

2011 Northern Ireland Census - Outputs Information Events

31 January, 1 and 2 February 2012

Report from NISRA

As part of its ongoing user consultation strategy, NISRA Census Office organised three Census Outputs user information events recently. The events were held in Belfast on 31 January 2012, in Londonderry on 1 Feb 2012 and in Enniskillen on 2 February 2012.

The purpose of the events was to:-

- provide an update on the 2011 Census operation;
- discuss the proposed outputs and release timetable; and
- overview the proposals for the dissemination of the outputs

As with previous events of this nature, DFP Minister, MLAs and leaders of the Northern Ireland political parties will be notified about the events, in accordance with Government guidelines.

NISRA would like to thank all those who attended the three Outputs information events. There were 74 attendees in Belfast, 22 attendees in Londonderry and 10 attendees in Enniskillen.

All of the slides for the event are available on the 2011 Census website [here](#).

This document summarises the events and the main points raised by users at the meetings.

Session 1 –2011 Census and Output Geography Update

The first session centred on Census Office providing an update on progress to attendees on the Census processes to date. This primarily included an overview of the 2011 Field Operations project (planning, enumeration methodology, operations support and publicity); and the 2011 Questionnaire Processing (questionnaire receipting, scanning and data capture). Users were informed that NISRA were confident that the 2011 Census final response rate will be broadly in line with that achieved in 2001 and given that, this was a great platform for the next phase of processing where census ‘counts ‘ will be adjusted for non-response prior to the production of output which would be reflective of the whole population.

With regard to Output Geography, Census Office confirmed that, in line with user requirements, the 2001 Census Output Areas would be retained for the 2011 output. However, some change would be required to the output area dataset to account for population decline and increase which would result in Output Area thresholds being breached. Users were informed that any changes would be minimal and that the modification process would allow backwards and forwards comparability.

This session was well received and the decision to use the 2001 Outputs areas for 2011 was welcomed. NISRA was asked if it would be providing information on new addresses gleaned during census operations to the Land and Property Services (LPS) for Pointer address database enhancement. Robert Beatty noted that Census Office had worked closely with LPS and Pointer throughout preparations for the Census and that a wealth of information had been fed back into Pointer. However, he indicated that, because of Census legislation constraints, NISRA were

unable to provide address information obtained by Census field staff as part of the actual Census to LPS. He did add that NISRA were committed to ongoing work on Pointer with LPS.

Session 2 – Census Quality Assurance

This session was mainly for information. Brian Green presented a detailed overview of the Quality Assurance and Coverage assessment strategy and approach adopted by the Census Office. He emphasised that the purpose of the strategy was to ensure that the data underpinning the 2011 Census outputs is of sufficient coverage and quality to meet the needs of users – i.e. ensuring that the counts and characteristics of the population are accurate across all geographical levels and preserve the confidentiality of the information provided by the general public. He provided detail on the data available to NISRA to support the Quality Assurance process, reviewed the 4 main phases of the project, summarised specific checks that will be undertaken and outlined the ‘sign-off’ process and who both internal to and external from NISRA would be contributing to that process. Mr Green confirmed that the NISRA 2011 Census Quality Assurance Strategy had been written and would be placed on the NISRA website shortly. (Note: the strategy is now available [here](#))

Session 3 – Outputs - Content

Helen Irwin presented this topic and overviewed in detail Census Office’s 2011 Outputs proposals. She reviewed the products and table types that will be produced highlighting, amongst other things, the new table naming convention, content similarities with 2001, content differences from 2001, new content and the approach to UK output harmonisation. Additionally, generic table designs were reviewed and users were informed that specific Table design proposals were uploaded to the NISRA website for user review. These were available in a spreadsheet called Table of Tables and delineated table numbering table naming and count and variable content. Users were asked to submit comment on these proposals to NISRA.

With regard to this topic a small number of discussion lines ensued. Users asked questions relating to harmonisation of output with the Republic of Ireland; publication of future Mid-Year Estimates and household projections and the availability of data in suitable formats for people with a disability.

Session 4 – Release Schedule

Robert Beatty advised users that the 2011 Outputs schedule was yet to be finalised. However he did indicate that the first release (Initial Population Report) was scheduled for the Summer 2012 with the Key Statistics planned for the Autumn 2012. He added that Census Office plan to inform users further later in the year on progress in this area. Additionally users were advised that the current charging policy is being reviewed but it was anticipated that any revision of the policy will be minor with minimum impact on users.

Session 5 – Dissemination/ NINIS Update

Users were informed that the main dissemination channels for 2011 Census Output will be electronically via the NISRA and NINIS websites with supplementary channels in the form of Printed reports; a Bulk Download service and an ad-hoc service.

Cathryn Blair provided users with a demonstration of the new NINIS website based on screen shots. She demonstrated a range of new features and additional upgrades to the functionality which will make it easier to find the relevant data and allowing greater interrogation of data. Additionally users were given an insight on how the 2011 Census Output will be delivered via NINIS and how the additional functionality will provide users with a modern user friendly utility. NISRA confirmed its intention to launch the new website in the spring of 2012 well in advance of the scheduled release of 2011 Census outputs so that users could be familiar with the new website.

This topic was well received with users indicating that the proposed use of NINIS as a dissemination medium will be well received.

Close

In closing the events Robert Beatty indicated to attendees that copies of materials and slides would be available on the NISRA website within a few days and he asked to submit comments is possible in writing to Census.Nisra@dfpni.gov.uk

Post meeting Notes

Census Office has received a number of submissions from users in response to the call for comments on the proposed set of Outputs Tables of Tables.

The Quality Assurance Strategy is available [here](#).

The 2011 Outputs Prospectus will be published in April 2012.

Census Office
NISRA