

Response ID ANON-9XT3-EA2V-6

Submitted to 2021 Census Outputs Consultation Questionnaire

Submitted on 2021-10-19 22:16:49

Section 1.1: About you

Please provide your contact details.

Your name: Roy Fisher

Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Individual

Consent

Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response

Section 1.2: Your usage of census data

Usage of Census data

1 Have you or your organisation used data or analysis produced by NISRA from previous censuses?

Yes

2 Which topic areas would you access 2021 Census data or analysis products on?

Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion

3 Are there any specific topics, areas or population groups you need data for?

Yes, population groups (e.g. a specific country of birth)

If you selected 'Yes', please list the topics, areas and/or population groups in priority order:

I've used the 'religion' output to try to promote better representation of 'current religion and non-religion' within society, as opposed to the dominant 'religion or religion brought up in' output.

Section 2.1: Methods of dissemination

Two main methods of dissemination

4 Do you plan to access 2021 Census results via the 'ready-made' tables system and/or the 'build-your-own' tables system?

Not Answered

5 Does the plan to release the 2021 Census results via "flat files" of information meet your requirements?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

6 Into which analysis software do you plan to import 2021 Census results?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Other', please tell us which analysis software you plan to use:

N/A

Section 2.2: Release schedule

Not Answered

Section 2.3: Standard Variables

New variables in 2021

26 Do you require any additional output categories in the renewable energy systems classification?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Analysis of renewable energy systems

27 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for renewable energy systems?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Sexual orientation

28 Do you require any additional output categories in the sexual orientation classification?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Collapsed output classification

29 Does the collapsed output classification for more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please tell us why the collapsed output classification does not meet your needs:

N/A

Analysis of Sexual Orientation

30 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for sexual orientation?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Frequency of speaking Irish and Ulster-Scots

31 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for Irish and Ulster-Scots?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

UK Armed Forces veteran

32 Does the proposed output classification for UK Armed Forces veteran meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please tell us why the output classification does not meet your needs:

N/A

Analysis of UK Armed Forces veterans

33 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for UK Armed Forces veterans?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Other standard variables in 2021

34 Aside from 'current religion' and 'religion/religion brought up in', do you have any additional needs for further religion outputs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Full-detail tables

35 Do the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

36 Do you have any data needs for a full-detail table on Sexual Orientation?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please describe the analysis you would undertake and why the analysis is needed:

N/A

Section 2.4: Proposals for new derived variables

Not Answered

Section 2.5: Population base specifications

Workplace population

41 Do the proposals for workplace population outputs meet your data user needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Daytime population

42 Do the proposals for daytime population outputs meet your data user needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Out-of-term population

43 Do the proposals for out-of-term population outputs meet your data user needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

Small populations

44 Do you have any requirement for census information for a small population group?

Yes

Specific requirements for census information for a small population group:

I think the 'religion' output should be given primacy over 'religion or religion brought up in' on the NINIS website and in any 'key statistics' documents or NISRA's 'detailed characteristics' analyse. Also NISRA should encourage users to report current religion, given it represents society on that census day. The media that reported religion data from Census 2011 largely used only 'religion or religion brought up in', and rarely labelled the categories fully.

Section 2.6: Taking a census during a period of change

Not Answered

Section 2.7: Paradata

Not Answered

Section 2.8: Statistical Output Geography

Not Answered

Section 3: Any other comments

58 Do you have any data or analysis needs related to any of the areas listed below that will not be met and you have not been able to note elsewhere in this consultation?

Not Answered

If you selected "Other", please provide more information about the topic area for which you have unmet data needs:

N/A

59 Describe your unmet data needs

Please provide your requirements and explain why you require this. For example, what policy or planning decisions would the results effect? Please make it clear what variables and geographies you would need in relation to each of your additional unmet needs:

None provided

60 If you have any further comments on the content of this consultation, please provide these below.

Further comments on the content of the consultation:

In the 2021 Census Outputs Consultation document you wrote,

"Equality legislation, in particular The Northern Ireland Act 1998, makes it an offence to discriminate on the grounds of religion, and leads to the requirement, for example, for employers to maintain monitoring information on the religion of their employees. In this respect, guidance documents from the Equality Commission refer to the 'community background' of employees. The Equality Commission document notes that (with regard to equality monitoring forms): "Regardless of whether we practice religion, most of us in Northern Ireland are seen as either Catholic or Protestant. We are therefore asking you to indicate your community background by ticking the appropriate box below".

The NI Act 1998 says it's an offence to discriminate on the grounds of "religious belief", not religion, and while it doesn't specify that not having religious beliefs should be treated in the same way as having religious beliefs, other legislation has made this explicit e.g. the Equality Act 2010. Also employers are not asked to monitor "religion", they are asked to monitor 'community background'.

The logic of the Equality Commission quotation is that atheists in NI are non-practicing Christians, who for equality can be seen as, and treated as, Protestant or Catholic.

If someone sees me as belonging to a religion when I say I'm of no religion they are displaying prejudice. This legislation impinges on the right to free self-identification by imputing answers, and then the media under-represent non-religious people in its reporting.