



AG(03)04

**REVISED CENSUS OUTPUTS SCHEDULE
NOTE OF UPDATE REPORT GIVEN AT THE MEETING OF THE OUTPUT
WORKING GROUP ON 16 APRIL 2003**

- 1 A meeting of the OWG was held on 16 April 2003 at the Department of Health, Richmond House, Whitehall.

Action

- 2 **Advisory Group members are asked to note the issues on outputs covered at the meeting.**

Revised output schedule

- 3 ONS reported that the schedule for the release of Census results for England and Wales issued in November 2002 had been revised. The new schedule would enable steps to be taken to maintain the complete confidentiality of individuals while not affecting those figures that had been already published.
- 4 These steps had become necessary because the part of the One Number Census process that had imputed whole households had occasionally used 'donor' households more than once, resulting in information from actual households counted in the Census being replicated. These cases were clustered in certain defined small areas and posed a potential risk that information about such donor households might be disclosed.
- 5 Further processing had been carried out to correct the clustering and mitigate the risk of disclosure. This had only affected imputed households, and thus the numbers of households and persons had remained unchanged, as did the overall characteristics of the population, at local authority level and above.

- 6 ONS reported the release of Key Statistics for Local Authorities on 13 February, and plans to publish the standard tables down to LA level in a National Report on 7 May. The National Report would contain printed tables of the figures for England and Wales as a whole, also available in pdf format on the National Statistics Website, with the results for the English regions and Wales, and for local authorities, on CD with software to view and download. The CD version would contain the entire 2001 Census equivalent of the content of 1991 Census reports published in two printed parts for each of 55 counties over a 14-month period.
- 7 ONS confirmed that the CD version would be distributed without charge to key Census users, and would be available on request to others. The CD would also contain an electronic version of the Key Statistics report. ONS added that release dates for subsequent outputs would be announced in due course (see Annex A).
- 8 Extracts of all releases would be supplied on request by Census Customer Services: in spreadsheets; csv format; or print.
- 9 GROS reported that Scotland's Key Statistics Report had also been published on the 13 February, and that the 25 March had seen the publication of the standard tables in a Reference Report for Scotland and the Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities. Census Area Statistics for OAs (Output Areas) were due out at the end of April. GROS data had not been so badly affected by the imputation problems reported above.
- 10 Northern Ireland's Key Statistics Report had been made available on 19 December 2002, and NISRA reported that their standard tables down to Local Government District level had been published on 16 April and that ward data was scheduled for June. NI data for OAs were now scheduled for June (for Key Statistics) and August (for CAS).

Changes to tables

- 11 It was noted that over a quarter of the originally proposed UK tables had now transformed into separate England and Wales/ Scottish/Northern Ireland tables. Lists of the new tables and revised tables numbers would shortly be posted on the relevant websites.
- 12 No further changes to the England and Wales standard outputs are now being contemplated, but NISRA had reported that there might still be some further changes to Northern Ireland CAS tables. It was noted that full details of all changes would be helpful to users.

Definitions

- 13 ONS reported that it still planned to publish the *Definitions Volume* before the release of CAS. Several modules of the volume were already available via the ONS Census website.

Output geography

Timetable

- 14 ONS confirmed that the vector boundaries for the 175,434 OAs in England and Wales were now available without charge as a shape file on two CDs, containing vector boundaries, unique identifiers for OAs, population weighted and geometric centroids for OAs, and area measurements for OAs, together with a look up table of OAs by unit residential postcodes. (Subsequent look-up files would also include non-residential postcodes.) Further datasets would include:
- OA vector boundaries in MID/MIF format for England and Wales as a whole - CD release imminent;
 - OA vector boundaries in Shape format arranged by LAs for England and Wales as a whole - DVD release by early May;
 - OA vector boundaries in MID/MIF format arranged by LAs for England and Wales as a whole - DVD (also containing the three other files of OA vector boundaries) release in mid May;
 - postcode headcounts: counts of households, persons, males and females (with small cell adjustment) for unit postcodes (including split postcodes) with resident households/persons at Census day for England and Wales as a whole in the same four formats as files of vector boundaries - to be released concurrently with Key Statistics for wards and OAs - scheduled for June; and
 - generalised (filtered) boundary set - more details to follow.
- 15 Ward and OA boundaries would also be viewable on topographical base maps - as 1998 ward boundaries were currently viewable through NeSS on the National Statistics Website - in electronic media before or with the release of statistics at ward or OA level. More details would be issued in Census News, together with details of a service to provide hard copy maps. ONS reported that there are no current plans to supply raster versions on CD or DVD, but a service to supply hard copies would be provided at cost of copying the maps, including copying royalties to OS (Ordnance Survey.)
- 16 The user requirements for look-up files for other geographies such as Parliamentary Constituencies, Urban Areas and former (1991) counties, and for boundaries for higher geographies were noted.

Terms and conditions

- 17 ONS noted that OA boundaries were in part derived from Ordnance Survey material and that the terms and conditions for the use of the vector boundaries on CDs contained an Ordnance Survey licence, the terms of which must be accepted before use. This licence would not restrict use within an organisation or use jointly by organisations that had each already accepted the terms of the licence. But there were some circumstances, particularly where there was commercial value-added use of the vector boundaries, where a further licence from Ordnance Survey might be necessary.

- 18 ONS noted users' concerns over uncertainties arising from the part of the end user licence that covers OS interests. ONS has since reported that it would expand the preamble to the OS terms to clarify their scope, but guidance on such terms in part may only be established on a case-by-case basis. Users were urged to contact Census Customer Services should there be any case of doubt. Further details were contained in the Output Prospectus.
- 19 ONS took the view that there had been general agreement that the 2001 Census output geography represented a very considerable advance on the position after 1991, with many opportunities to put more geography into statistical analysis and presentation. ONS, however, acknowledged that there had been teething problems with the boundary datasets, and welcomed comment from expert users and others on the OWG which could help them to improve the products and/or the support information for the wider user community.

Delays to the timing of the release

- 20 The release of the OA boundaries had been later than planned, although in time for preparations before release of the local statistics. The revised scheduling of the production of OAs had been to allow compliance with a new National Statistics policy to harmonise output to boundaries as they exist at the end of each calendar year. The OA boundaries had therefore been produced to fit the ward and parish/community boundaries in place on 31 December 2002. This also met the very widespread customer demand for output for up-to-date areas.
- 21 The availability of the OA boundaries has also been delayed by an additional month to allow a limited number of changes and corrections after quality assurance. Perhaps the most significant was that the 'extent of the realm', which included areas of sea and which had been used in the production of OAs, had been retained as the containing outer boundary of the OAs in preference to mean high water mark to avoid some splitting of coastal OAs into two or more part. However, ONS confirmed that hectare measurements for coastal OAs would relate to the mean high water mark to avoid distortion in density calculations.
- 22 NISRA had reported that OA boundaries and accompanying look-up tables were planned to be available in May.
- 23 GROS reported that geography products had been released on 25 March 2003. These included the postcode to OA index (including population and household counts for each postcode), the OA to higher area index and the OA boundaries.

Orders

- 24 ONS noted that Orders for the CDs should be made to Census Customer Services, who will contact all those who have previously registered an interest in receiving OA boundaries to confirm orders.

Bulk delivery

- 25 ONS reported that PDFs of all printed reports would be presented via the Census website. The primary access, however, to standard area output would generally be via Neighbourhood Statistics, and that every effort would be made to put output on the website as soon as possible after publication. Further announcements would be made on the timing of these.
- 26 Output in CSV Format would be designed to enable input of large files into external database systems. In particular, discussion with Hywel Davies and others were ongoing to achieve compatibility with SASPAC.
- 27 CSV DVDs would contain output for higher level geographies up to and including England and Wales, and ONS added that the results in reports would also be available in CSV format on DVDs or CDs on request.
- 28 GROS reported that the SCROL website had gone live on 25 March. Currently key statistics, univariate tables and census profiles were available on line. Standard area tables would be made available through the scrolanalyser section of SCROL. GROS reported that was undergoing final testing and there were plans on releasing components of the area statistics over the coming weeks. The availability of the more detailed results on SCROL would be notified through SCROL and on the Census pages of the GROS website.
- 29 In addition to the SCROL website, three CD products are also available, containing:
- CD1 - Key Statistics and Univariate Statistics for Administrative and Electoral areas (free) (Areas: Councils, Health boards, CAS Wards, Scottish Parliamentary Regions and Constituencies);
 - CD2 - Key Statistics and Univariate Statistics for Output Areas and Selected Higher Areas (£5) (Areas: Output Areas, Councils, CAS and Standard Wards, CAS and Standard Postcode Sectors); and
 - CD3 - Key Statistics, Univariate Statistics and Census Area Statistics for Settlements and Localities (£5)
- 30 NISRA had reported that their corresponding website – NICA – was being developed in partnership with GROS, and that there were hopes to go live in the summer.

Origin-Destination statistics

- 31 Paper OWG(03)01 had been circulated before the meeting. Annex A listed comments received on the Final Specifications consultation document published in September 2001, together with Census Offices' response to them. Annex B set out the consequent changes had been to the tables. Further minor changes might result from further consideration within the Census Offices and the need to bring the style and consistency of the tables into line with that used for Area Statistics. NISRA had indicated that they might have to allow development to proceed on a GB basis until such time as they have fully assessed the proposals.

- 32 A meeting to present the latest specification to interested parties may be organised. Those invited would include user representatives and those third-party organisations that plan to produce software for users to analyse the origin-destination statistics. These organisations would include the Greater London Authority (who produce SASPAC) and Leeds University (who are developing a web-delivery system).
- 33 When detailed plans have been drawn up for the steps needed for delivery of the products, the Census Offices will announce the expected date of delivery of the final products.
- 34 ONS confirmed that the Census Offices were still giving consideration to the proposal to split OAs to create workplace zones in areas with large daytime populations. It had not yet been decided whether the methodology for creating such zones should follow a standard or user-defined basis.

Commissioned output

- 35 ONS reported that the cost of running commissioned tables through SuperCross would be low, and the additional costs of repeating tables for other areas would be minimal. ONS would investigate the opportunity for sharing cost of commissioned tables between users. Though a number of possible options were suggested as to how this might be done, no obvious solution emerged.

Other issues

Imputation

- 36 ONS reaffirmed that there were no plans to make available levels of imputation at the OA level, and reminded users that such information would not necessarily provide a reliable indicator of data quality. [Subsequently, however, a team within ONS has started investigating devising a small area quality indicator. Information about how this will materialise and timing will be announced in due course.]

ANNEX A REVISED OUTPUT TIMETABLE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Releases	Date	Formats
National Report for England and Wales:	7 May 2003	Print
Standard tables for Regions and LAs	7 May 2003	Supertable CD
Standard tables for Wards	June/July 2003	Supertable CD/CSV DVD
Standard tables for Health Authorities	Aug/Sept 2003	Supertable CD/CSV DVD
Key Statistics Series:		
National Assembly for Wales Constituencies	3 April 2003	Print
Wards	June/July 2003	Supertable CD
Key Statistics for Output Areas	June/July 2003	Supertable CD / CSV DVD
Health Authorities	July 2003	Print/Supertable CD
UK Parliamentary Constituencies	Aug/Sept 2003	Print/Supertable CD
Postcode Sectors	Sept/Oct 2003	Print/Supertable CD
Parishes (England)/Communities (Wales)	October 2003	Print/Supertable CD
Urban Areas	November 2003	Print/Supertable CD
Welsh language bi-lingual report	July/Aug 2003	Print
Census Area Statistics:		
Output Areas and above	July 2003	Supertable CD/csv DVD

Notes:

- PDFs of all printed reports will be presented via the website
- CSV Format: designed to enable input of large files into external database systems.
- Key Statistics for wards and OAs will be released in advance of Standard Tables or CAS
- CSV DVDs will contain output for higher level geographies up to and including England and Wales
- the results in reports will also be available on CSV DVDs or CDs on request