

census
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Population Definitions for Northern Ireland Census 2021

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1. Introduction

This paper outlines the final recommended population definitions to be used in Census 2021 in Northern Ireland.

The paper contains definitions used in enumeration, additional definitions required by field staff and some of the definitions to be used in outputs.

Definitions are crucial for:

1. Ensuring the collection of accurate information (in support of questions being asked).
2. Clarity for field staff to enable implementation of the correct forms and processes.
3. The post-census estimation and imputation processes.

Definitions for enumeration:

- Householder
- Household
- Communal Establishment
- Population Base for enumeration
- Usual place of residence
- Visitor
- Hotels

Additional definitions of residences:

- Second Residence
- Holiday accommodation
- Household Space
- Vacant Household Space

Definitions for outputs:

- **Usual resident of the UK**

2. Definitions required for enumeration

The following definitions are required for collecting Census 2021 data.

2.1 Householder

The householder or joint householder is the person, resident or present at the address who:

- owns/rents (or jointly owns/rents) the accommodation; and/or
- is responsible (or jointly responsible) for paying the household bills and expenses

The definition of householder was new for the 2011 Census and has not changed for Census 2021. The purpose of defining a householder was to help respondents understand who is responsible for the completion of the questionnaire within a household. It is not defined with the intention of producing outputs based on the householder because there is nothing on the questionnaire to identify this person.

2.2 Household

A household is:

- One person living alone; or
- A group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room or dining area

Examples:

- Sheltered accommodation
- All people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence should be treated as households. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK.
- Serviced apartments (regardless of their registered use); Serviced apartments are a type of furnished apartment available for short-term or long-term stays, providing

amenities, housekeeping and services for guests where most taxes and utilities are included within the rental price.

For Census 2021, all sheltered housing/sheltered accommodation is to be defined as households; evidence suggests that the majority of sheltered housing is self-contained units, thus meeting the household definition, and residents should have the responsibility for completing their own census form.

This is a change from 2011 where sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50 per cent or more had their own kitchens were defined as households (irrespective of whether they had any other communal facilities). Where less than 50 per cent of all units in an establishment had their own kitchen facilities they were defined as Communal Establishments.

There has been an increase in the number of serviced apartments since 2011. “A Serviced Apartment is an “umbrella term” for a type of furnished apartment available for short-term or long-term stays, which provides amenities, housekeeping and a range of services for guests and where most taxes and utilities are included within the rental price.” (Association of Serviced Apartment Providers (ASAP)).

Absent household - An address which is unoccupied on the night of Census because the whole household is away, is an absent household.

2.3 Communal Establishments

A communal establishment is an establishment providing managed residential accommodation. ‘Managed’ in this context means full-time or part-time supervision of the accommodation.

Examples:

- Hotels, guest houses, B&Bs, inns, and pubs with residential accommodation with space for 7 or more guests, should be defined as communal establishments.

- All accommodation provided solely for students (during term-time) should be defined as communal. This should include university-owned cluster flats, houses and apartments located within student villages, and similar accommodation owned by a private company and provided solely for students.
- Note: accommodation available only to students may include a small number of caretaking/maintenance staff or academic staff.
 - A pragmatic approach will need to be taken with university-owned student houses that are difficult to identify and are not clearly located with other student residences. In this case, they should be enumerated as households.
- Nurses' or doctor's accommodation, including accommodation on a hospital site, cluster flats or similar accommodation, provided for nurses and or doctors should be treated as a separate communal establishment from the hospital (providing the accommodation does not also contain patients).
 - A small number of caretaking, maintenance or other medical staff may also reside in this type of accommodation.

Exclusions:

- Sheltered accommodation/housing units which should be enumerated as households.
- Serviced apartments which should be enumerated as households.
- Houses rented to students by private landlords should be enumerated as households.

Residents in communal establishments:

- Residents in self-contained flats within the communal establishment should be counted as communal residents.
- Residents of communal establishments that reside in a totally separate building (for example a caretaker living in a house in the grounds of the communal establishment) should be counted as residents of a private household not communal residents.

- Nurses or doctors residing in accommodation on a hospital site would be treated as 'residents' and not 'resident staff' or 'patients'. This ensures consistency with similar nurses' or doctor's accommodation off the hospital site.

2.4 Population Base for Enumeration

2.4.1 Population to be enumerated

A full census return should be collected from all usual residents of the UK (see section 4 for definition of usual residents).

Anyone who has stayed or intends to stay in the UK for three months or more should complete a full census return.

2.4.2 Usual place of residence in the UK

A person's place of usual residence is generally the address in the UK at which they spend most of their time. For most people, this will be their permanent or family home.

In addition to this, someone should be counted as usually resident at an address if, on 21 March 2021:

- They are temporarily away from home, for example on holiday, visiting friends or relatives or travelling (unless outside the UK for 12 months or more)
- They are currently living in a communal establishment such as a care home, hospital or similar establishment (Excluding prison), but are expected to stay there for less than six months
- They are currently serving a prison sentence of less than 12 months
- They are a baby born on or before 21 March 2021, even if still in hospital
- They have more than one UK address and are staying at the second address on census night
- They are present at the address, even if temporarily, and have no other usual address in the UK

Further detail on these sub-groups is provided in section 2.4.3 below.

Someone should **not** be counted as usually resident at an address on 21 March 2021 if:

- The address at which they are staying is not their usual address and they usually live elsewhere in the UK (these people would be counted as visitors, see section 2.4.4 - they should also be enumerated at their usual address).
- They are away from their home address and have been staying or are expecting to stay in a communal establishment such as a care home or hospital for six months or more (they will be enumerated as usually resident at the communal establishment)

2.4.3 Further clarification on place of usual residence

Students

- Students or schoolchildren who live away from home during term time must be included on the questionnaire at both their home and term-time addresses.

Children with parents who live apart

- Children who split their time between parents living apart should be counted as usually resident at the address at which the child spends most of their time
- If the child spends their time equally between parents then the child should be counted as usually resident at the address where they are staying overnight on 21 March 2021.

Armed forces

Armed forces personnel should be counted as usually resident at their permanent or family home even if most of their time is spent at their 'working' address.

Notes:

- If a member of the armed forces is permanently stationed abroad (e.g. Germany or Cyprus), then the armed forces member will not be included in the census
- If a member of the armed forces is stationed in the UK and does not have a permanent or family address at which they are usually resident, they should be recorded as usually resident at their base address

- If on deployment on operations, then the armed forces member should be included at their permanent or family address or base address regardless of length of deployment
- Personnel serving on a ship inside or outside UK waters on 21 March 2021 should be counted as usually resident at their family/permanent home or if they do not have a family/permanent home then their Home Port/Naval Base address if this address is in the UK
- Armed forces personnel from overseas forces, for example the USA, based in the UK for three months or longer, should be counted as usually resident in the UK at their UK permanent or family home/base address

In 2011 a distinction was made between army personnel on ships inside and outside UK waters. This was complex to implement and a simplified method for the counting of army personnel on a ship as of census night has been implemented which can be applied with ease in the field and is the same regardless of the location of the ship.

People who live at more than one address

People with more than one UK address, for example those who work away from home and other people who have two or more addresses, should be enumerated as usually resident at their permanent or family home even if most of their time is spent at another UK address.

Note:

- People who spend time at a second address outside the UK should also be counted as usually resident at their permanent/family address in the UK but only if they intend to remain outside the UK for less than 12 months in total (except armed forces deployed on operations)

People with no usual address

A resident of the UK with no usual address should be counted as a usual resident at the address at which they are staying on 21 March 2021, whether it is a household or communal establishment.

People living in communal establishments (excluding prison, student accommodation and armed forces bases)

- If a person has already spent or expects to spend six months or more in a communal establishment, for example, a care home, hospital or hostel, then their usual residence is that communal establishment. Otherwise usual residence would be at the UK home address and the person should be classified as a visitor at the communal establishment
- Any UK resident who is staying in a communal establishment on 21 March 2021 and has no usual address in the UK should be counted as usually resident at the communal establishment (regardless of how long they have stayed or intend to stay there)
- People from outside the UK who intend to stay in the UK for three months or more in total, and who do not have another address at which they usually live in the UK, should be included as a usual resident at that communal establishment. If they intend to stay in the UK for less than three months in total they should be counted as a visitor in the communal establishment

People in prison

- Prisoners convicted with a sentence of 12 months or more should be counted as usually resident in the prison
- If their sentence is less than 12 months then they should be counted as usually resident at their permanent or family home
- If they have been convicted and are in prison awaiting sentencing, then they should be counted as usually resident in the prison
- Prisoners on remand should be treated as visitors irrespective of how long they have been in prison on remand (see section 2.4.4 on visitors).
- Thus, their usual residence will normally be their permanent or family home
- If the person has no other usual UK address they should be counted as usually resident at the prison

For Census 2021, prisoners sentenced for less than 12 months should be counted as usually resident at their permanent or family home and prisoners sentenced to 12 months or more counted as a usual resident in prison. This is a change from the 2011 Census, where prisoners sentenced to less than 6 months in prison were counted at their permanent or family home and prisoners sentenced to 6 months or more were counted in prison. The reason for this change is that prisons are defined as communal establishments and the minimum threshold for a person to be classed as present in a communal establishment has been defined as 6 months. However, prisoners sentenced under 12 months are frequently released halfway through their sentence.

2.4.4 Visitors

A domestic visitor is a person staying overnight at an address on 21 March 2021 at which they are not usually resident.

An international visitor is a person who intends to stay in the UK for less than 3 months. They are usually resident outside the UK.

For Census 2021, visitors form part of the main enumeration base, as was the case for the 2011 Census.

3. Further definitions of residences

3.1 Second Residence

A second residence is a property which is used solely as a second address. It is not used for any other residential purpose, for example, a holiday home owned by an individual for private holiday use.

3.2 Holiday Accommodation

Holiday accommodation is a property that is let to different occupiers for holiday (e.g. a self-catering flat. It is not used for any other purpose and is not anybody's second residence).

3.3 Household space

A household space is the accommodation occupied by an individual household or, if unoccupied, available for an individual household.

3.4 Vacant household spaces

A vacant household space is an unoccupied space which is not a household's usual residence and is not a second residence or holiday accommodation.

Notes:

- All household spaces defined as vacant will be unoccupied on 21 March 2021, but not all unoccupied household spaces will be defined as vacant (they might be holiday accommodation or second residences)
- A household space where only visitors are staying on 21 March 2021 should not be regarded as vacant

3.5 Special population groups

Special population groups - SPGs are a collection of household types that require some form of special enumeration work because there are likely to be access restrictions (royal households, government houses, embassies & consulates, military bases) and/or engagement is needed with the site manager or community and/or unit level addresses are not available (caravans, gypsies and travellers, fairs & circuses and other itinerant groups). The engagement will be managed by NISRA headquarters.

4. Usual Resident of the UK

A usual resident of the UK (for census output purposes only) is anyone who, on 21 March 2021:

- Is in the UK and has stayed or intends to stay in the UK for a period of 3 months or more, or;
- Has a permanent UK address and is outside the UK and intends to be outside the UK for less than 12 months

This definition means that the national level estimates from the census will be directly comparable with the mid-year population estimates (MYEs) and allows for closer comparability with population estimates from other countries.