirements are likely to be in 2011 as far as possible.

Responses to this document may be made public and may be attributed to the respondent.

A summary of responses to this document will be reported to the established Census Advisory Groups and will be made available on the National Statistics web-site towards the end of 2005.

2. Context

This section describes key factors influencing the design of the 2011 Census questionnaires. The requirement to better understand Census coverage, a key lesson from the 2001 Census, means that additional questions around residency patterns are likely to be required. Furthermore, the requirement to maximise Census response means that the questionnaires are likely to contain a maximum of three pages of questions per person. Research over the next few years will focus on reducing the complexity of Census questions and improving the layout of the questionnaire. In order to accommodate any additional residency questions, it is likely that fewer questions on other topics will be possible than in 2001 and that outputs for some topics may be less detailed than previously.

A paper discussing the operational context of the 2011 Census and further implications for the design of the questionnaire is available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_operational_context.pdf

Details of previous consultation and related research are included in Annex C.

2.1 2011 Census design

The ONS information paper *The 2011 Census: A design for England and Wales* states that the 2011 Census should “provide a robust benchmark for key population statistics, on a consistent and comparable basis for small areas and small population groups, including:

- population units (people, housing and key demographics – age, sex, ethnicity, etc.);
- population structures (households, families);
- population characteristics, with multivariate analysis.”

The questions necessary to collect the information for these key population statistics are certain to be included on the questionnaire.

To achieve these robust benchmarks, the paper states the aim of “maximising response rates in all areas (particularly inner cities) and from all population sub-groups and minimising differential non-response.”

The design proposed is a mixed enumeration strategy with post-out/post-back being the main approach, supported by enumerator delivery in some areas and intensive non-response follow-up. This design aims to target field resources effectively in order to achieve the aim of maximising response. However, a consequence of this design is that many respondents will no longer have face-to-face contact with a census enumerator. This will impact the questionnaire design and content and will be taken into account when considering whether individual questions are suitable for the Census.

The full paper is available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/2011_design_information.pdf

2.2 Enumeration base

The enumeration base relates to how census data are *collected*. There is no requirement for the enumeration base to be the same as the output base.

However, it is essential that the required output bases can be derived from the data collected. The output population base is discussed in section 2.3.

The 2001 Census collected data on usual residents, but did not attempt to collect any information from visitors present at an address on Census Night who had a usual address elsewhere in the UK. This approach may have allowed some respondents to opt out of the 2001 Census and the lack of information on visitors reduced the ability to understand the coverage of the Census itself.

Following a review of the enumeration base options for 2011, it has been decided to maintain continuity with 2001 by enumerating usual residents. However, it is also proposed to collect information on visitors and second addresses if they can be shown to improve on the outputs that were possible from the previous Census.

The definitions to support a usual resident enumeration will be the subject of research and testing over the next two years.

A paper summarising the research that informed the choice of enumeration base is available on the National Statistics web-site:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_population_base.pdf

2.3 Output population bases

Consultation on population bases for outputs has identified that the key user requirement is for data on the usually resident population, and this will be the main output base in 2011. However, a number of recent consultations in England and Wales have concluded that the 2011 Census should consider providing some outputs on other bases.

The 2011 Census will investigate the feasibility of producing supplementary outputs for the following population bases and groups:

- population present;
- day-time population;
- workplace population;
- the institutional population, by type of institution;
- households (although the precise definition of a household requires further work); and
- families.

As part of this current consultation, **users should identify the populations to which their information requirements relate**. This will allow ONS to determine which questions should be asked of usual residents, visitors and the population within institutions.

2.4 Output strategy

The purpose of this document is to consult on the content of the Census questionnaires rather than the output strategies. However, since the two aspects are inter-dependent, key elements of the output strategy are covered in the operational context paper referenced above. Current thinking on disclosure control and output geographies is discussed in this paper.

2.5 Alternative sources of information

A number of data sources exist, or are likely to exist in 2011, that may provide an alternative source for data that previously have only been available from the census. The availability of alternative sources will be central to determining the content of the 2011 Census questionnaires. The following key sources are likely to exist by 2011:

- the Continuous Population Survey (CPS);
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) – Benefits data covering various population groups;
- Department for Education and Skills (DfES) - Data covering the school age population and qualifications data;
- Inland Revenue data - National Insurance data covering the working population, self-assessment and PAYE tax returns;
- Local Authority maintained sources - electoral register and council tax data; and
- NHS National Program for Information Technology (NPfIT) - detailed information on health conditions and treatments.

3. Topics under consideration for collection by the 2011 Census

This section considers potential Census topics and whether ONS considers they are likely to form part of the content of the 2011 Census questionnaires.

These views are preliminary. Their aim is to promote discussion and encourage the development of strong cases for topics to be included in the 2011 Census. The content of the questionnaires for the 2007 Census Test and 2011 Census will only be finalised after further research and consultation.

The topics are each allocated to one of three categories, outlined below. Those topics that were not collected in 2001 in England and Wales are identified by italics in the tables that follow. Annex B provides a summary of the topics within each category.

Category 1: Those topics to be included in the 2011 UK Census

These topics are those where there is a clear case for inclusion on the 2011 Census questionnaires and for which ONS are confident that suitable questions already exist or can be designed that will enable high quality information to be collected.

The topics in this category are those that largely form the basis of the key outputs described in section 2.1. Responses from users on the importance of these will help inform the overall Census business case. Further consultation and research is required to determine the question design and appropriate response categories.

Category 2: Those topics where further work will be undertaken before a decision is made whether to include them in the 2011 UK Census

There are three key reasons why topics may appear in this category:

1. the user requirement for information is not yet sufficiently established to justify collection;
2. research is required to determine whether suitable questions can be designed to capture the information requested by users; or
3. a suitable alternative source of information may be available.

A programme of work is planned to investigate further the user requirement for information, to design and test possible questions, and to investigate alternative sources for the information.

It will not be possible to collect all of the information currently in category 2 given the constraints surrounding questionnaire length. **It is therefore necessary for users to make strong cases for topics of interest in this category.** The topics in this category will be prioritised according to the criteria in Annex A.

Questions required to deliver category 1 topics and the highest priority items in category 2 will largely form the content of the Census questionnaire.

Category 3: Those topics where there is insufficient evidence of user demand to justify inclusion in the 2011 UK Census

This category includes some topics that have been collected in previous censuses and some new topics for which users have already requested information from the Census, but where, in both cases, the extent of user demand is felt to be insufficient to justify further work.

These topics will not be considered further **unless sufficient user demand is identified** as a result of this consultation.

3.1 Population definitions and bases

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual residence (including term-time address) • Visitor information • Address of workplace • Students in full-time education • Households • Dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Second residence</i> • <i>Address of place of study</i> 	

Obtaining accurate population estimates is the prime reason for conducting a census, and the enumeration base will have a significant impact on all aspects of the 2011 Census. The 2011 Census will enumerate the usually resident population, while also collecting limited information for visitors present on census night. The 2011 Census is likely to take place during term-time and will therefore enumerate students at their term-time address. In order to meet the requirement for flexible population bases for output described in section 2.3, the feasibility of collecting information on second residences will be tested.

It is hoped that by collecting this information UK Census Offices would be able to establish a clearer picture of various population groups such as students, commuters and children of dissolved families. It is also envisaged that if information on second residences is collected, this would improve the understanding of under- and over-coverage of the Census.

Outputs relating to counts of households will be produced. Outputs relating to counts of dwellings are also likely to be produced. However, **an indication is required from users as to why outputs on both dwellings and households are required** from the 2011 Census.

ONS also plan to test collecting address of place of study as was collected in Scotland in 2001. This information would be used to assess daily travel patterns of students.

3.2 Basic demographics and social composition of households

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex • Date of birth • Marital status • Household and family relationships 		

Collecting basic demographic information for the population is one of the principal reasons for taking the census. This information is essential for the majority of census outputs and is assumed to be a key requirement of census users. These topics also provide detailed information on the social composition of families and households that is not available from any other source. However, there is evidence that the matrix-style question used to collect relationship information in 2001 was not well understood by respondents. Therefore, the format of this question is being reviewed and may change from that used in 2001.

3.3 Housing information

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household tenure (Including type of landlord) Accommodation type (whether a household's accommodation is self-contained¹ and number of rooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vehicles 	

Household tenure and accommodation type are considered essential for assessing housing across England and Wales. Information on whether accommodation is self-contained and number of rooms is included under type of accommodation for the purposes of this document. This information is necessary to establish a count of dwellings (self-contained) and calculate over-crowding (number of rooms).

Information on number of vehicles available for use by household members has previously been required for several key purposes:

- to inform transport planning by both Central and Local Government;
- to give an indirect indicator of deprivation; and
- to aid travel to work output (for example by cross-tabulating public transport users by whether or not they live in households with access to cars and vans).

Continuing user requirements for this topic will need to be established.

3.4 Quality of housing

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Heating Lowest floor level <i>Additional quality of housing measure</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bath/Shower and toilet access <i>Accommodation on more than one floor²</i> <i>Internet Access</i>

Previous censuses have collected information for use as housing quality indicators, and it is likely that this will continue to be the case in 2011.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has initiated the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. One of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets of this strategy is to bring all social housing into decent condition, and to increase the proportion of the private housing occupied by vulnerable groups that is in decent condition by 2010.

The inclusion of housing quality indicators in the 2011 Census would assist the ongoing evaluation of this target. However, the continued relevance of at least one of the indicators of housing quality included in the last Census is

¹ ONS are planning to collect this information in 2011. NISRA are planning to investigate further the user requirement for data, given the low percentage of 'no' responses in 2001

² This question was asked in Northern Ireland in 2001. NISRA are considering the case for asking a similar question in 2011. ONS have no plans to develop a question to collect this information.

questionable. The 2001 Census results revealed that only 0.5 per cent of households in England and Wales do not have sole access to bath/shower and toilet facilities. It is not intended therefore to collect this information in 2011.

In England and Wales, 8.5 per cent of households reported not having central heating in the 2001 Census. The continued relevance of asking for this information will need to be established.

Information on the lowest floor level of a household's living accommodation was collected in the 2001 Census and provided a measure of the types of families and households living in high rise accommodation. Continuing user requirements for this topic will need to be established.

Information about internet access is an emerging requirement and could be used as an indicator of social exclusion. However, given the potential for rapid change in this measure together with the availability of alternative sources of information from surveys, including provisional plans for inclusion in the Continuous Population Survey, it is not considered appropriate to collect this information via the Census.

GROS may test a question in the 2006 Census Test in Scotland to assess how willing people are to complete an e-Census questionnaire in 2011.

3.5 Ethnicity, identity and religion

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnicity and identity • Religion³ • Welsh language proficiency (in Wales) • Gaelic language proficiency (in Scotland) • Irish language proficiency (in Northern Ireland) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sexual orientation</i>⁴ • <i>English language proficiency</i>

Ethnicity and identity are linked and multi-dimensional. This topic may include characteristics such as:

- ethnic group;
- religion;
- language; and
- national identity;

There is a continuing strong user demand for statistics to build up a picture of changes over time for groups classified by ethnic, national and religious identity, and to monitor and promote equal opportunities between these groups. It is recognised that group identification is subjective. Country of birth, nationality and citizenship are also related to these subjective characteristics, and are discussed in section 3.11. ONS will also consider whether dimensions of national identity should be extended beyond the UK.

³ GROS and NISRA expect to collect information on two dimensions of religion - the religion that the respondent was born into and religious affiliation at the time of the census.

⁴ GROS are investigating the feasibility of collecting this information.

A number of questions will be required to capture adequately the different dimensions of ethnic, national and religious identity. Research will be undertaken to establish appropriate characteristics for inclusion and to further explore the interactions between the various characteristics in order to design a meaningful and acceptable suite of questions. It is recognised that for ethnic, national and religious identity to be meaningful and dynamic there may be some loss in terms of direct comparability over time.

Welsh language proficiency will be collected in Wales, as has been the case in previous censuses. Similar questions on Gaelic and Irish language will be asked in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

A user requirement for information on sexual orientation has been identified. The Census is not seen currently as an appropriate vehicle for collecting this information. This is due to the compulsory nature of the Census and issues of confidentiality, disclosure and accuracy together with possible non-response effects. It is possible, however, that information about sexual orientation could be collected in other surveys.

3.6 Educational attainment and qualifications

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification / training required for occupation • <i>Completed stages of education</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic qualifications • Other professional qualifications

Though necessary for full coding of occupation to the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2000), qualification information is traditionally difficult to capture and there were particular difficulties with the 2001 Census questions on academic and professional qualifications. Also, space constraints mean that less information may be collected on qualifications than in 2001.

The main user demand is for a broad measure of educational status or attainment; further work is required to research how this might be collected meaningfully. Information on qualifications is also required for the derivation of the full version of the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) (see section 3.8).

One possibility is to use a measure of educational attainment based on completed stages of education and this will be researched. It is also considered that the interactions between educational attainment and other census variables, for example ethnicity and labour market data, are important.

3.7 Health

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health status • Carer Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nature/cause of disability/long-term illness</i>

Some measure of health status is required, but further work is necessary to understand the requirements of key users of health, disability and carer information. Consideration will be given to possibilities such as disability, long-term illness and level of general health.

At present ONS and GROS do not intend to collect information on the nature or cause of disability or long-term illness, although NISRA are considering doing so.

The case for inclusion of information about carers rests primarily on recognition that the ageing population will result in a rise in the number of carers and that the availability of this information at local level is likely to become increasingly important. In previous censuses there has been no alternative sources of this information, although this may not be the case in 2011.

The possible availability of alternative sources of data such as the planned NHS National Program for Information Technology NPfIT system may impact on the future requirements for some information traditionally collected by the Census. However, this needs to be investigated in the context of how individual health, disability and carer information from the Census is used in interaction with other census variables.

3.8 National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupation • Industry⁵ • Economic activity status • Self-employed or employee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not a supervisor • Number of employees at the workplace (or employed if self-employed)⁶ 	

In 2001, the NS-SEC was introduced for all official ONS statistics and surveys replacing the two previous socio-economic classifications - Social Class based on occupation ([SC] formerly Registrar General's Social Class) and Socio-Economic Group (SEG). There is strong user demand for the information to enable this classification to be derived from the 2011 Census.

NS-SEC is an occupational classification based on current or last paid work but there are also rules to provide coverage of the whole adult population, including those who have never worked, the long-term unemployed and full-time students.

The information required to create the full NS-SEC is Occupation coded to the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC 2000) and details of employment status. However, collecting this information requires a substantial amount of

⁵ Information on industry is needed because many of the 26,000 job titles in the SOC2000 coding index are linked to a specific industries

⁶ Size of organisation is necessary when coding job titles to the SOC 2000 unit group 1112 *Directors and chief executives of major organisations*, because major organisation is taken as one employing 500 or more persons.

space on the Census questionnaire, which may not be possible in 2011. Questions to provide a reduced version of NS-SEC, requiring less detailed information, will be investigated.

SOC 2000 codes are derived from occupation title, occupation description (including any qualifications or training, membership of professional bodies necessary to do the job) and description of industry.

3.9 Labour market/employment

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupation • Industry • Economic activity status • Self-employed or employee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours worked • Whether or not a supervisor • number of employees at the workplace (or employed if self-employed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of Jobs</i> • <i>Voluntary Work</i>

The prime requirement of the labour market questions asked by the Census is to collect accurate information on economic activity status.

The labour market and employment questions included in the 2001 Census approximated to those used in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which follow the internationally standard definitions set out in guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). However, because the census is self-completed it can be classified only approximately to the ILO definitions.

Aggregate estimates of employment, unemployment and inactivity from LFS are likely to be more accurate at the national and regional level. For smaller local areas sampling errors in LFS estimates become more significant and Census results at that level should, therefore, be given greater weight.

Most labour market and employment data items included in the 2001 Census were necessary for the derivation of NS-SEC (discussed at section 3.8). The exceptions being hours worked per week in main job and mode of travel to work (which is included in category 1 of the Travel topics at section 3.10). Labour market and employment questions formed a significant proportion of the 2001 Census questionnaire content. Due to the strong demand for other information to be collected via the Census, less space is likely to be available for labour market questions in 2011.

There is some user demand for other labour market and employment data items included in category 3 but given the constraints on questionnaire space and strong competing requirements for data on other topics it is not currently intended to include these.

3.10 Travel

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport used to travel to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transport used to travel to study</i> 	

Information on mode of transport used to travel to work is crucial for local transport planning needs. It is hoped that a travel to work question could be adapted to capture methods of travel to study as well (as was the case in Scotland in 2001), making this information more comprehensive.

3.11 Migration

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address one year ago • Country of birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Year of respondents' entry into the UK</i> • <i>Nationality</i> • <i>Citizenship</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Place of birth</i> • <i>Country(ies) of Parents' birth</i> • <i>Change of country of usual residence</i> • <i>Country of previous usual residence</i>

Census data inform both national and international migration statistics, which are used in the calculation of annual population estimates.

Given the importance of this information to migration statistics, the 2011 Census will collect data on respondents' usual address one year before census day and country of birth.

The *National Statistics Quality Review on International Migration Statistics* recommended that the 2011 Census should consider collecting data on nationality and year of a respondent's entry into the UK. The latter would be used to make international migration statistics more robust. The case for nationality data is also discussed in section 3.4.

UNECE and Eurostat are proposing a number of additional migration questions for the 2010 round of international Censuses. These are included in category 3 as there is not currently significant demand for this information in the UK.

3.12 Income

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Income</i> 	

There is strong user demand for information about income from the Census, **which needs to be confirmed through this consultation**. Any Census outputs on income will be broad-banded classificatory variables for comparing levels of deprivation, rather than providing a definitive measure of income. Work will be undertaken to establish whether (an) appropriate question(s) can be developed to gather this information in an accurate, meaningful and publicly acceptable way.

Issues such as the impact on response, whether the information would be collected at the household or individual level and whether the question would be

open or closed will be examined. This work will build on research conducted prior to the 2001 Census and will also take account of more recent research conducted to develop an income question for the CPS.

The user requirement for indirect measures of deprivation will be assessed in relation to the possible inclusion of questions relating to income.

3.13 Operational requirements and data quality

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone number e-mail address Sources of income Name of employer Ever worked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Insurance number

The 2011 Census will collect some information that will not form part of census outputs, but would aid census operations and potential follow-up work or improve data quality. Respondent's name is, for example, collected for these purposes. In the context of postal and web administration of the Census in 2011, the utility of additional identifiers such as respondent's telephone number and email address, which could be used in any follow-up (for example, of partially completed questionnaires), will be considered.

If information on income is collected in the 2011 Census, a question on sources of income may also be included for operational purposes. Previous testing has shown that the inclusion of such a question on a census questionnaire improves the quality of the income information collected.

The collection of National Insurance number was considered for the purposes of facilitating linkage of other data sources to the Census. Census data would not be released to any department to link with their data. Any data linkage would be undertaken by ONS only. However, this is not being considered further at present due to concerns about the accuracy of National Insurance information that could be collected and the potential impact on response.

4. Responding to this consultation

Responses to this consultation paper are invited until **Friday 5th August 2005**. Submissions should address the criteria described in Annex A of this document and use the *MS Word* template, shown for information in Annex D, on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_response_template.doc

Responses to this document may be made public and may be attributed to the respondent.

Responses should be completed in *MS Word* and emailed to:

Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Completed responses can, exceptionally, be returned to:

Jennet Woolford
Statistician – Census 2011 Division
Office for National Statistics
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
Hants
PO15 5RR

Users may wish to make inputs to the question consultations of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Their contact details are:

Richard Morrison
2011 Census Consultation, Question Development & Community Liaison Manager
General Register Office for Scotland
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7TF

census.consultation@gro-scotland.gov.uk

Brian Green
Census Manager
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Census Office
2nd Floor, McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
Belfast
BT1 1SA

consultation.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk

ANNEX A: Selection criteria

Respondents wishing to suggest the collection of particular topics from the 2011 Census should note the following criteria. These will be used to evaluate the strength of requests for information. The extent to which topics meet these criteria will be a prominent consideration in determining whether or not the information will be collected by the 2011 Census.

User requirement criteria

The following criteria form the basis of the response questionnaire in Annex D. ONS will evaluate the strength of the case made for data against these issues discussed below.

1. User need

Topics must carry a strong and clearly defined user need if they are to be collected by the Census. Unless a robust case is made for gathering information from the 2011 Census it will not be collected. **Responses from users on the importance of the information – including topics in category 1 – will help inform the Census business case.** Responses are not required, however, with respect to the information on sex and date of birth.

User need could be justified in terms of, for example: significant resource allocation, improved service provision, policy development or policy monitoring.

2. Small population groups and small geographical areas

Census data should be required for small population groups and/or at detailed geographical levels. Information that is only required for broad geographic area levels or large population groups might be better obtained from other statistical sources.

It should be noted that all small geography data must easily be aggregated to higher levels of geography. This enables outputs to be consistent and comparable regionally and nationally.

3. Alternative sources

The National Statistics Code of Practice Protocol on Managing Respondent Load states that "*National Statistics will, where appropriate, be derived from information supplied for the administration of government business and public services*".

The 2011 Census should, therefore, only seek to collect information that there is no other means of obtaining. Consideration should be given to whether or not suitable information is available from other sources. Similar or surrogate information may be collected by another organisation; there may have been surveys already conducted or planned to be implemented; or the information may be available from administrative records. This issue is discussed in section 2.5.

4. Multivariate analysis

A key benefit of census data is the ability to analyse particular variables against one another. A requirement to undertake multivariate analysis will affect whether suitable alternative sources for the information exist and may strengthen the case for inclusion in the Census.

5. National importance and UK comparability

The Census is a large and costly operation. It is essential that the information collected is of major national importance. This applies to the whole of the UK, and the three UK Census Offices will, where possible, release Census outputs that are consistent across the UK.

6. Continuity

Comparison with previous censuses is an important aspect of census analysis and, therefore, questionnaire content should not differ drastically from one census to the next. Wherever possible, close attention will be given to the content of the 2001 Census questionnaire.

Criteria for ONS to consider

There are many other factors that ONS will consider when evaluating what information can be collected from the 2011 Census. These issues are discussed below.

7. Respondent burden and data quality

The Census is a compulsory exercise carried out on a self-enumeration basis: each householder is required to complete all relevant questions on the questionnaire. This imposes constraints on the types of data that can be collected from the Census if high quality and accurate outputs are to be produced. Therefore, the UK Census Offices will not ask any information of respondents that will place excessive burden on them or clearly compromise data quality. Given these issues the Census should, in general, not:

- ask sensitive or potentially intrusive questions that result in an unacceptable level of item or unit non-response;
- ask questions that require a lengthy explanation or instruction to ensure an accurate answer - research has shown that people often do not read such instructions;
- impose an excessive burden on respondents;
- seek information not readily known or that people are unlikely to remember accurately and which is, therefore, likely to be unreliable; or
- enquire about opinions or attitudes.

8. Operational considerations

If a topic requires a question that is likely to present major coding problems, require extensive processing or significantly add to the overall cost of the Census it is unlikely to be considered further for inclusion in the Census.

In addition to these factors, the Census should be seen to be an exercise carried out purely for statistical purposes. Therefore, the Census should not be used to collect data that will deliberately promote political or sectarian groups, or sponsor particular causes.

9. Questionnaire design

The size and design of the Census questionnaires will impact on the response. Therefore space on the questionnaire will be limited. The design and size of a question will be an important factor in deciding whether or not particular information can be collected by the Census.

10. Legislation and international recommendations

The UK Census Acts restrict, to some degree, what information can be collected from the Census. The Census Offices will also have to consider the requirements arising from any European Community legislation and international guidelines relating to census content which are made to facilitate international comparisons. Recommendations made, for example, by the UN, UN-ECE (Economic Commission for Europe) and Eurostat will need to be taken into account when deciding the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire. It should be noted that currently there is no EU legislation in place imposes on member states a legal obligation to collect certain data. However, this may change by 2011.

ANNEX B: Summary of current position on 2011 Census content

This annex summarises the view of ONS on the current status of the topics identified in the paper. Refer to section 3 for an explanation of the three different categories.

Data not collected by the 2001 Census are indicated on italics.

Category 1 topics

- Usual residence (including term-time address)
- Visitor information
- Address of workplace
- Students in full-time education
- Households
- Dwellings
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Marital status
- Household and family relationships
- Household tenure (including type of landlord)
- Accommodation type (including whether or not a household's accommodation is self-contained and number of rooms)
- Ethnicity and identity
- Religion
- Welsh language proficiency (in Wales)
- Gaelic language proficiency (in Scotland)
- Irish language proficiency (in Northern Ireland)
- Occupation
- Industry
- Economic activity status
- Self-employed or employee
- Address one year ago
- Transport used to travel to work
- Country of birth
- Name (operational requirement only)

Category 2 topics

- *Second residences*
- *Address of study place*
- Number of vehicles
- Central heating access
- Lowest floor level
- Other housing quality measure
- Qualifications/training (necessary for occupation)
- Completed stages of education
- Health status (possibly covering *disability*, long-term illness and level of general health)
- Carer information
- Whether or not a supervisor
- Number of employees at the workplace (or employed if self-employed)
- Hours worked per week
- *Transport used to travel to study*
- *Year of respondents' entry into the UK*
- *Nationality*
- *Citizenship*
- *Income*

- *Telephone number* (operational requirement only)
- *email address* (operational requirement only)
- *Sources of income* (operational requirement only)
- Name of employer (operational requirement only)
- Ever worked (operational requirement only)

Category 3 topics

- Bath/shower and toilet access
- *Accommodation on more than one floor*
- *Internet access*
- *Sexual orientation*
- *English language proficiency*
- Academic qualifications
- Other professional qualifications
- *Nature/cause of disability/long-term illness*
- *Number of jobs*
- *Voluntary work*
- *Place of birth*
- *Country(ies) of parent's birth*
- *Change of country of usual residence*
- *Country of previous usual residence*
- *National Insurance Number*

ANNEX C: Previous consultation and related research

The information requirements set out in this document have been derived from recent consultations, such as those reported in the ONS papers '*Census strategic development review: User requirements report*' and '*Consultation with Users on Population Definitions for the 2011 Census*', and ongoing consultation in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The ONS papers are available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/user_req.pdf

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pdfs/ag0407.pdf>

Details of user consultation in Scotland are available on the GROS web-site:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/census/censushm2011/index.html>

Details of user consultation in Northern Ireland are available on the NISRA web-site:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011_census_consultation.html

The findings of user consultation conducted in the run-up to the 2001 Census have also been considered. However, due to changes in user requirements and the options available to meet them using other data sources, cases made for information prior to 2001 will need to be made again in order to establish whether the user requirement still exists.

A number of reports informing this document are available on the National Statistics web-site:

- An examination of the numbers and location of second homes across the UK
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_second_residences.pdf
- A Demographic statistics service for the 21st century
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/downloads/Demographic_Statistics_Service.pdf
- Socio-Demographic context of the 2011 Census
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_socio_demographic_context.pdf
- The Continuous Population Survey (CPS) consultation document
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/ons_consultations/downloads/CPS_Consultation.pdf

ANNEX D: Template for response

Interested parties are invited to:

- **comment on the proposals for the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire in England and Wales;**
- **complete a response for all topics, classifications and derived variables of interest; and**
- **make a case for any other information that should be considered for collection from the 2011 Census that is not discussed within this paper.**

Respondents wishing to express a user requirement for 2011 Census data should complete the *MS Word* version of this template, which is available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_response_template.doc

Please complete one questionnaire per topic or classification, and return completed responses by email to:

Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

There is no requirement for users to express a requirement for information on date of birth or sex, as these will be core topics in the 2011 Census.

The paper providing further information on the issues surrounding derived variables is available on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_derived_variables.pdf

Throughout the questionnaire, respondents' answers should indicate the type of populations/population bases for which the information is required.

Users may also wish to make inputs into the consultations of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Their contact details are also given in section 4.

Response to consultation on possible content of 2011 Census

Name

Organisation(s) represented

Address

Telephone number

e-mail address

Topic or classification

If responding about a classification, which topics are required to derive it?

1. Why is the information required?

Please indicate if the information is used for resource allocation purposes.

2. Why is this information required for small population groups and/or small geographies?

3. What assessment of alternative source of information has been carried out? What would be the impact of using the next best alternative?

4. Which other topics, if any, are required for multivariate analyses together with this topic?

5. Why is it important that this information is available for the UK as a whole?

6. Will this information ensure continuity with previous Censuses?

7. Do you have any other comments relevant to this consultation?

Please return to: Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Responses may be made public and may be attributed to respondents