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2021 Census Outputs Strategy Consultation for Northern Ireland (<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nisra-census-office/2021-output-questionnaire/>)

Response
29639336

Section 1: About you

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(https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nisra-census-office/2021-output-questionnaire/consultation/publicated_select_respondent?uId=29639336)

☐ Include unanswered questions

(i). Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Please select one item
published_select_respondent?
(Required)

- ☒ Individual
- ☐ Organisation – please specify:

(ii). Please provide your contact details.

Your name (Required)

Prof David Martin

(iii). Which of the following best describes the sector you work in? - Please select one. This will assist us in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached.

Please select one item
(Required)

- ☐ Central government
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Statutory body (for example, health, education, transport, housing, etc.)
- ☐ Private sector
- ☒ Social / Academic research

- ☐ Market research / Data analytics
- ☐ Charity / Community / Voluntary
- ☐ Utility provider
- ☐ Press / Media
- ☐ Genealogist / Family historian
- ☐ Other – please specify

(iv). May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation?
This may be to follow up any specific points we need to clarify.

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

(v). May we contact you in future about the 2021 Census? For example, to provide you with a link to the results of this consultation, to inform you of further consultations or provide updated information on the 2021 Census.

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 1 continued: About you

(vi). Do you consent to your name being published with your response?

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response
- ☐ No, please remove my name before publishing my response

Section 2: Background

1. What are your main topics of interest? Tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Age
- ☒ Car or Van Availability
- ☒ Central Heating
- ☒ Country of Birth
- ☒ Ethnic Group
- ☒ Economic Activity
- ☒ General Health
- ☒ Household and Family Relationships
- ☒ Long-term health problem or disability
- ☒ Main Language
- ☒ Marital and Civil Partnership Status
- ☒ Migration
- ☒ Number of Rooms
- ☒ Occupation
- ☒ Passports Held
- ☒ Provision of Unpaid Care
- ☒ Qualifications Held
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Sex
- ☒ Tenure and landlord
- ☒ Travel to Work or Place of Study
- ☒ Type of Accommodation
- ☒ Type of Long-Term Condition
- ☒ Other – please specify

All census variables as potential components of multivariate indicators

2. Which geographies from the 2011 Census results did you use? Tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Assembly Area
- ☐ Education and Library Board
- ☐ Health and Social Care Trust
- ☐ Neighbourhood Renewal Area
- ☐ Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
- ☒ Small Area
- ☒ Super Output Area
- ☒ Postcode
- ☐ Settlement 2015
- ☐ Electoral Ward
- ☐ 26 Local Government Districts
- ☐ 11 Local Government Districts
- ☐ District Electoral Area 2014
- ☐ Travel to Work Area
- ☒ Grid Square
- ☐ Other - please specify

3. What did you use the 2011 Census results for? Tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Commercial purposes
- ☐ Resource allocation
- ☐ Service planning and delivery
- ☐ Policy development and monitoring
- ☒ Academic research
- ☐ Personal interest
- ☐ Other purposes – please specify

Section 3: Accessibility and Flexibility

4. I would prefer earlier access to data after census day via an online flexible dissemination system rather than waiting for tables to be developed by NISRA.

Please select one item

- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Not Sure

5. Being able to define my own tables is more useful to me than using predefined tables.

Please select one item

- ☐ Agree
- ☒ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Not Sure

6. I would find it useful to be provided with a small number of univariate tables, similar to the Key Statistics and Quick Statistics tables produced for the 2011 Census outputs, alongside those I can generate through the flexible dissemination system.

Please select one item

- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Not Sure

7. Currently, NISRA are considering releasing 2021 Census data using the flexible dissemination system, but we'll also aim to provide an application programming interface (API). Would an API to access 2021 Census data be useful to you?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Any other comments?

API data especially useful to UK Data Service and potentially for data reproccsing projects which integrate population datasets from multiple sources. Also potentially a valuable aid to UK data assembly if integrated access is not available from NISRA/ONS/GROS.

Section 3 continued: Accessibility and Flexibility**9. Which supporting information did you use in 2011? Tick all that apply***Please select all that apply*

- ☒ Definitions and output classifications
- ☒ Methodology overview
- ☒ Quality assurance reports
- ☒ Guidance notes
- ☒ Comparability of 2001 and 2011
- ☐ Other - Please specify

10. Where would you expect to access supporting information? Tick all that apply*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ In the data tables
- ☒ In a link next to the data table
- ☒ Accessed via another part of the NISRA website

11. In 2011, did you read the accompanying analysis and commentary?*Please select one item*

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No (I didn't need to)
- ☐ No (I didn't know it was available)

12. What format of accompanying commentary do you find most useful?

Tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Statistical bulletin describing key outputs
- ☐ Interactive data visualisations
- ☐ Infographics
- ☐ Short stories
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other - Please specify

Section 4: Timeliness of Release

14. Are you content with the proposed release schedule?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 5: Public Confidence

17. Do you support the use of targeted record swapping as a form of Statistical Disclosure Control?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 5 continued: Public Confidence

19. Do you support the use of cell key perturbation as an additional form of Statistical Disclosure Control?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes

☐ No

21. In 2021, would you be content with slightly inconsistent table totals in order to receive the results in a more timely manner?

Please select one item

☐ Yes

☒ No

22. If you have selected no, please explain why.

Using cell key modification as part of an interactive table builder, it may be inevitable that there will be some inconsistency between estimates generated by different series of aggregation/disaggregation but these should always be stable. It would be highly problematic if the official outputs ever contained multiple values for the same estimate produced at different times (if that is what the question means), as this will result in complex variations in data use that could be impossible to trace in later analysis.

23. Any other comments?

Three priorities 1) minimal perturbation 2) consistent perturbation (always the same result from the same data extract) 3) clear documentation

Section 6: User Acceptability

24. Did you use UK data from the 2011 Census?

Please select one item

☒ Yes

☐ No

25. How important is being able to access and compare data for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for your work?

Please select one item

- ☒ Important
- ☐ Not important
- ☐ Not sure

26. In 2021, which of the following would you be interested in? Tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- ☐ UK statistics totals
- ☒ Small area statistics for different geographies across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

27. How would you expect to access UK data?

Please select one item

- ☒ Access data about each UK country through a single website for example, select data about Scottish local authorities through the NISRA website
- ☐ Visit each UK country website to access data about that country

28. Any other comments?

Access through a single website is ideal, but access to an unambiguously comparable set of data (even if through different websites) is the priority

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

29. Did you use the Ireland and Northern Ireland joint report from the 2011 Census?

Please select one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

30. How important is it being able to access and compare data for Ireland

and Northern Ireland for your work?*Please select one item*

- ☐ Important
- ☐ Not important
- ☒ Not sure

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

32. In 2021, Census Office are considering two alternative options for releasing data at different geographic levels. It should be noted that due to the risk of disclosure Census Office can only provide one of these. Annex 2 of our consultation document highlights the differences in the 2021 Census outputs which would be produced by each of the options detailed below. Please select which option you would prefer.

Please select one item

- ☐ Census Office are considering the production of 2021 Census statistics for the administrative and statistical geographies used in both the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. This will allow comparability of census information at consistent geographies across 2001, 2011 and 2021. However, due to the risk of disclosure, 2021 Census statistics would not be made available for the new Electoral Wards.
- ☒ An alternative option is the production of results for a new small area statistical geography. This would allow the production of 2021 Census results for a new set of statistical geographies consistent with the 2015 revision of local government boundaries. This new geography would nest within the new Electoral Wards. However, 2021 Census data would therefore not be made available for the old local government boundaries or electoral wards, therefore users would be unable to compare 2001-2011-2021 census results for these geographies.

33. As previously stated, NISRA will not be able to provide 2021 Census results for both options above. In deciding the overall design of 2021 Census outputs geographies, NISRA will take the following into consideration; legislative requirements, national and international obligations, stakeholders needs, the allocation of public money, the most appropriate statistical geographies at that time, efficiency and any other factors that users believe are necessary. Please use the box below to detail any other suggestions or comments you have?

There is no ideal answer here, but I have a concern that user acceptability and widespread buy-in to the 2021 data will necessitate a strong tie to

contemporary small area geography - for example as the basis for future multivariate and deprivation indicators. Assuming that the grid square product continues to be available to support analyses of change over time, re-basing on the 2015 ward geography is probably the best of the two options offered here for the main statistical series. The best alternative would be to continue to use 2001-2011 small areas but produce a series of non-disclosive official estimates for (at least) new local government districts.

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

34. Did you use the 2011 Census grid square product?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

35. Would you use a 2021 Census grid square product if it were made available?

Please select one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

36. How important is it to your work to have a 2021 Census grid square product?

Please select one item

- ☒ Important
- ☐ Not Important
- ☐ Not Sure

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

37. Did you use 2011 Census origin and destination data?

Please select one item

Yes



☐ No

38. Would you use 2021 Census origin and destination data if it were made available?

Please select one item



Yes



No

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

39. In 2011, which alternative population statistics did you use? Please tick all that apply

Please select all that apply



Short-term residents



Daytime population



Workplace population



None

40. Would you use 2021 Census alternative population data if they were made available?

Please select one item



Yes



No

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

41. Did you use the 2011 Census bulk download facility?

Please select one item



Yes

No



42. Would you use a 2021 Census bulk download facility if it were made available?

Please select one item



Yes



No

Section 6 continued: User Acceptability

43. In 2011, which microdata products did you use? Please tick all that apply

Please select all that apply



Microdata teaching file



Secure microdata



Safeguarded microdata



None

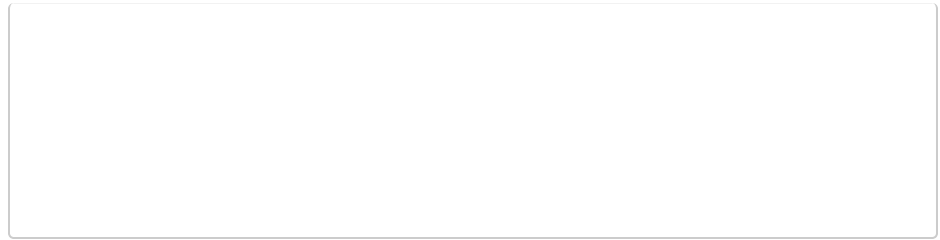
45. Do you have any other requirements for specialist products? If so, please list your requirements below?

Was a user of 2011 and 2001 census -linked NI Longitudinal Study and would want to use 2021-linked LS data.

Section 7: Final Comments

46. Do you have any final comments about the areas covered in the 2021 Census Outputs Strategy Consultation document?

Please note: consultation answered primarily in personal research capacity, but also with reference to role as Deputy Director of UK Data Service.



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