census 2021

2021 Census Outputs: Dissemination Approach, Release Phases, and Content Design

Executive Summary

CENSUS OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Consultation will close midnight on 26 November 2021

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann um Staitisticí agus Taighde

Introduction

Census Office within the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for conducting the census of population and housing. NISRA want to build on the success of the 2021 Census data collection phase to ensure that the statistical outputs reflect the needs of users.

This technical consultation outlines in detail, the proposed design of the 2021 Census statistical outputs. Specifically the order and the way census statistics will be made available. We would like to gather your views to ensure our proposals meet your needs. Your response to this consultation is important and feedback will help us finalise the development of 2021 Census outputs plan.

Consultation structure

The consultative sections are summarised below, with further detail in the consultation document. The online consultation questionnaire is where we will gather your views.

1. Methods of Dissemination

This section outlines the two proposed main methods of dissemination of the 2021 Census standard results. These are:

- **Pre-defined tables**, similar to the Key Statistics and Quick Statistics tables in the 2011 Census, will be freely available online in the PxStat system (a new data dissemination system developed by CSO, Ireland).This system will allow for an element of flexibility within each of the pre-defined tables; and
- A proposed **interactive flexible table builder** which allows users to define their own tables, with the flexibility to select the geography, population base, and variables required.

In the consultation questionnaire, respondents are asked whether these dissemination systems meet their needs.

2. Release Schedule

This section provides further detail on the proposed release schedule of the 2021 Census results.

Table 1: Proposed release schedule of the 2021 Census results

Release	Title	Planned Release Date	Geography
Release 1 Pre-defined tables	Headline statistics: population by age and sex; households with usual residents; communal establishment population.	July 2022 or earlier	NI & LGD
Release 2 Pre-defined tables	Univariate tables for the main equality characteristics: demography; religion; religion/religion brought up in; national identity; ethnicity; country of birth; passports held; language; sexual orientation; and health, disability and unpaid care.	Autumn 2022	NI & LGD
Release 3 Pre-defined tables	Univariate tables for remaining characteristics: highest level of qualifications; labour market data; communal establishment data; and household data.	Winter 2022/3	NI & LGD
Flexible table builder	All standard census topics should be available in the initial release.	Winter 2022/3	NI & LGD
Final staged releases	Pre-defined multivariate tables for all topics.	Spring 2023	TBD
	Smaller geographical areas for releases 2 and 3; commissioned table service; the grid square product; and settlements and postcode estimates.	Summer 2023	All available geographies

In the consultation questionnaire, we seek your views on these release proposals.

3.   Standard Variables

This section presents our plans for producing statistics using responses to the new questions asked in the 2021 Census, or using linkages to administrative data. The new standard variables are:

- Renewable energy systems;
- Sexual orientation;
- Frequency of speaking Irish and Ulster-Scots; and
- UK armed forces veterans.

In the consultation questionnaire, respondents are asked for their views on output categories and analysis plans.

4.   Proposals for new derived variables

This section presents proposed new derived variables. Some proposals are about understanding the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had. Other proposals relate to wider potential data needs. We have grouped these into three areas:

- Education and employment (seven new variables);
- Health and living arrangements (four new variables); and
- Accommodation type (one new variable).

In the consultation questionnaire, respondents have the opportunity to let us know their views on these proposals.

5.   Population Base Specifications

This section details the main and alternative population bases that will be used for the 2021 Census. This consultation's focus is on the alternative population bases:

- Workplace population;
- Daytime population; and
- Out-of-term population.

In addition to alternative populations, it may be possible to produce tables that provide information on small population groups based on key characteristics of people, for example an ethnic group or a main language.

In the consultation questionnaire, respondents are asked to provide their views on these issues.

6.   Taking a Census During a Period of Change

We are currently in a period of economic and societal change. As examples, there are significant societal impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK leaving the EU. In this section, we discuss the impacts of these matters on census statistics.

Through this consultation, we aim to understand how respondent user needs have changed since the 2018/19 consultation.

7.   Paradata

Paradata refer to information about how we collected the census data. This section outlines proposals to publish paradata.

In the consultation questionnaire, we ask about respondents views on the need for the publication of census paradata.

8.   Statistical Output Geography

This section outlines plans for the production of 2021 Census results consistent with the 2015 revision of local government boundaries.

Through the consultation, we aim to better understand which geographies users need, to aid construction of small area geographies.

How we would like you to respond

NISRA's preferred method for you to respond to this consultation is **online.** Responses to this consultation are invited until midnight on 26 November 2021.

The responses you provide to this consultation will be considered in the development of final plans for the delivery of 2021 Census Outputs.