
2021 Census: Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland

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What is this consultation all about? Why is it important?

We are planning the next census for Northern Ireland in 2021. As part of this, we are now asking our users for their views on the topics to be included on the 2021 Census questionnaire. It is important that our users respond to this topic consultation – without it we will not know what type of information they need from the 2021 Census.

When is this consultation taking place?

Our public consultation about the topics for the next census in Northern Ireland will take place from 25 September to 17 December 2015.

Is this consultation about the questions on the questionnaire?

No, this consultation will focus on user's topic requirements and not specific questions to be included on the 2021 Census questionnaire. Following the topic consultation, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) will engage with users on the 2021 Census questions in due course to further develop the details.

Is this about the UK Census?

No, our 2021 Census topic consultation is for Northern Ireland only. NISRA is responsible for the census in Northern Ireland. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recently ran their review of census topic requirements for England and Wales and National Records of Scotland (NRS) will carry out their own topic consultation for Scotland shortly.

Who can take part in this consultation?

Everyone can take part. People can respond as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

How can I take part?

Taking part is easy. We have put our 2021 Census topic consultation on a website called Citizen Space. Simply log in to Citizen Space and get started

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/department-of-finance-and-personnel/2021-census-topic-consultation-ni>

What is Citizen Space?

Citizen Space is an established public consultation website used by many people to view and take part in consultations, including public sector consultations. We wanted to make our census topic consultation as accessible as possible. Citizen Space is easy-to-use and meets government accessibility standards.



How long does it take to respond to this consultation?

It really depends. Our topic consultation covers a wide range of topics but most people are only interested in a few – you only need to complete the topics you are interested in and we have included tick boxes and write-in options to make it easier for people.

Do I have to complete this consultation in one go?

No, you can fit it around when you are free. You can save your responses at any time and come back later.

Should organisations only send one response or are multiple responses possible?

Ideally, we would prefer one response per organisation but we appreciate that this is not always possible.

How can people submit only one response for their organisations?

More information on how to submit one response for an organisation can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2021/planning/topic-consultation/guidance-for-organisations-with-multiple-respondents.pdf>

What about people who do not use the internet?

We appreciate that not everyone is using the internet. People who prefer to or can only respond on paper can still complete and return a paper consultation questionnaire. Full details of where you can access a paper questionnaire are available at:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2021/planning/consultation.html>

Alternatively, people should contact our Census Customer Services on 028 9048 8160.

What happens after the consultation?

We plan to publish a report of the topic consultation and our recommendations in early 2016.