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

Response
416615118

Section 1: About you

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(https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nisra-census-office/2021-output-questionnaire/consultation/publicated_select_respondent?uuld=416615118)

☐ 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:

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

(ii). Please provide your contact details.

Your name (Required)

Alan Mitchell

(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

Origin/Destination

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?

The Council has some concerns that an API/flexible dissemination programme would require a certain level of skill to use and thus would be a barrier to lay users. In addition, any API should be user friendly and fully functional, with training provided for end users.

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

13. Any other comments?

Some supporting information should be made available in the meta data with links to larger reports where appropriate

Section 4: Timeliness of Release**14. Are you content with the proposed release schedule?***Please select one item*

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

16. Any other comments?

The Council respects the scale of the operation required to collate Census data and the time it takes to produce robust outputs for public consumption. However, the Council would urge the prioritisation of information where the Council is the only source, such as, but not limited to: country of birth, origin/destination and religion.

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

23. Any other comments?

The Council does have some concern regarding inconsistent table totals from the Census. Whilst the timeliness is important (and avoiding disclosure of the upmost importance), in our experience inconsistent table totals can cause confusion and undermine users confidence in the data. If this trade off must occur, we would stress that a comprehensive guidance note be issued in the meta data.

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

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

31. Any other comments?

As a border district, it is very important that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council can draw comparisons with neighbouring areas, including those in the Republic of Ireland (particularly those in the ICBAN region). In addition, there will be increased interest in comparing Fermanagh and Omagh (and other districts) with areas in the Republic of Ireland following the outcome of Brexit.

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?

As a local council, we rely on NISRA to produce accurate statistical information about our area. This should allow a full picture of the district consistently across all geographical tiers; i.e. the 7 DEA's should add up to the district total and the wards should add up to the DEA total. Therefore we fully support Option B. However we would ask NISRA to explore the potential of using cell key perturbation or other techniques to allow the publication of all geographies.

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

44. Would you use 2021 microdata if it were made available?

Please select one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Section 7: Final Comments

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

The Council feels strongly that the Census must provide information in line with the current geographical boundaries i.e. LGD14 – DEA14 – Ward14. Only with this information can we get a full and consistent profile of the district. In addition, we would stress that consideration be given to the end user. In the current environment, where the demand for evidence is ever increasing, the definition of end-users is now broad, including lay-users. Everything produced from the 2021 Census should be developed with this in mind.

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