

# Census 2001 – What's New?

## Society changes and so must the Census



### **A modern Census**

Both society and methods for running a census have changed a good deal since the first censuses of the early 1800s. Changes have also occurred since the last Census just 10 years ago – the effect of new technology and the way people now live and work. The 2001 Census will reflect these changes in the questions it asks, in its organisation and the way in which the census information is processed and stored.



### **New questions**

To better inform social policy new questions have been introduced:

- Relationships within households – assists in planning housing needs for multiple families within households.
- General health – as an aid to predicting future health needs.
- Unpaid personal carers – enabling an assessment of demand on social services.
- Lowest floor level – providing a measure of potentially unsuitable accommodation. A further question is asked in Northern Ireland on whether or not the accommodation is located on more than one floor.
- Religion brought up in (for those who indicate they have no religion) – to assist in the monitoring of policies on equality issues.
- Ethnic group – to help take account of the special needs of ethnic minority groups.
- Employment – the additional questions provide information to assist in the development of training and employment policies.



### **Changes in organising the Census**

#### **Post-back of census forms**

The public will be issued with reply-paid envelopes in which to post back census forms to save second visits by enumerators. This frees up the field force to concentrate on areas where response is low.



## **Other factsheets:**

1. *The Census*
2. *Why We Need a Census*
3. *The Census and the Community*
4. *Counting Everyone in  
– the Big Challenge*
5. *The Census Organisation*
6. *Census Jobs*
7. *The Census and the Law*
8. *Census Taking Through the Ages*
9. *The Census Questions*

### **New technology**

- Processing the census forms – the tick-box and hand-written information which the public provide on some 700,000 Census forms will be scanned in and processed using optical recognition technology. This is part of a total data processing contract with information systems experts, Lockheed Martin.
- Mapping out workloads – Geographic Information System technology has been specially developed to draw up enumeration districts saving time and money in planning workloads. This system will also enable data outputs according to post-codes and not just administrative boundaries.



### **Working with community organisations**

Contact is being made with representatives of the voluntary sector. The aim is to establish a working partnership to promote the Census, and ensure all groups within society are counted and to provide practical help with filling in the form.



### **New methodology**

Where you live not where you are – the public are now required to fill in the form according to where they are usually resident rather than where they are on Census night. This reduces double-counting. Students will be counted as resident at their term-time address.



### **Contact for further information:**

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