

## **CENSUS ADVISORY GROUP**

### **AG (10) 07 Address Register**

#### **2011 Census Address Register – Next steps**

Good progress is being made in developing the match between the Postcode Address File (PAF) and the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) that will lie at the core of the address register for 2011.

Data suppliers have provided resolutions for anomalies in their datasets – and over 90% of Local Authorities have contributed by resolving problems in their areas.

This paper provides an update on plans for the next major stage – the field address check which will run from May to August 2010. The paper explains how areas have been selected and how the match will be carried out.

**This paper is provided for information – although comments from members or suggestions for improvements are welcomed at any time.**

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### THE ADDRESS CHECK: May – August 2010

#### Finding the difficult addresses and checking them

One definitive way of confirming whether or not an address should be sent a census questionnaire is to carry out a site visit. In most cases the status of the address will be obvious from outside.

Sometimes, however, the number of households within a building may not be clear from inspection and it is necessary to make contact with the householder for further clarification. This is the principle of ONS address checking fieldwork that will take place in the summer of 2010 in preparation for the 2011 Census.

The residential address check will employ 240 checking staff for four months – between May and August 2010 – and will cover 3.6 million addresses in England and Wales (around 15 per cent of the total list).

#### Choosing the check areas

The address check is being targeted using individual postcodes – and is focussed on those areas where we believe there is greatest uncertainty about the address list.

- The majority of the check postcodes (10 per cent of the list or two thirds of those being checked) have been selected for checking because they contain the largest numbers of ‘unmatched’ addresses - that is, they are the postcodes where there are the most significant differences between the main source products - the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) and the Postcode Address File (July 2009 match).
- A further 4 per cent of the country has been targeted using national data from the electoral roll and electricity meter suppliers. Where these sources identify multiple households behind one Royal Mail address, this is being treated as a proxy for complexity of the address structure – and we have picked those postcodes with the highest numbers of these.
- A final 1 per cent of postcodes have been selected randomly to help in the process of measuring the quality of the address list, of the check and of the source products.

Together, then, we have 15 per cent of addresses in the country being checked. All residential and commercial addresses in the chosen postcodes will be checked, not just those addresses that have caused us to target these areas.

All local authorities (excluding the Isles of Scilly) will contain some postcodes to be checked. Although there will obviously be some clustering, the check postcodes are scattered across most local authorities and a rural address is just as likely to be checked as an urban one. Again, we are picking the most troublesome postcodes not the easiest to check and these appear in many different types of areas. Lists of the postcodes being checked are available for local authorities to download from the Improvement and Development Agency’s 2011 Census Address Register Community of Practice.

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/1259927/home.do>

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### **Carrying out the check**

Each of the 240+ address checkers will be issued with 'address check record books' containing pre-printed lists of residential addresses for selected groups of postcodes, and maps showing where these addresses are thought to be.

The checkers will be charged with checking everything about the list provided to them. They will be looking for errors in the list, looking for new and demolished properties, checking classifications of the status of residential and commercial properties and reclassifying anything that is considered to be wrong.

They will also be checking any communal establishments included in their area and looking for any missing from their lists (see more details on this below). The address checker will assign each of the pre-printed addresses included in their book an outcome code relating to its status (for example, residential, demolished or commercial), make amendments to the written address where it is found to be different, and add any new addresses.

In short, they are trying to produce a correct list of residential and communal properties for the area they are covering.

A key part of their role is to look for new and hidden household spaces not included on the address list. Checkers are trained and instructed to look for any external signs to suggest multi-occupation, look at neighbouring houses for clues, look for occupied annexes and sheds – and knock on doors whenever there is any doubt whatsoever. Checkers will not be expected to go into addresses for this type of work. If additional households are denied by an occupier but checkers still suspect that they exist, they are under instruction to include them on their list.

### **Checking the communal establishments**

Communal establishments are defined as being establishments providing managed residential accommodation - for example hotels, boarding schools, prisons and nursing homes. Communal establishments are critical for census since they are likely to contain significant populations of people who are more difficult to count, such as students and migrants.

A separate list of communal establishments within England and Wales has been compiled from a variety of external data sources – and local authorities will be provided with an opportunity to add to this if they wish during the summer of 2010. Plans for this will be published shortly. In the meantime all known communal establishments in England and Wales will be address checked, though our approach to this will vary depending upon the type of establishment involved.

The check will consist of making contact with the manager to obtain contact and access details and also to confirm how many usual residents the establishment has. This information is required in order that communal establishments receive sufficient pre-printed forms for each individual likely to be living there at the time of the 2011 Census.

Address checkers will check most of the communal establishments that fall within the postcodes selected for address checking at the same time as they are checking the residential lists. For the rest of the country, simple communal establishments such as

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guest houses will be contacted by telephone, whilst establishments where access is more difficult such as prisons and military bases will be visited by appointment.

An additional 85 special address checkers will also be employed to assist in checking the more complex communal establishments in the check areas – but also to carry out a wider check covering the whole of the country. One of their roles will be to carry out a detailed check of the address structure of all university halls of residence and of complex caravan parks.

### **Adding the address check to the register**

Address check record books will be returned to ONS on a weekly basis throughout the check period and their evidence will be keyed by a team of clerical staff.

All evidence obtained from this process is added directly into the 'Evidence Base' to be balanced against the outcomes of other address resolution processes – such as responses from the data suppliers and local authorities and evidence from regular updates from the source products. The rules that will be used to balance the different evidence sources and take account of change will be developed over the summer as more evidence becomes available and the first results from the address check start to appear.

ONS intends to provide as much feedback as possible from the address check to data suppliers and local authorities. Decisions on which types of information can be shared and plans on how this will be managed will also be agreed over the next few months.

ONS  
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