



Information paper

The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales

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1. Summary

This paper provides:

- Details of the response to the consultation document published in May 2005;
- An updated ONS view on the likely content of the 2011 Census questionnaire for England and Wales after consideration of the responses received; and
- Details of the work underway to determine the content of the 2007 Census Test questionnaire.

1.1 Response to the consultation

The final decisions about the information collected in a Census will ultimately be for Parliament to make. The ONS recommendations for the content of the 2011 census will be based on a number of factors, and the user requirements are a key consideration. These requirements are considered alongside issues of data quality, respondent burden and public acceptability as well as operational and financial considerations. More information on the context in which decisions will be made is given in section 3 of this paper. The current planning assumption of three pages of questions per person will not be sufficient to collect information for all topics with a strong user need for inclusion in the 2011 Census.

Approximately 2,000 responses to the consultation were received, from around 500 users. The responses received were evaluated using the criteria detailed in the consultation document and a scoring system based on the criteria was used to rank the topics according to the strength of user requirement. The possible Census topics were also evaluated in relation to the other factors that will influence the final content of the questionnaire. More details about the evaluation criteria and scoring system used are given in section 4.1 – 4.3 and are summarised below. Table 1.1.1 lists the factors considered at each stage:

Table 1.1.1: Factors used to categorise topics

User requirement	ONS considerations	Other reasons for collection
User need	Data quality	Use for operational purposes
Small geographies	Public acceptability	Use for coding
Alternative sources	Respondent burden	Balance of topics
Multivariate analysis	Operational concerns	
UK comparability		
Continuity		

The topics were assessed and put into category 1, 2 or 3 using each set of criteria individually. Table 1.1.2 shows what the categories mean for each set of criteria:

Table 1.1.2: Categories for different criteria

Category	User requirement	ONS considerations	Other reasons for collection
1	Very strong requirement	No concerns	Definite other reasons
2	Strong requirement	1-2 areas of concern	Possible other reasons
3	Limited requirement	3-4 areas of concern	No other reason

These categorisations were then used to update the overall category for each topic, and some topics have changed category as a result.

1.2 Updated ONS view on likely content

The view on 2011 Census content outlined in this document is provisional and will be revised over the coming months, after further assessment of the ONS considerations and other factors affecting questionnaire content. This assessment will be made primarily through a programme of question development and testing.

Section 4 of this document contains details of how the factors within each set of criteria were used to assess the topics and the reasons for the categorisation given. Tables 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 contain a summary of the categorisation for each of the three separate criteria (user requirement, ONS considerations and other reasons for collection) and the resulting overall category assigned to each topic.

One topic, sexual orientation, has been assigned a special category of 3*. This is to reflect that, although the topic is not expected to be included in the 2011 Census, there is a clear and increasing user requirement for the information. A programme of work will be established to determine the most suitable way to meet this requirement.

To help census users and other interested parties understand the reasons for ONS's judgements on topics, we have included in this paper information on the decision making tools used. We are also making available all the individual responses to the consultation on the National Statistics web-site:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp

In addition to the individual responses, documents summarising the requirements for each topic were produced for use in the topic evaluation. These documents are also available through this link.

Table 1.2.1: Categorisation of 'individual' topics

Topic	User need score	Categorisation			
		User need	ONS considerations	Other reasons	Overall
Name ¹	-	-	-	-	1
Sex ²	-	-	-	-	1
Date of birth ²	-	-	-	-	1
Student & term-time address ³	-	-	-	-	1
Ethnicity & national identity	91	1	1	3	1
Marital or civil partnership status	90	1	1	3	1
Academic & vocational qualifications	85	1	1	2	1
Workplace address	84	1	1	2	1
Economic activity	83	1	1	1	1
Health status	82	1	1	3	1
Long-term illness or disability	82	1	1	3	1
NS-SEC	80	1	1	3	1
Country of birth	79	1	1	3	1
Occupation	76	1	1	1	1
Transport to place of work	75	1	1	3	1
Carers	74	1	1	3	1
Address one year ago	73	1	1	3	1
Religion or belief	72	1	1	3	1
Welsh language proficiency	71	1	1	3	1
Language	76	1	2	3	2
Industry	70	1	2	2	2
Income	70	1	3	2	2
Second residence	69	2	3	1	2
Study place address	66	2	2	3	2
Citizenship	65	2	2	2	2
Hours worked	64	2	1	3	2
Self-employed or employee	61	2	1	2	2
Country of previous residence	61	2	2	2	2
Nationality	61	2	2	2	2
Nature of illness or disability	61	2	2	3	2
Supervisor status	60	2	1	2	2
Transport to place of study	60	2	2	3	2
Country(ies) of parents birth	57	3	2	2	2
Change of country of usual residence	57	3	2	2	2
Size of workplace	53	3	1	2	2
Year of entry into UK	52	3	2	2	2
Place of birth	43	3	2	2	2
Sexual orientation	74	1	3	3	3*
Lifestyle	59	3	2	3	3
Asylum or immigration status	59	3	2	3	3
Wheelchair use	55	3	2	3	3
Voluntary work	49	3	2	3	3
Fertility	46	3	2	3	3
Number of jobs	45	3	2	3	3
Access to bank account	41	3	2	3	3

¹ Name is required for operational purposes and was not evaluated using the criteria.

² Sex and date of birth are key to all Census outputs and were not evaluated using the criteria.

³ Information on students and their term-time address is used to accurately measure the usually resident population and were not evaluated using the criteria.

Table 1.2.2: Categorisation of 'household' topics

Topic	User need score	Categorisation			
		User need	ONS considerations	Other reasons	Overall
Households	94	1	1	3	1
Relationships	92	1	1	3	1
Tenure	86	1	1	3	1
Visitor information	83	1	1	1	1
Accommodation type	80	1	1	3	1
Number of rooms or bedrooms	76	1	1	3	1
Dwellings/self-contained accom.	70	1	1	2	1
Number of vehicles	65	2	1	3	2
Central heating	64	2	1	3	2
Smoke alarms	57	3	2	3	3
Bath, shower & toilet	56	3	1	3	3
Internet access	54	3	2	3	3
Lowest floor level	54	3	1	3	3
Use of childcare	47	3	2	3	3
Garden access	47	3	2	3	3
Accommodation on more than 1 floor	42	3	1	3	3
Pet ownership	40	3	2	3	3
Renewable energy sources	32	3	2	3	3

1.3 Way forward

Although a significant amount of work is still required to determine the final content of the Census questionnaire, the information available to date will largely influence the content of the questionnaire for the 2007 Census Test, which will be finalised in September 2006. Section 6 provides more details of the work underway.

To illustrate the difficult decisions that will need to be made by September, section 5 of this paper gives examples of topics that could be included on the 2007 Census Test, depending on the length of questionnaire used. These examples are not precise, because the final prioritisation of topics for the Census Test has not been made and it is not certain how long the questions to collect these topics will be. Nevertheless, these examples demonstrate the trade-offs between topics that will have to be made.

2. Introduction

In May 2005 ONS published a consultation document 'The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales'. Responses were received from nearly 500 users, presenting arguments for the inclusion of around 70 topics (over 2,000 'topic responses').

This response was significantly higher than anticipated and it has taken longer to review the submissions than planned. The level of response to the consultation exercise delayed the completion of the work summarised in this paper by three months. Table 2.1 contains a summary of who responded to the consultation:

Table 2.1: Summary of respondents

Respondent Type	Respondents
Central Government	10
Local or Regional Government and Primary Care Trusts	200
Academia	40
Business	20
Other groups (e.g. faith groups, charities etc)	100
General public	120
Total	490

The user demand for topics was generally as expected, with some exceptions. There was a stronger demand than represented in the consultation document for the following topics: academic and vocational qualifications; health status (including long-term illness or disability, which had not been separately listed); carer information; country of previous usual residence, and sexual orientation. The demand was not as strong as anticipated for the following topics: lowest floor level; qualification/training required for occupation; completed stages of education; self-employed or employee and industry.

There was a clear user requirement for information on language, for service provision and resource allocation purposes. This was not a topic included in the original consultation document. The consultation responses also made less strong cases for a number of other new topics.

Each topic was evaluated using the criteria detailed in the consultation document and a scoring system based on the criteria was used to rank the topics according to the strength of user requirement. The possible Census topics were also evaluated in relation to the other factors that will influence the final content of the questionnaire. Annex B contains a detailed breakdown of the scores given to each topic and the table below contains a summary of the topics that have been re-categorised from the original consultation document:

Table 2.2: Summary of re-categorised topics

Change in classification	Topics
Category 1 to category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-employed or employee • Industry
Category 2 to category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health status (including the addition of long-term illness or disability) • Carer information
Category 2 to category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest floor level • <i>Qualification/training required for occupation</i> • <i>Completed stages of education</i>
Category 3 to category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic & vocational qualifications
Category 3 to category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nature of long-term illness or disability</i> • Migration topics, in particular⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Country of previous usual residence</i> ○ <i>Place of birth</i> ○ <i>Country(ies) of parents birth</i> ○ <i>Change of country of usual residence</i>
Category 3 to category 3*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sexual orientation</i>
New to category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Language</i>

Topics in italics are those that have not been asked in a previous Census.

⁴ There is a category 2 demand for information on migration in addition to address one year ago and country of birth. Further work is required to assess which of these particular aspects might be considered.

3. Context

The key requirement of the 2011 Census is to provide a robust estimate of the population count, and a benchmark for key population statistics, on a consistent and comparable basis for small areas and small population groups. This will require the collection of information on sex, date of birth, students, ethnicity and marital or civil partnership status.

To meet this requirement, ONS aims to maximise response rates in all areas and from all population sub-groups, and minimise differential non-response. The collection of any additional information should not jeopardise this aim.

To help achieve this, ONS will seek to minimise respondent load, whilst maximising the value of the information collected, by ensuring that the questionnaire is clearly presented and contains an acceptable number of questions.

Responses to the consultation show there is a continuing requirement for almost all information collected in the 2001 Census, and strong demands for a number of new topics. Collecting information for all topics requested would place an unacceptable burden on respondents and significantly increase the cost of the printing, delivery, collection and processing of the questionnaires. It will not be possible to collect information on all topics and this paper is part of the work underway to establish which topics will and will not be included.

The funding for the 2011 Census beyond 2008 has not yet been agreed; ONS will be expected to demonstrate value for money and affordability in its Census plans. The 2001 Census questionnaire contained three pages⁵ of questions for each respondent and, given the cost implications of increasing this and the loss of information if it were reduced, the current assumption used by ONS in planning the Census is that the 2011 Census questionnaire will be structured in the same way. Section 5 shows, for illustrative purposes only, the topics which might be accommodated with 2, 3, or 4 pages per person.

The continuing need for information collected in the 2001 Census means that new questions could only be included on the 2011 Census questionnaire by removing an existing topic for which there is still a requirement, or reducing the size of questions used in 2001.

There are likely to be user requirements that ONS is unable to meet through the Census, either because of the constraints on the size of the questionnaire or because it is not possible to collect information of sufficient quality through a self-completion exercise. Where this is the case, ONS will investigate whether it is possible to meet these information needs through other National Statistics sources.

The largest ONS survey that could be used to collect information that the Census cannot is the planned Integrated Household Survey (IHS). The IHS is currently being developed and is scheduled to begin in 2008. More details about the IHS can be found on the National Statistics web-site:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=936>

⁵ Each page of questions referred to in this paper is a single side of A4 size paper

4. Topics under consideration for collection by the 2011 Census

This section summarises ONS' assessment of the cases made for the inclusion of each topic in the 2011 Census. It indicates the likelihood of some information on each topic being collected but does not discuss the specific questions that may be included. A programme of question development and testing is underway and will continue until the final content of the 2011 Census is agreed in 2009.

The emerging results of this testing will, however, inform the final choice of questions to be included in the 2007 Census Test. The Test questionnaires will be finalised in September 2006.

The topics were assessed and categorised using three separate sets of criteria and the results of this work were used to allocate them to the final categories.

4.1 Evaluation of user requirements

The topics were evaluated against the criteria established in the consultation document, using the template in Annex C. The criteria and the weight applied to each are given in table 4.1.1:

Table 4.1.1: Criteria and weights used to evaluate user requirements

Criteria	Weight
Strength of user need	5
Need for information for small geographies or populations	1
Suitability of alternative sources	2
Requirement for multivariate analysis	1
Assessment of need for UK comparability	0.5
Continuity with previous Censuses	0.5

These weights are based on ONS' judgement that strength of user need should have the greatest influence. The suitability of alternative sources is considered the next most important criteria. UK comparability and continuity with previous Censuses have the lowest weight, as it was considered that the lack of an existing question or a similar information need elsewhere in the UK should not overly restrict the chances of a topic being collected in the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

The topics were given a score of 1-10 for each criterion, which were multiplied by the weights and summed together to give a score out of 100. These scores were then used to split the topics into three categories, outlined in table 4.1.2:

Table 4.1.2: Categories for evaluation of user requirements

Category	Score	Description
1	70+	Very strong user requirement
2	60-69	Strong user requirement
3	0-59	Limited user requirement

The full scores for each topic are included in Annex B.

4.2 Evaluation of ONS considerations

The topics were evaluated against a number of criteria, discussed in the consultation document, which ONS must consider when deciding the content of the 2011 Census. The criteria used are outlined in table 4.2.1:

Table 4.2.1: Criteria used to evaluate ONS considerations

Criteria	Description
Data quality	Would data collected be of sufficient quality for outputs to be useful
Public acceptability	Would collecting the information be acceptable to respondents
Respondent burden	Would collecting the information significantly increase the burden on respondents
Operational concerns	Would collecting the information significantly increase the length of the questionnaire or coding costs

The topics were considered against each criterion and given a yes/no score depending on whether ONS were satisfied that there were no concerns for each. These were then used to split the topics into three categories, outlined in table 4.2.2:

Table 4.2.2 Categories for evaluation of ONS considerations

Category	Description
1	No ONS concerns
2	ONS concerned about 1-2 criteria
3	ONS concerned about 3-4 criteria

The details of these considerations for each topic are included in Annex B.

4.3 Evaluation of other reasons for collection

A number of other factors also affect the decision on the content of the 2011 Census, and a consideration of these was made for each topic. The factors considered are outlined in table 4.3.1:

Table 4.3.1: Other factors considered in evaluation of topics

Reason	Description
Use for operational purposes	Would the information be used operationally in the 2011 Census
Use for coding	Is the information required for coding of other topics
Balance of topics	Could the information improve the balance of topics in the Census to meet a wider range of user needs

The topics were considered against each criterion and given a yes/no score depending on whether any of the factors apply to it. These were then used to split the topics into three categories, outlined in table 4.3.2:

Table 4.3.2: Categories for evaluation of other reasons for collection

Category	Description
1	One or more factors greatly strengthen case for inclusion of topic
2	One or more factors strengthen case for inclusion of topic
3	No other reason to collect this topic

The details of these considerations for each topic are included in Annex B.

4.4 Overall categorisation of topics

The evaluation of the topics according to each set of criteria was then considered as a whole and the topics were allocated to an overall category. These categories are outlined in table 4.4.1:

Table 4.4.1: Overall categories used

Category	Description
1	Topics likely to be collected in the 2011 Census
2	Topics where further work is required before a decision is made on whether to collect them in the 2011 Census
3	Topics which will not be collected in the 2011 Census

A programme of work is underway to inform the choice of which category 2 topics to include in the 2011 Census. This work is detailed in section 6 of this paper.

The following sections discuss the categorisation of the topics using the groupings established in the original consultation document.

4.4.1 Population definitions and bases

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual residence • Visitor information • Students in full-time education & term-time address • Workplace address • Households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Second residence</i> • <i>Study place address</i> 	

The categorisation of topics within this section is unchanged from the initial user consultation.

Strong responses were received for the category 1 topics, including support from across the user community for the proposal to collect some information from visitors.

The responses included significant support for the proposal to collect information on second residences, both for housing and transport planning needs, and the production of outputs on flexible population bases. Questions to collect this information are currently being tested, and an assessment of the success of these questions and the burden they place on respondents will be considered alongside the user requirement when the decision on whether to include this topic in the 2011 Census is made.

There is a clear requirement from some users for information on address of place of study, but also some concerns that collecting this through the address of workplace question would cause confusion and lessen the utility of both data and comparability with the 2001 Census. ONS are currently reviewing experience in Scotland, where a combined question was included in the 2001 Census and where it is likely to be repeated. The findings of this review will inform the decision on whether to include the topic in the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

4.4.2 Basic demographics and social composition of households

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex • Date of birth • Marital or civil partnership status • Household and family relationships 		

The categorisation of topics within this section is unchanged from the initial user consultation. No responses were required for the topics of sex and date of birth.

There was a strong continuing requirement for information on marital status and household and family relationships. The questions to collect this information will reflect the recent Civil Partnership legislation although their exact format has yet to be decided.

4.4.3 Housing information

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household tenure (including type of landlord) • Accommodation type • Number of rooms • Dwellings and self-contained accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pet ownership</i>

The categorisation of topics within this section is unchanged from the initial user consultation.

Strong requirements for the various facets of tenure and accommodation type were identified across the user community and particularly within local government.

A continuing requirement for information on number of vehicles available for use by household members has also been identified. Its inclusion in the 2011 Census is dependent on the space available on the questionnaire and its relative priority compared with other household questions that could be included.

The collection of information on whether households own any pets was requested but the need for this is not strong enough to justify inclusion. There are no plans to test or develop a question for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

4.4.4 Quality of housing

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central heating • <i>Additional quality of housing measure</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath/shower and toilet access • Lowest floor level • Accommodation on more than one floor⁶ • <i>Internet access</i> • <i>Garden access</i> • <i>Smoke alarms</i> • <i>Renewable energy sources</i>

A continuing requirement for information on the availability of central heating has been identified, but its inclusion in the 2011 Census is dependent on the space available on the questionnaire and its relative priority compared with other household questions that could be included.

There was support for the development of an additional quality of housing measure and ONS will investigate whether a suitable topic can be identified.

There was generally little support for the continued collection of information on bath or shower access or lowest floor level, or the inclusion of a question about accommodation on more than one floor. Therefore these topics will not be considered further and there are no plans to test or develop questions for them in ONS' current work program.

A user need for information on Internet access was identified, but it was widely acknowledged by users that the Census is not an appropriate vehicle for its collection because the likelihood of rapid change in usage, together with the time between collection and publication of Census results, would greatly lessen the utility of any outputs. There are therefore no plans to test or develop a question for the Census in ONS' current work programme, but collection of this information will continue in ONS' household surveys.

The collection of information on whether households have access to a garden and the use of smoke alarms and renewable energy sources was requested but the need for this is not strong enough to justify inclusion. There are no plans to test or develop questions for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

⁶ This question was asked in Northern Ireland in 2001. NISRA are considering the case for asking a similar question in 2011.

4.4.5 Ethnicity, identity and religion

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnicity and national identity • Religion⁷ • Welsh language proficiency (in Wales)⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Language</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>English language proficiency</i> <p>Category 3*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sexual orientation</i>

There is a very strong continuing requirement for information on ethnicity, national identity and religion. These three concepts are interlinked and need to be considered together. The increasing requirement for information on national identity, particularly Welsh identity in Wales, means that extra information for this topic will be collected in 2011. Any question collecting information on national identity in the 2011 Census will include a tick-box response category for Welsh. The testing currently underway is focussed on the format of the questions to collect this information and the requirements for, and acceptability of, categorisations used within these.

ONS are working closely with colleagues in the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) on a joint testing programme, since consultation so far appears to suggest distinctly different views in the two countries about the acceptability of terminology and categories to be used. Further consultation with the Commission for Racial Equality and organisations representing different ethnic groups is planned.

There is a strong requirement to collect information on Welsh language proficiency in Wales, and this will be done as in previous censuses.

In addition to this, a more wide ranging requirement for information on languages used across England and Wales has been identified. Users suggested that this information would improve resource allocation at a national and local level and inform service provision of, for example, the need for translation and interpreter services. There was also some demand expressed for information on the use of specific languages including British Sign Language and Cornish. Work is currently underway to develop and test the feasibility of asking a question to collect information on languages spoken and the results of this testing will inform the decision on whether to include the topic in the 2011 Census.

The demand for a question focussing solely on English language proficiency was not strong enough in relation to other requirements to be considered for inclusion.

A user need for information on sexual orientation has been identified, in particular to facilitate monitoring of equality objectives, and where users in local government and the NHS have asked for this information to target service provision for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) population. The ONS view remains that such questions are not suitable for the 2011 Census. ONS has significant concerns surrounding the issues of privacy, acceptability, accuracy, conceptual definitions and the effect that such a question could have on the overall response to the Census.

⁷ GROS and NISRA expect to collect information on two dimensions of religion - the religion that the respondent was born into and religious affiliation at the time of the census.

⁸ Similar questions to collect information on Gaelic and Irish are likely to be included in the 2011 Census in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Despite these concerns, the increasing requirement for the information is clear and must be addressed by ONS and others. A programme of work will be established to determine the most suitable way to meet this need. The first meeting of key interested parties across government and the UK will take place in April 2006. This will cover issues such as defining the concept that needs to be measured (behaviour, identity or desire) and addressing the difficulties in collecting good quality data.

4.4.6 Educational attainment and qualifications

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic & vocational qualifications 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other professional qualifications <i>Qualification or training required for occupation</i> <i>Completed stages of education</i>

The consultation responses included a very strong requirement for the continued collection of information on qualifications, for resource allocation and service provision purposes, at a national and local level. The main requirement is for a measure of people's highest academic or vocational qualification. Information on academic and vocational qualifications held is also used to improve the quality of the coding of occupation, which in turn would improve the quality of the derivation of NS-SEC.

The consultation document proposed a number of alternative measures of qualification status, but these were not seen as suitable by the majority of users and will not be developed further.

There was little demand for detailed information on professional qualifications and no separate question will be developed or tested.

4.4.7 Health and care

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health status Long-term illness or disability Carer information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nature of long-term illness or disability</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Lifestyle</i> <i>Fertility</i> <i>Use of childcare</i> <i>Wheelchair use</i>

Very strong user requirements were identified for all topics in this section that were collected in the 2001 Census, with comparability between 2001 and 2011 seen as particularly important for this topic. Questions to collect this information, and improve the quality of information collected are currently being developed and tested.

There was, additionally, some demand for information on the nature of any disability or long-term illness, and questions to collect this information are currently being tested. The results of this testing will be considered alongside the strength of the user requirement to inform the decision on whether to include this topic in the 2011 Census.

The collection of lifestyle information on whether respondents smoke or drink and on fertility was requested but there is not a strong need for this information and its collection may not be acceptable to respondents. There are no plans to test or develop a question for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

The collection of information on whether households use childcare facilities and whether respondents use a wheelchair was requested but the need for this is not strong enough to justify inclusion. There are no plans to test or develop questions for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

4.4.8 Labour market/employment and NS-SEC

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS-SEC • Occupation⁹ • Economic activity status⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry • Hours worked • Self-employed or employee¹⁰ • Whether or not a supervisor¹⁰ • Number of employees at the workplace (or employed if self-employed)¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of jobs</i> • <i>Voluntary work</i>

Users have a strong continuing requirement for information on the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) and this will be collected in the 2011 Census. Work is currently underway to assess what level of detail is required by the majority of users and what questions are required to produce this. It is possible that either the reduced or simplified derivation method, requiring fewer questions, may deliver sufficient quality.

There is also a requirement for information on occupation and economic activity, which is likely to be collected again in 2011. Work is currently underway to develop and improve questions to meet this user need.

There is a less clear requirement for information on industry and this topic has thus been moved to category 2. However, industry is also used to improve the quality of the occupation coding in some cases, and an assessment of this use will be considered when deciding whether to collect information on industry or other topics in the Census.

There is some user need for information on hours worked, but its inclusion in the 2011 Census is dependent on the space available on the questionnaire and its relative priority compared with other topics that could be included.

The main requirement for the remaining topics in category 2 is for the derivation of NS-SEC, and the collection of this information is dependent on the NS-SEC derivation method used. As mentioned earlier, work is underway to investigate this.

The derivation of Approximate Social Grade (aSG) was requested. This was derived in 2001 from similar variables to NS-SEC. This request will be considered

⁹ Required for all NS-SEC derivation methods.

¹⁰ Used in the derivation of NS-SEC in 2001 Census. May be required for derivation of NS-SEC in 2011 depending on the level of detail required.

as part of the consultation on specific outputs which will take place at a later stage in the user consultation process.

Finally, there was some demand for information on the number of jobs and voluntary work undertaken, but these requirements were limited and no questions will be developed.

4.4.9 Travel

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to place of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to place of study 	

Users responded with a strong continuing need for information on mode of travel to work and this is likely to be collected in the 2011 Census.

Users also identified a need for information on mode of travel to place of study but, as with the information on address of place of study (see section 4.4.1), there were some concerns expressed that collecting this through the mode of travel to work question would cause confusion, lessen the utility of both data and reduce comparability with the 2001 Census. The decision on whether or not to collect this information will be made together with address of place of study.

4.4.10 Migration

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address one year ago Country of birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Citizenship</i> <i>Nationality</i> <i>Country of previous usual residence</i> <i>Place of birth</i> <i>Country(ies) of parents' birth</i> <i>Change of country of usual residence</i> <i>Year of entry into the UK</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Asylum or immigration status</i>

Information relating to address one year ago and country of birth continue to be needed by a wide range of users and it is likely that both will be collected in the 2011 Census.

Users identified needs for the topics in category 2. Whilst the need for any particular aspect appears insufficient to justify inclusion in the Census, the overall need for additional information about migration was very clear. The question development and testing for this topic will therefore consider all topics within this group to establish which suite of questions is most appropriate to meet the range of user needs.

The collection of information on the asylum or immigration status of respondents was requested but the need is not as strong as for the other topics. There are also concerns that collection of this information may not be acceptable to respondents and that a Census is unlikely to obtain accurate information. There are no plans to test or develop a question for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

4.4.11 Income

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Income</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Access to a bank account</i>

A strong demand for information on income was made, with a wide range of uses for the information put forward. The feasibility of collecting this information in the 2011 Census is now being considered. There remain, however, some concerns surrounding the issues of acceptability, accuracy and the effect a question could have on response. These are the focus of the question testing currently underway, as well as the consideration of whether this information should be collected at individual or household level. The results of this testing will inform the decision on whether or not to include the topic in the 2011 Census.

It is currently proposed that a question to collect this information will be included in the 2007 Census Test, to help assess its effect on response rates.

The collection of information on whether respondents have access to a bank account was requested but there is not a strong need for this information and its collection may not be acceptable to respondents. There are no plans to test or develop a question for the Census in ONS' current work programme.

4.4.12 Operational requirements and data quality

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Telephone number</i> <i>Sources of income</i> <i>e-mail address</i> <i>Ever worked</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>National Insurance number</i>

The categorisation of topics within this section is unchanged from the initial user consultation and will be updated following further assessment.

The name of each respondent will be collected in the 2011 Census.

The possibility of collecting telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to enable follow up of partial responses is being investigated.

The collection of information on sources of income will be considered when deciding whether or not to collect information on income. Collecting this information may improve the quality of response to any income question.

As stated in the consultation document, the collection of National Insurance number was considered for the purpose of facilitating precise data linkage of other sources to the Census within a secure statistical setting. Research elsewhere, including as part of the Citizen Information Project, suggests that, when interviewed, many people know or can find their own National Insurance number, but it is less clear that collecting National Insurance numbers on the Census form would be effective and this is not being pursued at this time.

The development of new, non-disclosive statistical analyses derived from data linkage continues to be explored more generally. Provided effective disclosure control and audit procedures are in place, there is increasing evidence that administrative data can be linked and used for statistical analyses without the need to collect additional data.

5. Possible content of 2011 Census questionnaire

The questionnaire for the 2011 Census will be finalised in 2009, although it is hoped to have no, or few, changes from the Rehearsal questionnaire - which will be finalised in summer 2008. A great deal of work is required to determine its content. The topic set has not been finalised, the length of questions required for each topic is not clear and the length of the questionnaire could change. However, it is possible to give an indication of the topics that could be included depending on the outcome of these decisions. Table 5.1 contains four examples.

These examples only assume that some information on each topic will be collected. Even if the questionnaire included 4 pages of questions per person it would not be possible to collect all the information requested by users for each topic, and some compromises will still be required. Even with 4 pages of questions per person it would not be possible to accommodate all category 2 topics, and more of these would be excluded if only 3 pages were possible.

These examples are provided to illustrate the trade-offs between topics that will have to be made and the inclusion or absence of a topic from these examples does not guarantee its inclusion or exclusion from the 2011 Census questionnaire.

Table 5.1: Possible alternatives for content of questionnaire

Topic	Number of pages per respondent			
	2 pages	3 pages	3 pages	4 pages
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex	✓	✓	✓	✓
Date of birth	✓	✓	✓	✓
Student & term-time address	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ethnicity & national identity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marital or civil partnership status	✓	✓	✓	✓
Academic & vocational qualifications		✓	✓	✓
Workplace address	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economic activity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health status	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-term illness or disability	✓	✓	✓	✓
NS-SEC	✓ ¹¹	✓ ¹¹	✓ ¹¹	✓
Country of birth	✓	✓	✓	✓
Language				✓
Occupation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transport to place of work		✓	✓	✓
Carers		✓		✓
Address one year ago	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religion or belief		✓		✓
Industry				✓
Income		✓		✓
Second residence			✓	✓
Study place address				
Welsh language proficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citizenship				
Hours worked				
Country of previous residence				
Self-employed or employee				✓
Supervisor status				✓
Transport to place of study				
Size of workplace				

The 2001 Census questionnaires are available on the National Statistics web-site:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/census_form.asp

¹¹ Only simplified derivation of NS-SEC would be possible due to non-collection of other topics

6. Way forward

A programme of question development and testing is underway and will continue until the final content of the 2011 Census is agreed in 2009. The emerging results of this testing will inform the choice of questions included in the 2007 Census Test. The 2007 Test questionnaires will be finalised in September 2006. Further question development and testing will inform the choice of questions for a postal test in 2008, which is planned specifically to cover topics where testing will not be completed in time for the 2007 Test.

This programme of work is currently structured around five internal¹² topic groups. These groups include staff from ONS, GROS, NISRA and WAG with expertise in the topics covered by the group, and staff with expertise in Census, question testing and development and harmonisation of questions and concepts. These groups are responsible for evaluating the user requirements for each topic in detail, evaluating alternative data sources and conducting more detailed user consultation as required. The groups are also responsible for the development and testing of questions to meet user needs.

The five topics groups currently underway are:

- Population definitions and bases
- Ethnicity, identity, language and religion
- Labour market, NS-SEC and qualifications
- Income
- Health and care

As the work of these topic groups is completed, work will begin to develop and test questions for all other topics.

The current view on 2011 Census content will be revised over the coming months through the work of these groups and wider consideration of the ONS criteria and other factors detailed in section 4.

The overall timetable of questionnaire development, leading to the final questionnaire for the 2011 Census is given below.

Year	Date	Event
2006	May	Topics for 2007 Test agreed
	September	Questionnaires for 2007 Test agreed
	Ongoing	Question testing and development
2007	May 13 th	Census Test
	Winter	Evaluation of Census Test
	Ongoing	Question testing and development
2008	February	Planned postal question test
	May	Topics for 2009 Rehearsal agreed
	September	Questionnaires for 2009 Rehearsal agreed
	Ongoing	Question testing and development
2009	Spring	Census Rehearsal
	September ¹³	Topics for 2011 Census agreed
	December ¹³	Questionnaires for 2011 Census agreed
2010	January	Census questionnaires approved by Parliament
2011	Spring	Census day

N.B. The dates in this timetable are provisional and may change.

¹² The topic groups are internal to ONS, GROS, NISRA and WAG, but the Labour market, NS-SEC and qualifications group includes a representative from DfES, providing topics expertise in qualifications

¹³ It is hoped that there will be no, or minimal changes to the questionnaire after the 2009 Rehearsal

7. Contact details

Any questions or comments regarding this paper or any of the supporting documentation should be emailed to ONS at:

Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Comments and questions can also be sent to:

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This paper is focused on the Census in England and Wales only. Separate user consultation has been undertaken for the Census in Scotland and Northern Ireland and queries regarding these should be directed to GROS or NISRA. Their contact details are below:

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Annex A: Previous consultation and user requirement summary reports

Topic summaries

Documents summarising the user requirements for each topic are available on the National Statistics web-site here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp

Previous consultation

The information requirements set out in this document come primarily from the consultation exercise conducted in 2005:

The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales. ONS. May 2005.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census.asp>

This paper summarised findings from earlier consultations, such as those reported in:

Census strategic development review: User requirements report

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/user_req.pdf

Consultation with Users on Population Definitions for the 2011 Census

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pdfs/ag0407.pdf>

Annex B: Detail of topic assessment using all criteria

This annex contains the detailed assessment of the topics discussed in section 4.

B.1 Evaluation of user requirements

Table B.1.1: Evaluation of user requirements for individual topics

Topic	Score	Criteria					
		User need	Small geog	Alternative sources	Multi-variate	UK comparability	Continuity
Name ¹⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ¹⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Date of birth ¹⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Student & term-time address ¹⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity & national identity	91	10	10	7	10	7	6
Marital or civil partnership	90	10	7	7	9	10	9
Academic & vocational quals	85	10	8	7	5	7	8
Workplace address	84	9	9	7	7	9	9
Economic activity	83	9	8	5	10	10	9
Health status	82	9	8	8	7	7	4
Long-term illness or disability	82	9	8	7	7	7	8
NS-SEC	80	9	8	5	10	10	4
Country of birth	79	8	8	7	7	10	10
Language	76	8	8	8	8	8	0
Occupation	76	8	7	5	10	9	9
Transport to place of work	75	8	9	5	7	9	9
Carers	74	8	8	6	7	8	5
Sexual orientation	74	7	7	9	10	8	0
Address one year ago	73	7	8	7	6	10	10
Religion or belief	72	8	9	5	9	5	3
Welsh language proficiency	71	8	7	5	8	1	10
Income	70	8	8	4	10	8	0
Industry	70	7	7	5	9	9	9
Second residence	69	7	9	8	5	8	0
Study place address	66	7	9	7	7	2	0
Citizenship	65	7	6	7	6	7	0
Hours worked	64	7	7	5	5	5	8
Nature of illness or disability	61	7	7	5	5	8	0
Country of previous residence	61	7	4	8	4	4	0
Self-employed or employee	61	6	8	2	10	9	9
Nationality	61	6	7	7	6	6	2
Transport to place of study	60	7	9	4	7	2	0
Supervisor status	60	6	7	2	10	9	9
Lifestyle	59	6	8	5	7	8	0
Asylum or immigration status	59	6	10	5	7	4	0
Country(ies) of parents' birth	57	6	4	8	4	4	1
Change of country of U/R	57	5	7	9	4	5	0
Wheelchair use	55	5	7	8	6	2	0
Size of workplace	53	5	8	2	8	8	7
Year of entry into UK	52	5	7	6	4	6	1
Voluntary work	49	5	7	5	4	5	0
Fertility	46	4	4	7	6	3	1
Number of jobs	45	4	7	5	5	5	0
Place of birth	43	5	5	4	2	5	1
Access to bank account	41	3	7	8	2	2	0

¹⁴ Name is required for operational purposes and was not evaluated using the criteria.

¹⁵ Sex and Date of birth are key to all Census outputs and were not evaluated using the criteria.

¹⁶ Information on students and their term-time address are used to accurately measure the usually resident population and were not evaluated using the criteria.

Table B.1.2: Evaluation of user requirements for household topics

Topic	Score	Criteria					
		User need	Small geog	Alternative sources	Multi-variate	UK comparability	Continuity
Households	94	10	10	7	10	10	10
Relationships	92	10	7	9	8	10	8
Tenure	86	9	9	8	7	9	9
Visitor information	83	9	9	10	4	8	1
Accommodation type	80	8	9	7	7	9	10
No. of rooms/bedrooms	76	8	9	5	8	8	9
Dwellings/self contained	70	7	8	5	7	9	10
Number of vehicles	65	7	9	3	7	6	10
Central heating	64	6	9	5	7	8	7
Smoke alarms	57	6	10	6	3	3	0
Bath, shower & toilet	56	5	9	5	5	3	10
Internet access	54	6	7	4	5	8	0
Lowest floor level	54	6	8	3	4	6	5
Use of childcare	47	5	7	4	4	6	0
Garden access	47	5	7	3	6	5	0
Accom on more than 1	42	5	6	3	4	2	0
Pet ownership	40	4	7	3	6	2	0
Renewable energy	32	3	6	5	0	1	0

B.2 Evaluation of ONS considerations

Table B.2.1: Evaluation of ONS considerations for individual topics

Topic	Score	Criteria				Category
		Data quality	Public acceptability	Respondent burden	Operational concerns	
Name ¹⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ¹⁸	-	-	-	-	-	-
Date of birth ¹⁸	-	-	-	-	-	-
Student & term-time address ¹⁹	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity & national identity	91	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Marital or civil partnership	90	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Academic & vocational quals	85	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Workplace address	84	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Economic activity	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Health status	82	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Long-term illness or disability	82	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
NS-SEC	80	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Country of birth	79	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Language	76		✓	✓	✓	2
Occupation	76	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Transport to place of work	75	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Carers	74	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Address one year ago	73	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Religion or belief	72	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Sexual orientation	72				✓	3
Industry	70	✓	✓	✓		1
Income	70			✓	✓	1
Second residence	69		✓			3
Study place address	66		✓	✓		2
Welsh language proficiency	66	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Citizenship	65		✓	✓	✓	2
Hours worked	64	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Nature of illness or disability	61		✓	✓	✓	2
Country of previous residence	61		✓	✓	✓	2
Self-employed or employee	61	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Nationality	61		✓	✓	✓	2
Supervisor status	60	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Transport to place of study	60		✓	✓	✓	2
Lifestyle	59		✓	✓	✓	2
Asylum or immigration status	59			✓	✓	2
Country(ies) of parents' birth	57		✓	✓	✓	2
Change of country of U/R	57		✓	✓	✓	2
Wheelchair use	55		✓	✓	✓	2
Size of workplace	53	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Year of entry into UK	52		✓	✓	✓	2
Voluntary work	49		✓	✓	✓	2
Fertility	46			✓	✓	2
Number of jobs	45		✓	✓	✓	2
Place of birth	43		✓	✓	✓	2
Access to bank account	41			✓	✓	2

In table B.2.1, a ✓ is used to indicate which criteria ONS is satisfied will not be a problem in the 2011 Census. This is only ONS' current assessment, based largely on experience from the 2001 Census, and question development and testing will

¹⁷ Name is required for operational purposes and was not evaluated using the criteria.

¹⁸ Sex and date of birth are key to all Census outputs and were not evaluated using the criteria.

¹⁹ Information on students and their term-time address are used to accurately measure the usually resident population and were not evaluated using the criteria.

inform any changes to this. Topics without a ✓ for each criterion at the end of question development will not be included in the 2011 Census.

Table B.2.2: Evaluation of ONS considerations for household topics

Topic	Score	Criteria				Category
		Data quality	Public acceptability	Respondent burden	Operational concerns	
Households	94	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Relationships	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Tenure	86	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Visitor information	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Accommodation type	80	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
No. of rooms/bedrooms	76	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Dwellings/self contained	70	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Number of vehicles	65	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Central heating	64	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Smoke alarms	57		✓	✓	✓	2
Bath, shower & toilet	56	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Internet access	54		✓	✓	✓	2
Lowest floor level	54	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Use of childcare	47		✓	✓	✓	2
Garden access	47		✓	✓	✓	2
Accom on more than 1	42	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Pet ownership	40		✓	✓	✓	2
Renewable energy	32		✓	✓	✓	2

In table B.2.2, a ✓ is used to indicate which criteria ONS is satisfied will not be a problem in the 2011 Census. This is only ONS' current assessment, based largely on experience from the 2001 Census, and question testing and development will inform any changes to this. Topics without a ✓ for each criterion at the end of question development will not be included in the 2011 Census.

B.3 Evaluation of other reasons for collection

Table B.3.1: Evaluation of other reasons for collection for individual topics

Topic	Score	Criteria			
		Operational use	Use for coding	Balance of topics	Category
Name ²⁰	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ²¹	-	-	-	-	-
Date of birth ²¹	-	-	-	-	-
Student & term-time address ²²	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity & national identity	91				3
Marital or civil partnership	90				3
Academic & vocational quals	85				2
Workplace address	84		✓		2
Economic activity	83		✓		1
Health status	82				3
Long-term illness or disability	82				3
NS-SEC	80				3
Country of birth	79				3
Language	76				3
Occupation	76		✓		1
Transport to place of work	75				3
Carers	74				3
Address one year ago	73				3
Religion or belief	72				3
Sexual orientation	72				3
Welsh language proficiency	71				3
Industry	70		✓		2
Income	70				3
Second residence	69	✓			1
Study place address	66				3
Citizenship	65			✓	2
Hours worked	64				3
Nature of illness or disability	61				3
Country of previous residence	61			✓	2
Self-employed or employee	61		✓		2
Nationality	61			✓	2
Supervisor status	60		✓		2
Transport to place of study	60				3
Lifestyle	59				3
Asylum or immigration status	59				3
Country(ies) of parents' birth	57			✓	2
Change of country of U/R	57			✓	2
Wheelchair use	55				3
Size of workplace	53		✓		2
Year of entry into UK	52			✓	2
Voluntary work	49				3
Fertility	46				3
Number of jobs	45				3
Place of birth	43			✓	2
Access to bank account	41				3

In table B.3.1, a ✓ is used to indicate which criteria increase the likelihood of a topic being included in the 2011 Census.

²⁰ Name is required for operational purposes and was not evaluated using the criteria.

²¹ Sex and date of birth are key to all Census outputs and were not evaluated using the criteria.

²² Information on students and their term-time address are used to accurately measure the usually resident population and were not evaluated using the criteria.

Table B.3.2: Evaluation of other reasons for collection for household topics

Topic	Score	Criteria			
		Operational use	Use for coding	Balance of topics	Category
Households	94				3
Relationships	92				3
Tenure	86				3
Visitor information	83	✓			1
Accommodation type	80				3
No. of rooms/bedrooms	76				3
Dwellings/self contained	70		✓		2
Number of vehicles	65				3
Central heating	64				3
Smoke alarms	57				3
Bath, shower & toilet	56				3
Internet access	54				3
Lowest floor level	54				3
Use of childcare	47				3
Garden access	47				3
Accom on more than 1	42				3
Pet ownership	40				3
Renewable energy	32				3

In table B.3.2, a ✓ is used to indicate which criteria increase the likelihood of a topic being included in the 2011 Census.

In tables B.3.1 and B.3.2 topics which have been identified as having a possible use for coding have been put into either category 1 or category 2 for this set of criteria. This difference is to distinguish between those topics which are essential for the coding and derivation of other variables, and those that are not essential but would improve the quality of that coding or derivation.

Annex C: Scoring template

This is the template used in the evaluation of user requirements

Criterion	Weight	Scoring ranges	Score (0-10)
User need	5	Central government resource allocation --> 7 - 10 Local or regional resource allocation --> 6 - 8 Policy development and monitoring --> 5 - 7 Research requirement --> 3 - 5 Other interest --> 1 - 4 No user need --> 0	
Small geographies or populations	1	Output Area/ Less than 1% of the population --> 9 - 10 Super Output Area/ Less than 2% of the population --> 7 - 8 Ward/ Less than 5% of the population --> 5 - 6 Local authority/ Less than 7.5% of the population --> 3 - 4 Regional/ Less than 10% of the population --> 1 - 2 National/ 10 or more% of the population --> 0	
Alternative sources	2	No alternative source --> 10 Unlikely that a suitable alternative will exist by 2011 --> 8 - 9 Alternative source likely to exist, but it may not fully meet user needs and/or has potential data access problems --> 3 - 7 Alternative source likely to exist by 2011 that meets user needs --> 1 - 2 Clear alternative source that currently exists --> 0	
Multivariate analysis	1	Clear requirement for multivariate analysis --> 6 - 10 Some interest in multivariate analysis --> 1 - 5 No interest in multivariate analysis --> 0	
UK comparability	0.5	Essential to have UK-wide outputs --> 10 Strong need for UK-wide outputs ---> 6 - 9 Some need for UK-wide outputs ---> 1 - 5 No need for UK-wide outputs --> 0	
Continuity	0.5	On more than 1991 and 2001 Censuses --> 8 - 10 On 1991 and 2001 Censuses --> 6 - 7 On just the 2001 Census --> 3 - 5 On previous Census(es) but not 2001 --> 1 - 2 Not on any previous Census --> 0	

Annex D: Summary of current position on 2011 Census

This annex summarises the view of ONS on the current status of topics. Section 4 gives an explanation of the three different categories. Those topics that were not collected in 2001 in England and Wales are identified by italics.

Category 1 topics:

- Usual residence
- *Visitor information*
- Students in full-time education and term-time address
- Workplace address
- Households
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Household and family relationships
- Household tenure (including type of landlord)
- Accommodation type
- Number of rooms or bedrooms
- Dwellings and self-contained accommodation
- Ethnicity and national identity
- Religion
- Welsh language proficiency (in Wales)
- Academic & vocational qualifications
- Health status
- Long-term illness or disability
- Carer information
- NS-SEC
- Occupation
- Economic activity status
- Transport to place of work
- Address one year ago
- Country of birth
- Name (operational requirement only)

Category 2 topics:

- *Second residences*
- *Study place address*
- Number of vehicles
- Central heating access
- *Additional quality of housing measure*
- *Language*
- *Nature of disability or long-term illness*
- Industry
- Hours worked
- Self-employed or employee (used to derive NS-SEC)
- Whether or not a supervisor (used to derive NS-SEC)
- Number of employees at the workplace (used to derive NS-SEC)
- *Transport to place of study*
- *Citizenship*
- *Nationality*
- *Country of previous usual residence*
- *Place of birth*
- *Country(ies) of parents' birth*
- *Change of country of usual residence*

- *Year of entry into the UK*
- *Income*
- *Telephone number (operational requirement only)*
- *e-mail address (operational requirement only)*
- *Sources of income (operational requirement only)*
- *Name of employer (operational requirement only)*
- *Ever worked (operational requirement only)*

Category 3 topics:

- *Pet ownership*
- *Bath/shower and toilet access*
- *Lowest floor level*
- *Accommodation on more than one floor*
- *Internet access*
- *Smoke alarms*
- *Garden access*
- *Renewable energy sources*
- *English language proficiency*
- *Other professional qualifications*
- *Qualifications or training required for occupation*
- *Completed stages of education*
- *Lifestyle*
- *Fertility*
- *Use of childcare*
- *Wheelchair use*
- *Number of jobs*
- *Voluntary work*
- *Asylum or immigration status*
- *Access to bank account*
- *National Insurance number*

Category 3* topics:

- *Sexual orientation*