



# Newsletter

December 2011

## Keeping our partners informed

### Contents

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Introduction .....	2
Reaching the right audiences .....	2
Providing council tax data for the quality assurance (QA) process .....	2
Promoting the benefits of using census data...your contribution matters .....	2
Census outputs communications toolkit.....	3
Census outputs – consultation and road shows.....	3
Census staff to present at the LARIA conference .....	3
Web Data Access project.....	4
Future newsletters .....	4

## Introduction

Following our recent regional road shows, we are continuing with the Census Newsletter to ensure that our partners are kept up to date with developments and progress to deliver the outputs.

The seven events in September provided delegates with a comprehensive summary of the 2011 Census engagement, communications and field operation activities, a reminder of the methods we will be using for coverage estimation, quality assurance and dissemination of the census data, and an update on performance against census objectives.

If you were unable to attend the road shows, a copy of the presentation slides is available via the following links:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/census-consultations/planned-events/index.html>

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/1265149/doclib/index.do>

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/937328/doclib/index.do>

A summary of the questions and answers from the road shows will be posted on the ONS and 2011 Census community of practice websites very shortly.

## Reaching the right audiences

With the census focus now on the publication of high quality outputs, we are aware of the need to communicate with those people in your organisation responsible for research and analysis. Please let us know of any census users in your organisation that you believe should receive copies of this newsletter. Please forward names and contact details to [2011.Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk](mailto:2011.Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk)

## Providing council tax data for the quality assurance (QA) process

Thank you to all those local authorities that have submitted the requested council tax data. We urge all local authorities that have yet to provide this data to do so as soon as possible. This data has been recognised as one of the key pieces of administrative data that will assist the QA process in ensuring that the census outputs are of the highest quality. If you have any questions relating to the provision of this, please email [censusquality@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:censusquality@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## Promoting the benefits of using census data...your contribution matters

To realise the benefit of the data derived from the 2011 Census, ONS will develop a booklet of census data user case studies. These will demonstrate the role census data plays in making evidence based decisions for improvements to service delivery and performance. Your contributions will be welcomed and we shall shortly send a pro forma for your submission.

## Census outputs communications toolkit

ONS will develop a toolkit to assist partners with the promotion of the release of the 2011 census outputs. The toolkit planned for spring 2012 will include draft news releases and editorial for newsletters and websites.

## Census outputs – consultation and road shows

The final phase of user consultation on the 2011 Census outputs is close to completion. During October and November 2011, workshops were held in London to explore proposals for outputs specific to small populations and origin-destination data, as well as micro data products. Attendees provided valuable feedback on baseline specifications which will be used to inform the outputs design.

The materials from the workshops are available online at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/producing-and-delivering-data/2011-census-outputs/index.html>

Comments on these materials are welcome by email to [censusoutputconsultation@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:censusoutputconsultation@ons.gsi.gov.uk) before 17 December 2011.

Following the release of the outputs running order on 27 July this year, a prospectus for the 2011 Census outputs will be released in March 2012. This will provide the timetable for each release of data. A programme of regional road shows will be arranged to support the prospectus and provide further details. These events will also set out detail about the improvements to web data access being introduced to help users exploit and re-use the data.

The first outputs in July 2012, will be accompanied by online information packs on quality assurance and coverage adjustment for each district and unitary council. These will promote greater transparency and help local authorities to understand how the final population estimate for their area was reached.

## Census staff to present at the LARIA conference

Members of the 2011 Census outputs and web data access teams will be presenting at the 2012 Local Authority Research & Intelligence Association (LARIA) conference next March in Aston, Birmingham. ONS will also have a stand at the exhibition, so come along and get your questions answered.

## Web Data Access project

Giving users improved access to census outputs, along with a modern suite of tools to customise their data requirements, is important to ONS

The vision of this project is to:

- enable the 2011 Census results to be disseminated in a way that maximises use, is in line with government policy on transparency and meets the requirements of EU legislation
- provide an enhanced website capability for organisations and individuals to use and explore ONS statistics more effectively
- provide better access to ONS outputs for third parties to power their own websites and applications via the ONS website data explorer and an application programming interface (API)
- build the capability to disseminate the full range of ONS data in a way that is consistent with open data standards and the transparency policy

The project will also facilitate dissemination of the data produced from the later releases of the 2011 Census programme via the API and enhanced data explorer. The project will support the 'Web Dissemination Strategy for Official Statistics' published by the National Statistician to "achieve the widest possible dissemination and use of official statistics and data by better utilising the web and associated technologies and by adopting consistent data and metadata formats and standards". We will be keeping you informed of developments over the coming months and demonstrating the enhancements it will deliver.

## Future newsletters

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see included in future newsletters, please let us know. We plan to produce these every two to three months. In the meantime, we will continue to upload relevant information onto the ONS and community of practice websites. Please send your suggestions to [SMC.team@ons.gov.uk](mailto:SMC.team@ons.gov.uk)

## Contact us

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