



Information paper

The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales

- Migration

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1. Summary

In May 2005 ONS published a consultation document 'The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales'. Responses were received from nearly 500 users, presenting arguments for the inclusion of around 70 topics (over 2,000 'topic responses').

Each topic was evaluated using the criteria detailed in the consultation document and a scoring system based on the criteria was used to rank the topics according to the strength of user requirement.

This paper provides a summary of the user requirements, and the scores given, for the following topics:

- Address one year ago
- Country of birth
- Citizenship and nationality
- Change of country of usual residence
- Country of previous usual residence
- Place of birth
- Country(ies) of parents' birth
- Year of entry into the UK
- Asylum or immigration status

2. Address One Year Ago: Total Score=73

2.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of address one year ago was placed in category 1, meaning that ONS believed that this information would be collected in the 2011 Census.

There were over 30 responses received commenting on the subject of address one year ago from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

2.2 User Need: Score=7

A number of potential uses of information on address one year ago have been identified from across the Census user community.

Information on address one year ago would be used to provide information on migration and to calculate small area population estimates and projections. The data would show moves into and out of areas within the UK, as well as international in-flows. The data is not fed directly into ONS regularly published estimates of migration, however, these published estimates are only available down to local authority level (for internal migration) or regional level (international migration), and therefore the Census provides the only published source of migration data at lower geographical levels.

In areas with high population turnovers, this information, when cross-tabulated with other Census variables, would be used to show the characteristics of people moving in, out and around the area. Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit said that the information *"can identify areas of highly mobile populations, which often indicate areas of high stress or hard to count, e.g. town centres, students, etc"*.

The information would also be used to inform service provision and resource allocation. Migration data is useful for assessing the demand for services such as housing, education, etc. ODPM stated that the information *"is important in understanding the impact of migration on the demand for housing and to better understand the characteristics of this population, many of whom are likely to be from very marginalised and vulnerable groups"*.

The Welsh Language Board also suggested that the inclusion of a question on address one year ago in the Census would *"provide data of use in understanding the effects of in-migration on the Welsh language"*.

2.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=8

Information on address one year ago would be required for small geographies to assess the local impact of migration. Users suggest that information is required at Super Output Area level to achieve this.

A question on address one year ago would need to identify small population groups to allow the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively. Migration patterns can vary significantly between different sub-groups of the population.

2.4 Alternative Sources: Score=7

Information on address one year ago is available from a number of sources, including the Labour Force Survey. However, these are not seen as suitable alternative sources to the Census by many users responding to the consultation exercise because the data are not available for a small enough level of geography.

The majority of responses to the consultation conclude that there are no suitable alternative sources to the Census that meet all of their requirements.

2.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=6

Information on address one year ago would be analysed with a large number of other Census variables. This would enable the characteristics of the moving population to be understood, and would help the Home Office to monitor the fair treatment of migrant groups.

2.6 UK Comparability: Score=10

All users who responded to the consultation stated that information on address one year ago is required for the whole of the UK. This is essential to provide a baseline for the UK, allowing consistent and comparable national analysis, and to inform service provision.

2.7 Continuity: Score=10

A question on address one year ago has been asked in the Census since 1961.

2.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses for data on address one year ago from a variety of respondents. Of these uses, informing migration data and service provision are the most common reasons cited by respondents for requiring the information.

The majority of users requested that the data should be available at small levels of geography and this should be Super Output Area level if all users are to be satisfied. Alternative sources of the information do exist, however they do not fully satisfy user requirements. A good case was made for using address one year ago information for multivariate analysis, and there is a very strong case for requiring the information for the whole of the UK. Information on address one year ago has been collected in the Census since 1961.

There is a clear requirement for this information at detailed levels of geography. The information has been collected previously in a manner that satisfies user requirements. Therefore the topic of address one year ago remains in category 1.

3. Country of Birth: Total Score=79

3.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of country of birth was placed in category 1, meaning that ONS believed that this information would be collected in the 2011 Census.

There were over 35 responses received commenting on the subject of country of birth from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

3.2 User Need: Score=8

A number of potential uses of information on country of birth have been identified from across the Census user community.

Information on country of birth would be used to inform resource allocation as part of the Formula Spending Share (FSS) funding formulae. The government use these formulae to allocate resources to councils. The Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services FSS formula includes a range of socio-economic indicators to reflect variations in need. These indicators include the country of birth indicator from the Census.

The information would also be used to inform service provision and policy development/monitoring. Carmarthenshire County Council stated that *"as the question stands already it is useful for assessing the needs of particular groups in the population; for instance, those migrating from inside and outside the EU"*. The information would provide councils with a more detailed understanding of the community that it serves, enabling them to plan and target services efficiently and effectively.

The Welsh Language Board stated that *"the information collected in 2001 concerning country of birth is essential information to understand the demographics relating to Welsh, which is the Welsh Language Board's main concern"*. Cambridgeshire County Council suggested that the information could also be used for *"providing a guide to resources required for teaching English as a foreign language"*.

The inclusion of a question on country of birth could also help to identify groups not identified by the ethnic group question. London Borough of Camden stated that *"a significant number of communities, for example Somalis, Philipinos, and Turks, use this information as a proxy for the number of people in their communities"*.

3.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=8

Information on country of birth would be required for small geographies so that local variations can be understood, enabling local population profiles to be produced. Users suggest that information would be required at Super Output Area level to achieve this.

A question on country of birth would need to identify small population groups to allow all of the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively.

3.4 Alternative Sources: Score=7

Information on country of birth is collected from sample surveys, such as the Labour Force Survey. However, these are not seen as suitable alternative sources to the Census by many users responding to the consultation exercise because of the small sample sizes used. The information collected in these surveys also

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needs to be benchmarked by the Census, due to the sampling and non-sampling errors that the surveys are subject to.

The majority of responses to the consultation conclude that there are no suitable alternative sources to the Census that meet all of their requirements.

3.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=7

Information on country of birth would be analysed with a range of other Census variables to achieve the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report.

Analyses with ethnicity and economic activity are suggested by various users.

3.6 UK Comparability: Score=10

All users who responded to the consultation exercise stated that this information is required for the whole of the UK. This is essential to provide a baseline for the UK, allowing consistent and comparable national analysis, and to inform resource allocation.

3.7 Continuity: Score=10

A question on country of birth has been asked in every Census since 1841.

3.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses for data on country of birth from a variety of respondents. Of these uses, resource allocation and policy development/monitoring are the most common reasons cited by respondents for requiring the information.

The majority of users requested that the data should be available at small levels of geography and this should be Super Output Area level if all users are to be satisfied. Alternative sources of the information do exist, however they do not fully satisfy user requirements. A good case was made for using country of birth information for multivariate analysis, and there is a very strong case for requiring the information for the whole of the UK. A question on country of birth has been included in the Census since 1841.

As there is a clear requirement for this information at detailed levels of geography, the topic of country of birth remains in category 1.

4. Citizenship and Nationality: Total Score=65

4.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topics of citizenship and nationality were placed in category 2, meaning that ONS believed further work was required before a decision could be made on whether to include these topics in the 2011 Census.

There were over 20 responses received commenting on the subjects of citizenship and nationality from central government, local authority and other data users.

These topics have been combined for this report due to the number of respondents who seemed to apply the same meaning to both concepts, making a similar case for both topics.

4.2 User Need: Score=7

A number of uses of information on citizenship and nationality have been identified from users within central and local government, and also from a number of other organisations and individuals.

Information on citizenship and nationality is required to monitor the diversity and movement of people within the European Community, and to monitor the social and economic position of different migrant groups. The Home Office stated that *"there is a need to monitor the local social and economic situation of these groups to ensure that communities are treated fairly"*.

Comparable UK data on citizenship would provide the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with a benchmark against which targets can be set and monitored. A key performance measure for the MoD is that the ethnicity profile of the Armed Forces reflects the population from which it is drawn. The MoD stated that *"it is important that the ethnicity profile of the Armed Forces reflects the population from which it is drawn. Only UK and Commonwealth citizens are eligible to join the UK Armed Forces"*.

Nationality and citizenship information could also be used to provide a clearer picture of population movement and international migration in the UK population, so that resources could be effectively targeted across a range of issues, such as housing.

London Borough of Camden suggested that nationality data could be used *"to assess whether local authorities are fulfilling their statutory duties under the Race Relations Act 2000 and meet statutory requirements for Audit Commission Best Value performance indicators"*.

4.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=6

Information on citizenship and nationality would be required for small geographies because population movement often results in settlement in small geographical areas. This would provide councils with a detailed knowledge and understanding of the communities they serve, so that they could plan and target services efficiently and effectively. Small area data would also allow integration and social cohesion strategies to be implemented and monitored at a local community level. Users suggest that information would be required below ward level to achieve this.

Questions on citizenship and nationality would need to identify small population groups to allow all of the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively. Although all foreign nationals together are quite a large

group, individual nationalities are likely to be small groups, often concentrated in particular localities.

4.4 Alternative Sources: Score=7

There are some alternative sources for nationality data such as the International Passenger Survey and the Labour Force Survey. However, these sources do not provide information at a small enough level of geography and the small sample sizes are inadequate for the reliable estimation of small populations.

The majority of responses to the consultation conclude that there are no suitable alternatives to the Census for the collection of national information on citizenship. Country of birth is sometimes used as a proxy, but is a very rough proxy.

4.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=6

Information on citizenship and nationality would be analysed with a range of other Census variables to achieve the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report.

Various users suggest analysis with ethnicity/identity to give a fuller picture of ethnic communities, and to find out which ethnicities are applying for and being granted citizenship.

4.6 UK Comparability: Score=7

Almost all users who responded to the consultation state that citizenship and nationality information is required for the whole of the UK. This would allow comparisons to be made between the local situation and the equivalent data for the UK as a whole, or other comparable local areas. UK-wide data would also enable international comparisons to be made, as most other OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries collect information on citizenship and/or nationality in their Censuses.

If the information was used in migration data, then it would need to be available for national population projections and estimates. National data would also provide a benchmark against which Armed Forces ethnic minority recruitment and representation could be measured.

4.7 Continuity: Score=0

A question on nationality was asked on the Census questionnaire between 1841 and 1961, however has not been asked on any Census since then. A question on citizenship has not been included in any previous Census.

4.8 Conclusion

The consultation has identified a number of uses for data on citizenship and/or nationality. Of these uses, policy development and monitoring appears to be the most common reason that respondents cited for requiring the information. The majority of users requested that the data should be available at small levels of geography and this should be lower than ward level if all users are to be satisfied. The data also needs to identify small groups of the population.

The alternative sources identified are not considered to fully satisfy user requirements, and there is a clear requirement for using citizenship/nationality data for multivariate analysis. It is clear this data is sought after across the UK for consistency and comparability reasons. No question about citizenship has been asked of individuals in previous censuses within England and Wales, however a question on nationality was asked between 1841 and 1961.

As a reasonably strong user requirement for this information at detailed levels of geography has been identified, work will begin in spring 2006 to establish

whether questions can be developed to accurately collect citizenship and/or nationality information in a manner that satisfies the user requirement. Therefore, the topics of citizenship and nationality remain in category 2.

5. Change of Country of Usual Residence: Total Score=57

5.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of change of country of usual residence was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify the inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census.

There were approximately 10 responses received commenting on the subject of change of country of usual residence from local government and other data users.

5.2 User Need: Score=5

The main use of information on country of previous usual residence would be to provide a better understanding of migration. London Borough of Tower Hamlets stated that the information would be *"useful in gauging what proportion of the borough are international migrants"*.

It has been put forward in the draft UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) recommendations for the 2010 round of Censuses that a question on change of country of usual residence should be included to identify all past international migrants, and therefore a fuller picture of migration patterns. The inclusion of a question on change of country of usual residence could put the UK Census in line with other UNECE countries who decide to include such a question in their Censuses, enabling a consistent picture of migration patterns to be established between as many countries as possible.

5.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=7

Information on change of country of usual residence would be required for small geographies so that local variations can be understood. Users suggest that information would be required at Super Output Area level to achieve this.

5.4 Alternative Sources: Score=9

All of the responses to the consultation concluded that there are no suitable alternative sources to the Census for the collection of national information on change of country of usual residence.

5.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=4

Information on change of country of usual residence could be analysed with a number of other Census variables. Analyses with economic activity and language (if available) are suggested by a number of users.

5.6 UK Comparability: Score=5

The consultation exercise identified some need for information on change of country of usual residence to be collected for the UK as a whole. This would enable comparisons between different areas of the UK to be made.

5.7 Continuity: Score=0

A question on change of country of usual residence has not been included in any previous Census in the UK.

5.8 Conclusion

Improving migration statistics was the most common reason cited by respondents for requiring information on change of country of usual residence. The majority of users requested that the data should be available at Super Output Area level if all users are to be satisfied. No alternative sources of information on change of country of usual residence are available. There is some interest in using the information for multivariate analysis, and some requirement for the information

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to be available for the whole of the UK. A question about change of country of usual residence has not been included in the Census before.

There is some user requirement for this information, and there is no suitable alternative source currently available, or likely to be available by 2011. A programme of question development and testing will begin in Spring 2006 to establish which suite of migration questions is most appropriate to meet the range of user needs. This will determine if a question on this topic could be asked alongside other migration questions to satisfy the user requirement. Therefore, the topic of change of country of usual residence has moved from category 3 to category 2.

6. Country of Previous Usual Residence: Total Score=61

6.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of country of previous usual residence was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify the inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census.

There were approximately 10 responses received commenting on the subject of country of previous usual residence from central government, local authority and other data users.

6.2 User Need: Score=7

The main use of information on country of previous usual residence would be to provide a more detailed picture of migration patterns, enabling moves from within the European Union and from other parts of the world to be distinguished. This information would then be used to ensure that services are adequately provided to meet the needs of the whole population.

6.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=4

Information on country of previous usual residence would be required for small geographies to determine the specific needs of international migrants, allowing services and policies to be targeted effectively. Users suggest that information would be required at Local Authority level to achieve this.

6.4 Alternative Sources: Score=8

The majority of responses to the consultation conclude that there are no suitable alternative sources to the Census for the collection of national information on country of previous usual residence.

Sample surveys such as the Labour Force Survey collect information on a number of migration variables, however country of previous usual residence is not included in any of them.

6.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=4

Information on country of previous usual residence could be analysed with a number of other Census variables. Analysis with country of birth is suggested by a number of users.

6.6 UK Comparability: Score=4

The consultation exercise identified some need for information on country of previous usual residence to be collected for the UK as a whole. This would help migration patterns across the whole of the UK to be identified, and comparisons to be made.

6.7 Continuity: Score=0

A question on country of previous usual residence has not been included in any previous Census in the UK.

6.8 Conclusion

Improving migration statistics was the most common reason cited by respondents for requiring information on country of previous usual residence. The majority of users requested that the data should be available at Local Authority level if all users are to be satisfied. No alternative sources of information on country of previous usual residence are available. There is some interest in using the information for multivariate analysis, and some requirement for the information to be available for the whole of the UK. A question about country of previous usual residence has not been included in the Census before.

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There is some user requirement for this information, and there is no suitable alternative source currently available, or likely to be available by 2011. A programme of question development and testing will begin in Spring 2006 to determine if a question on this topic could be asked alongside other migration questions to satisfy user requirements. Therefore, the topic of country of previous usual residence has moved from category 3 to category 2.

7. Place of Birth: Total Score=43

7.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of place of birth was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify the inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census. However, country of birth was considered separately and was placed in category 1.

There were approximately 15 responses received commenting on the subject of place of birth from local government and other data users.

7.2 User Need: Score=5

A number of potential uses of information on place of birth have been identified from Census users.

The main use of the information would be to improve migration data by helping to identify internal migrants. London Borough of Newham stated that *"this would be a useful adjunct to identifying migrants, and their differences to the indigenous population"*. Carmarthenshire County Council said that the information *"would be helpful as a monitoring tool for loss of population [from Wales] to other areas of the UK"*.

The information could also be used to monitor equality and inclusion, and to establish patterns of household movement and social mobility.

It was also suggested by a number of respondents that the information would be helpful for family history research. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council said that the information *"would be useful to genealogists in the future"*.

7.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=5

Information on place of birth would be needed for small geographies so that local variations can be understood. Users suggest that information would be required at ward level to achieve this.

A question on place of birth would need to identify small population groups to allow all of the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively.

7.4 Alternative Sources: Score=4

Information on place of birth is available for all people born within the UK from birth certificates. However, many respondents think that this source does not fully satisfy their requirements as the information is not available for statistical analysis, cannot be cross-classified with other Census variables, and would not identify migration as current place of residence would not be known.

7.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=2

Respondents suggested that information on place of birth could be analysed with other Census variables, such as economic activity.

7.6 UK Comparability: Score=5

Users who responded to the consultation stated that information on place of birth is required for the whole of the UK to allow consistent and comparable national analysis to be carried out.

7.7 Continuity: Score=1

A question on place of birth has been asked in previous Censuses, however, not in any recent Census.

7.8 Conclusion

Improving migration statistics, mainly for internal migrants, was the most common reason cited by respondents for requiring information on place of birth. The majority of users requested that the data should be available at ward level if all users are to be satisfied. Information on place of birth is available from birth certificates, however, this source does not fully satisfy user requirements. There is some interest in using the information for multivariate analysis, and a requirement for the information to be available for the whole of the UK.

Although the user requirement for this information is limited, a programme of question development and testing will begin in Spring 2006 to determine which suite of migration questions is most appropriate to meet the range of user needs. This will determine if a question on this topic could be asked alongside other migration questions to satisfy the user requirement. Therefore, the topic of place of birth has moved from category 3 to category 2.

8. Country(ies) of Parents' Birth: Total Score=57

8.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of country of parents' birth was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify the inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census.

There were over 20 responses received commenting on the subject of country of parents' birth from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

8.2 User Need: Score=6

A number of potential uses of information on country of parents' birth have been identified from Census users.

The main use of the information would be to inform policy development and monitoring in relation to migrants. London Borough of Camden suggested that the information could be used to *"help to monitor the impact of policies designed to help disadvantaged groups"*. The Home Office stated that the information is *"crucial to understanding how well they [migrants] have integrated"*.

The information could also be used to inform the targeting of services. The Local Area Data Network stated that the information *"may give some insight into family background and hence help to target people from minority groups"*.

The inclusion of a question on country of parents' birth in the Census could also be used to provide additional information on the different cultures within communities. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said that *"this additional data would be used in conjunction with country of birth, ethnicity and religion to give us better detail on some groups such as the Irish"*.

It was also suggested that the information would help local authorities to meet their duties under the Race Relations Act and Equal Opportunities legislation. These impose duties on public bodies to monitor employment and to address the effects of discrimination and social exclusion.

8.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=4

Information on country of parents' birth would be required for small geographies to allow services and policies to be targeted effectively. Users suggest that information would be required at Local Authority level to achieve this.

A question on country of parents' birth would need to identify small population groups to allow all of the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively.

8.4 Alternative Sources: Score=8

A question on country of parents' birth is included in the General Household Survey (GHS). However, the sample size used is too small to allow analysis at the level that is required. The majority of responses to the consultation concluded that there are no suitable alternative sources to the Census for the collection of national information on country of parents' birth.

8.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=4

Users suggested that information on country of parents' birth could be analysed with a number of other Census variables, such as labour market variables.

8.6 UK Comparability: Score=4

The consultation exercise identified some need for information on country of parents' birth to be collected for the UK as a whole. This would enable comparisons to be made between the local situation and the equivalent data for the UK as a whole, or other comparable local areas.

8.7 Continuity: Score=1

A question on country of parents' birth was asked in the Census in 1971 and was used as a proxy for ethnic group.

8.8 Conclusion

Informing policy development and monitoring was the most common reason cited by respondents for requiring information on country of parents' birth. The majority of users requested that the data should be available at Local Authority level if all users are to be satisfied. Information on country of parents' birth is available from the GHS, however, this is not a suitable alternative to the Census. There is some interest in using the information for multivariate analysis, and some requirement for the information to be available for the whole of the UK. A question about country of parents' birth was included in the Census in 1971.

Some user requirement for this information has been identified, and there is no suitable alternative source currently available, or likely to be available by 2011. A programme of question development and testing will begin in Spring 2006 to establish which suite of migration questions is most appropriate to meet the range of user needs. This will determine if a question on this topic could be asked alongside other migration questions to satisfy the user requirement. Therefore, the topic of country of parents' birth has moved from category 3 to category 2.

9. Year of Entry into the UK: Total Score=52

9.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of year of respondents' entry into the UK was placed in category 2, meaning that ONS believed that further work was required before a decision could be made on whether to include this topic in the 2011 Census.

There were over 30 responses received commenting on the subject of year of respondents' entry into the UK from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

9.2 User Need: Score=5

The main use of information on year of respondents' entry into the UK would be to provide a more informed picture of migration trends at a local and national level. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said that *"it will show peaks and troughs of arrivals of certain countries and show up trends right back from the 1940's to 2011. It would give demographers and planners an idea of what migration to expect in the years immediately following the 2011 Census"*. This information would then be used to ensure that services are adequately supplied to meet the needs of the whole population. This use was identified by a number of central and local government authorities.

The inclusion of a question on year of respondents' entry into the UK could be used to identify new and established migrant groups within communities. Services and initiatives could then be targeted at the new groups to ensure that they are aware of the services and entitlements available to them. Information on established migrant groups could be used to determine how well migrants integrate into society.

Information on the time the respondent has been in the country also has implications for language policy initiatives. The language characteristics of those who, although born outside of the UK, came here while children and thus had their primary education here, are likely to be very different from more recent migrants. The information could help to identify areas where translation services may be needed.

9.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score=7

Information on year of respondents' entry into the UK would be required for small geographies to allow effective targeting of local policy initiatives and service provision. Users suggest that information would be required at Super Output Area to achieve this.

A question on year of respondents' entry into the UK would need to identify small population groups to allow the uses outlined in the User Need section of this report to be completed effectively.

9.4 Alternative Sources: Score=6

The next best alternative to Census data on year of respondents' entry into the UK would be the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, this source does not provide the information in a sufficient level of detail to fully satisfy user requirements. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stated that *"there are gaps in the data and flows for different groups are not identifiable. The LFS cannot isolate the circumstances of migrants and does not provide it at a low enough geography to show local clusters"*.

Many users conclude that there are no suitable alternative sources to Census data that meet all of their requirements. London Borough of Newham stated that

"there is no alternative source of this data in conjunction with other cross-tabulation variables".

9.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score=4

Information on year of respondents' entry into the UK could be analysed with a number of other Census variables.

It was suggested by various users that it would be useful to compare the labour market outcomes and housing types of new migrants with those of more established migrants.

9.6 UK Comparability: Score=6

Most users who responded to the consultation stated that information on year of respondents' entry into the UK is required for the UK as a whole. This would allow consistent and comparable national analysis, and would make international migration statistics more robust.

9.7 Continuity: Score=1

A question on year of respondents' entry into the UK was asked on the Census questionnaire in 1971, however has not been asked on any Census since then.

9.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified several uses of information on year of respondents' entry into the UK. Of these uses, improving migration statistics was the most common reason cited by respondents for requiring the information.

The majority of users requested that the data should be available at small area levels of geography and this should be Super Output Area if all users are to be satisfied. Some alternative sources of information on year of respondents' entry into the UK are available, however they do not fully satisfy user requirements. There is some interest in using the information for multivariate analysis, and the information is required across the whole of the UK. A question about year of respondents' entry into the UK has only been included in the Census in 1971.

There is a user requirement for this information at detailed levels of geography. A programme of question development and testing will begin in Spring 2006 to determine if a question on this topic could be asked alongside other migration questions to satisfy user requirements. Therefore, the topic of year of respondents' entry into the UK remains in category 2.

10. Asylum or Immigration Status: Total Score=59

10.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of asylum or immigration status was not mentioned. Nine responses were received on this topic from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

10.2 User Need: Score = 6

At a local government level, the main user need for data on asylum or immigration status is for the purposes of resource allocation to vulnerable communities. Local government users and the Home Office are interested in basic information on people who have sought asylum at some point. The Home Office are also interested in their reason for entering the UK. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea states that the information is required *"for policy planning and resource allocation directed towards the particular needs of all sections of minority communities, and monitoring the effectiveness of such allocations, especially in education, housing and social services"*. Other data users are also interested in the data for resource allocation purposes. The Employability Forum states, *"Following the dispersal of asylum seekers, accurate information about the size and distribution of the refugee population would ensure that resources were targeted more effectively"*.

The Department for Work and Pensions are interested in finding out information on refugee status (and employment) and whether respondents are going through the asylum seeking process. This will inform strategies that help integrate refugees into positive experiences. Other data users share this view. The British Medical Association state that, *"information as to the location of refugees would ensure that their needs are accurately targeted and resources appropriately allocated to assist their integration into UK society"*. One local government user also addresses the use of the information in tackling the effects of discrimination and social exclusion. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea states, *"there is considerable evidence of social exclusion affecting people who have come to this country via the asylum route"*.

10.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 10

Data on asylum or immigration status would be required at very small levels of geography in order to allow targeted resource allocation. The London Borough of Waltham Forest comments that it is, *"essential to have small area data for allocation of resources to specific groups within the community"*. They suggest that data to Output Area or lower Super Output Area would be appropriate.

10.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

Users have proposed a number of alternative sources for information on asylum or immigration status.

Jobcentre plus has a marker on its database that can identify refugee claimants. However, this marker is voluntary. Also, the data only covers the refugees that seek help through job centre plus and is only applicable for those claiming post April 2004.

The Home Office records where asylum seekers are resident during their application. However, they do not hold information on where people move to after that.

Some local authorities also hold information, but often they do not provide any demographic information.

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The Employability Forum states that, *"using the available resources means that planning for integration initiatives and the distribution of resources to meet perceived need is reliant on incomplete and imperfect datasets"*.

The alternative sources available are not able to fully meet the user needs.

10.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 7

There is a clear requirement for multivariate analysis with this topic. There is most interest in qualifications, country of birth and other migration topics age, household composition, labour market variables, English language proficiency, travel to work and ethnicity.

10.6 UK Comparability: Score = 4

The majority of users require this data at a local level, although there is some interest in data at a UK level. The Employability Forum states, *"The Government's integration strategy has a national focus. The National Refugee Integration Forum and the Advisory Board for Naturalisation and Integration both advise on the development of this strategy, which requires a secure evidence base"*. The London Borough of Waltham Forest states that, *"Comparable data is needed for competitive bidding for funds"*.

10.7 Continuity: Score = 0

A question on asylum or immigration status has not appeared on any previous UK Census.

10.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of data on asylum or immigration status from a variety of respondents. The strongest of these needs is for local government resource allocation and data would be required to at least Super Output Area to achieve this. Alternative sources of data are available, although these sources are unlikely to be able to fully meet the user needs. There is a clear interest in multivariate analysis and some interest in collecting UK wide data. A question on asylum or immigration status has never appeared on a previous UK Census.

Although there is a user requirement for this information to be collected, this requirement is limited. There is also a potential issue of sensitivity with this topic, and the time between the collection and publication of Census results would greatly lessen the utility of any outputs. Therefore, the topic of asylum or immigration status has been allocated to category 3. This means that no question testing is being carried out for this topic and at this point in time, it is not being considered for inclusion in the 2011 Census.