

CENSUS ADVISORY GROUP

2011 CENSUS HIGHLIGHT REPORT: OCTOBER 2008 AG (08)11

Summary

- 1 For the Autumn 2008 Census Advisory Group meetings ONS has prepared a Highlight Report on progress on a number of 2011 Census and other census-related issues not covered by agenda items. The paper covers:

- **New Ministers for the Census**
- **Census Roadshow**
- **White Paper**
- **Main Data Processing Contract Awarded**
- **Census Confidentiality and Security**
- **2009 Rehearsal**
- **EU Census Regulations**
- **International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008**

New Ministers for the Census

- 2 As a result of the recent re-shuffle of Government Ministers, Liam Byrne MP has been appointed as the new Minister for the Cabinet Office. He succeeds Ed Miliband. Kevin Brennan MP has been appointed as Parliamentary Secretary and holds responsibility for Census matters.

Census Roadshow

- 3 ONS continues its programme of consultation with local authority and other users this autumn with a series of national roadshow meetings. ONS will use this opportunity to update audiences about the progress of plans for the Census and to further consult with users on their requirements for outputs. Progress and next steps in the development of the strategy for outputs will be presented. The results of an initial online consultation on high level output requirements will be reported and an outline will be given of the approach to be taken to the development of, and consultation on, output content. Other issues relating to census outputs will be covered – including disclosure control, coverage assessment and quality assurance
- 4 The roadshow will also provide an opportunity for ONS to present the field procedures that are being developed for questionnaire delivery, collection and follow up. ONS will report on the final selection of questions to be included in

the pre-Census Rehearsal, which is scheduled to take place in October 2009. Differences between the proposed census questions in Scotland and Northern Ireland will be described. In addition, ONS will report on recent developments on establishing an address register for the 2011 Census in cooperation with local authorities.

5 Dates and venues are:

5 November: Memorial Stadium, Bristol
6 November: Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells
7 November: Royal Statistical Society, Errol Street, London
10 November: Marriott Hotel, Royal County, Durham
11 November: City of Manchester Stadium
12 November: National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
24 November: Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London

- 6 The agenda and registration forms and are available from the ONS website at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/roadshows/index.html> and have already been widely circulated through an ONS Census News alert to all CAG members. Attendance is free of charge (and there will also be a lunch provided) but spaces are limited. So register early please. For more information contact census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01329 444972.

2011 Census White Paper

- 7 The draft 2011 Census White Paper went to Ministers on the Domestic Affairs Committee and Welsh Ministers on 19 September for comments by 3 October. The target is now to publish this before the end of November. The publication will provide an early opportunity to promote the new 2011 Census brand.

Main data processing contract awarded

- 8 ONS announced on 28 August the decision on the choice of the successful contractor for supplying the main processing and other related services for the 2011 Census in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The contract has been awarded to Lockheed Martin UK.
- 9 The main contract covers:
- printing of questionnaires, information leaflets and envelopes;
 - data capture;
 - questionnaire tracking;
 - public interface/contact centre; and
 - on-line collection.

- 10 In Scotland, following a separate procurement process, GROS has awarded a contract to CACI (UK) Ltd to develop the 2011 census website, print paper questionnaires and scan and process responses.
- 11 Further contracts with other suppliers to support the field operation will cover:
 - field staff recruitment, training and pay;
 - postal services;
 - translation and printing of non-questionnaire material; and
 - the publicity and advertising campaign.

Census data security and confidentiality

- 12 Data security and confidentiality of personal information is a top priority for the Census. It is central to the design of robust systems, processes and legal arrangements with contractors.
- 13 All employees of both ONS and any appointed contractors working with Census data are bound by Regulations made under the 1920 Census Act and the confidentiality provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (SRSA). Any breach of the SRSA confidentiality provisions is a criminal offence, subject to possible imprisonment and fines. All staff working with personal Census data sign a confidentiality declaration to confirm their understanding and commitment to the legal confidentiality undertakings.
- 14 The UK Statistics Authority has reported to Parliament that it is satisfied that ONS has fully addressed the concerns that have been raised about the security and confidentiality of Census data arising from the involvement of Lockheed Martin UK. ONS has set out a position statement on its website in order to assure Parliament and the public about any such concerns arising from the provisions of the US Patriot Act (see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/census-data-security%20measures/index.html>)
- 15 In essence this confirms that neither Lockheed Martin UK Ltd nor any Lockheed Martin employee will have access to personal Census data. All Census data is owned by ONS and will be processed in the UK. Lockheed Martin UK will be acting as the prime contractor and will develop the systems to be used to handle and process the Census data, but access to the data itself will be restricted only to a consortium of subcontractors who are based in the UK and either UK or EU owned. These arrangements have been put in place to ensure that US authorities are unable to access census data.
- 16 Underlying security requirements for Census data are based upon UK Government Security Guidelines issued by the Cabinet Office and by Communications – Electronic Security Group. Census data is classified as RESTRICTED under the scheme of classification of government information. This classification brings a whole set of standards and safeguards which have been put in place to ensure that the data remains secure. This includes

control of physical access to any site or room where the data is kept, secure control of access to IT hardware and of course IT systems. In addition,

- All staff processing any personal Census data will be security cleared to the UK Baseline Standard. This requirement has also been extended to all employees of the supplier and their sub-contractors handling any personal Census data.
- Staff with access to the full Census data set or substantial parts of it will have security clearance to handle material classified as 'SECRET'.

17 The Census security programme is being managed to the framework of ISO27001 - the internationally recognised Information Security Management Standard. All security measures cover the completed questionnaires, the electronic data set, the website, the archive image system and the communications links relating to any of these items. All of the electronic communications links over which personal Census information will be routed, will be encrypted (scrambled) to the levels recommended by the Government Security Services.

18 ONS will commission an independent review of systems and procedures covering both its own systems and those of all contractors. These reviews will include systematic checks during the operations. The independent security auditors will be accredited by the government security services to carry out these reviews.

2009 Rehearsal

19 A Rehearsal for the Census in England and Wales will take place on 11 October 2009, with the aim of ensuring that all the procedures for delivery, collection and initial processing of the census forms will be effective. The Rehearsal will cover around 135 thousand households in areas chosen to simulate actual census-type conditions. They will include a cross-section of the population and types of housing, for example, areas with high levels of multi-occupancy, particular rapid growth and population movement, student accommodation, hotels and holiday accommodation, hospitals and other large communal establishments, and various ethnic minority communities. The Rehearsal areas will include:

- the whole of Lancaster (61 thousand households) providing a large area to rehearse fully the field operation and publicity;
- 40 thousand households in Newham (approximately 40 per cent of the borough) focusing on a diverse area undergoing considerable development; and
- the Isle of Anglesey (Ynys Môn) (34 thousand), enabling those elements of the field operation particular to Wales to be fully rehearsed.

20 The aim will be to minimise the risk of failure in 2011 of the Census field operations and supporting systems, particularly of new and innovative procedures and systems, by proving:

- online response to the questionnaire;
- an address register for use in form delivery and form tracking;
- the key field support systems;
- data capture and coding;
- the communication of key messages to the public and stakeholders; and
- those elements of the Census design that are specific to Wales.

21 There will also be complementary rehearsals of the Census operation in Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2009.

EU Census Regulation

22 The EU Parliament and Council Regulation covering the framework for the provision by Member States of harmonised statistics from the 2011 round of European censuses came into force on 9 July. The implementing measures will be prescribed in a number of Commission Regulations, the proposals for which were considered at a meeting of the EU Census Working Group on 9-10 September. The content of the proposed statistical programme of outputs was also agreed at this meeting. These were put to the European Directors of Social Statistics for information when they met on 22-23 September.

23 Subsequent implementing regulations will cover the scope of the metadata and quality measures to accompany the census data, and the means of supply of these data through the proposed European Census Hub.

24 A special EU Task Force has been appointed to agree common measures of statistical disclosure control that can be applied across all Member States. Such measures that are agreed will not, however, be subject to any regulation. The UK is represented on the Task Force.

International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008

25 The latest edition (2008) of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) has now been published, and is the result of years of work in which ONS has played an important role.

26 ISCO is the prime tool for organising jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job. It is intended both for statistical users and for client-oriented users. The classification is used, in particular, in the analysis of occupation data in the Census, and the new classification framework will be used in disseminating statistics from the 2011 Census.

ONS

October 2008