

2021 CENSUS

CENSUS HISTORY & CONTEXT

What is a Census?

- Carried out by most countries (every 5/10 years) – long history
- Collects “population” data – **used for statistics purposes only**
- Lots of methods (e.g. paper, on-line, both etc...)

Census History

GB & Ireland (1801-1921)

- 1801 - England and Wales
- 1841 - Ireland (attempts in 1821 and 1831)
- 1841-1911 (decade) - 1901/11 <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Northern Ireland

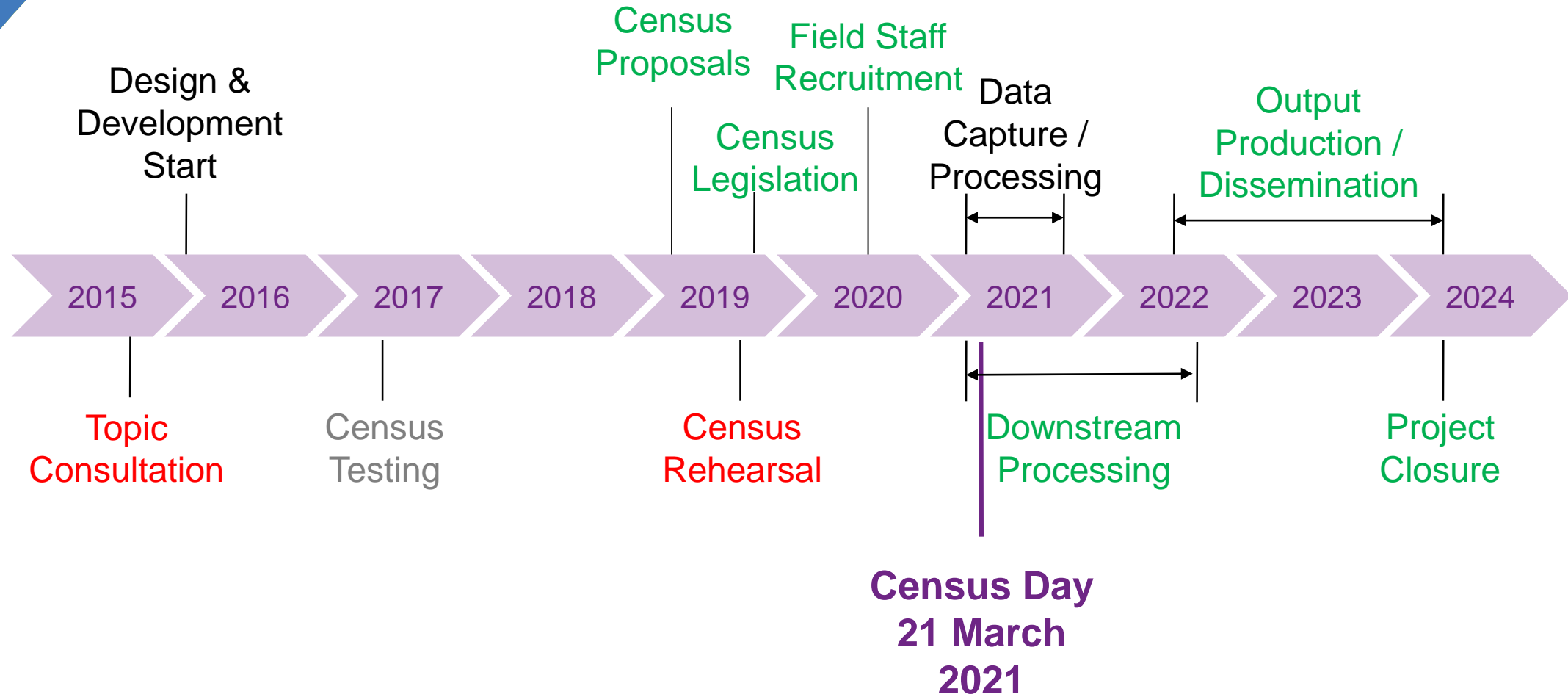
- Northern Ireland: No census in 1921
- Census in 1926, 1937
- an “enumeration” in 1939 - rationing & 1948 Health Service
- 1951-2011 (decade) with a 1966 mid-term Census
- [1969 Census Act \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

2021 Census - volumes

- up to 1 million forms, reminder letters etc...
- 1,900 field staff
- large advertising campaign

- 850k addresses, 750k+ occupied households
- 1,100 communal establishments e.g. Nursing Homes
- 1.9 million people

Timeline



2021 CENSUS

Proposals Document

Proposals Document - Overview

- Registrar General's proposals for the 2021 Census
- Published on 4 April 2019
- Next Census - **21 March 2021** - UK-wide
- Census will cover whole population and housing
- Working closely with ONS (White Paper published - Dec 18)
- Collaborating with National Records Scotland and Central Statistics Office, Ireland
- Full 'end-to-end' rehearsal in October 2019

Key Strategic Objectives

- To provide high quality, value-for-money, fit-for-purpose statistics that meet user needs, and which are consistent, comparable and accessible across the UK;
- To protect, and be seen to protect, confidential personal census information;
- To deliver a high quality 2021 online census data collection operation;



Key Strategic Objectives

- To maximise overall response rates and minimise differences in response rates in specific areas and among particular population groups;
- To secure public and user confidence in the final results and deliver them in a timely manner; and,
- To encourage wider use and exploration of census results to facilitate greater benefits from census outputs.

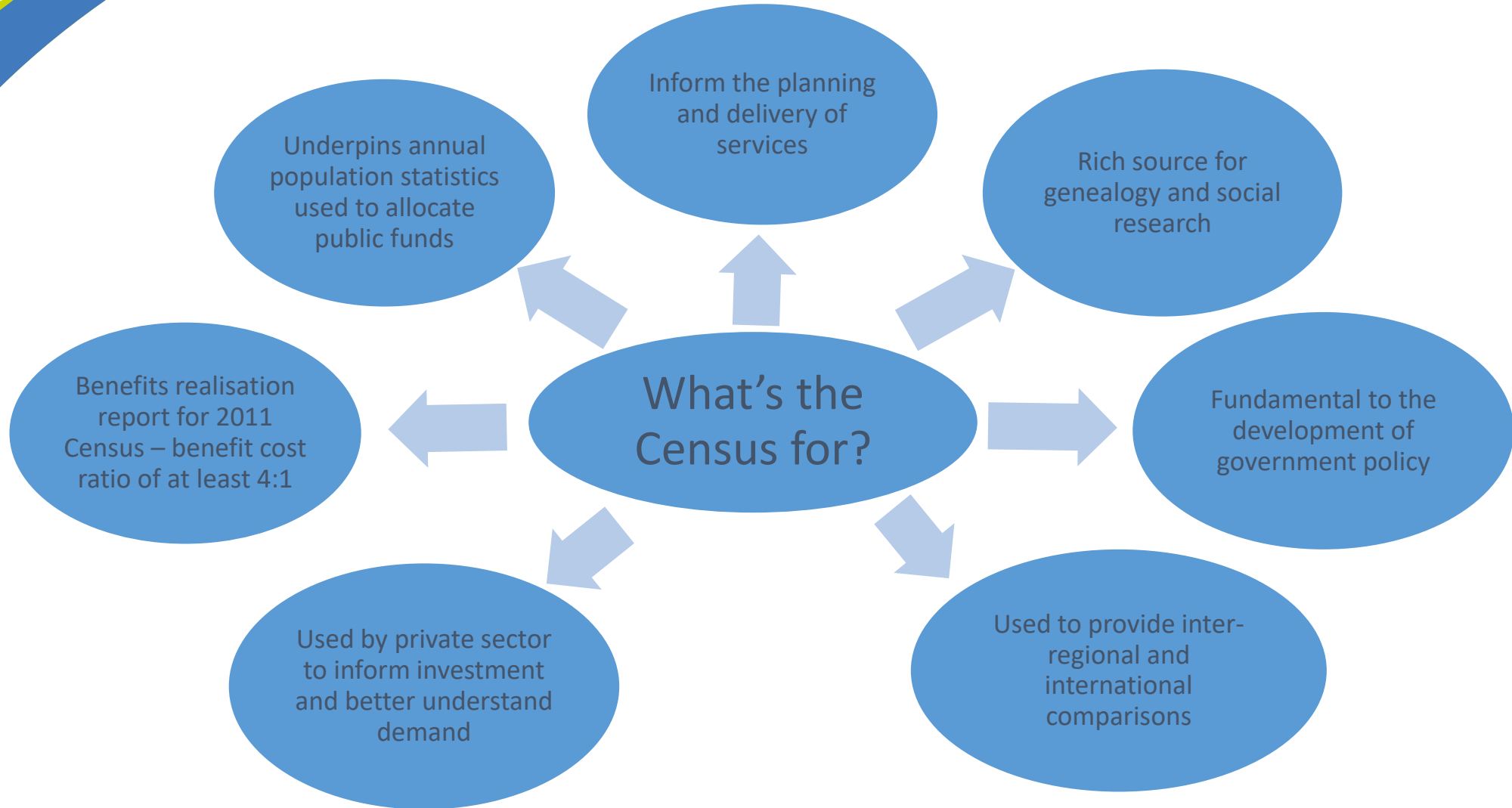


Key design features

- Digital-first census – 60% target for online responses
- Paper questionnaire also available
- Four page questionnaire - no longer than in 2011
- Development of census address register
- Field force of 1,900 to follow-up non-respondees
- Extensive support services provided
- Increased use of administrative data
- Data processing in Northern Ireland



What's the Census for?



How did we get to here?

- Programme of consultation, research and testing
- 2015 Topic Consultation
 - 46 responses received – assessment published in August 2016
- Public acceptability testing of questions
- 2017 Census Test
- 2017 Address check



Collecting the information

- Challenges to maximising response rate
- Development of census address register
- Enumeration strategy developed
- Digital-first, but paper questionnaire available
- Action plans developed for specific ‘hard to reach’ groups
- Public contact model developed
 - Initial contact letter and series of reminder letters
 - Field follow-up, with early follow up for some
- Separate arrangements for Communal Establishments

Support Services

- Contact centre
 - Facility for interpretative services
 - Facility for telephone capture
- Assisted digital
- Online help (incl. web chat)
- Online questionnaire available in Irish and Ulster-Scots
- Translation booklets available in 16 languages
- Questionnaire and explanatory material in Braille and large print



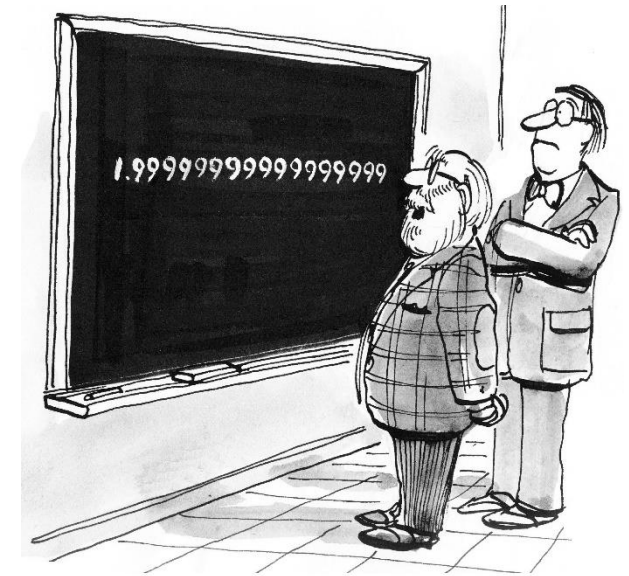
Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

- Information events
- Branding and Census Logo
- Marketing and Advertising
- Community Liaison
- Completion events
- Social Media
- Schools Projects



Data processing

- Working with ONS to deliver data capture and coding
- NISRA will conduct all subsequent data processing
- Data from administrative sources used to assess and improve data quality
- Plans for an independent Census Coverage Survey
- Developments to the Census Under Enumeration project



“Let’s round it off to 2 and go to lunch.”

Confidentiality, Privacy and Security

- All staff bound by the Census (Confidentiality) (NI) Order 1991 and sign a Census Confidentiality Undertaking
- All census data managed in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Usage of personal census data will comply fully with the Census Act (NI) 1969 and standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics
- NISRA will publish/issue a Privacy Notice
- NISRA will carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment

Legislation

- Primary legislation – Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969
 - Amendment through Census Bill
- Secondary legislation required for 2021 Census
 - Census Order
 - Census Regulations
- In absence of devolved administration the appropriate legislation is expected to be taken forward at Westminster
- Census is fully compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998
- NISRA will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment

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Questionnaire Content

Topic inclusion evaluation criteria

- Purpose of User requirement
 - incl. lower geo-levels
 - comparability beyond NI
 - continuity with previous census
- Requirement for multivariate analysis
- Suitability of alternative sources
- Other requirements, incl.
 - data quality
 - public acceptability
 - respondent burden

How did we get to here?

- Programme of consultation, research and testing
- 2015 Topic Consultation
 - Presented NISRA's initial view
 - Sought discussion and development of topics for inclusion
- Range of Topic Expert Panels across all themes
 - These themes were Demography, Migration, Housing, Labour Market, Education, Ethnic Group, Identity Language, Religion, and Health
 - eg Working towards refinements – qualifications, health

How did we get to here (cont)?

- Public acceptability testing of questions
- 2017 Census Test (Autumn 2017)
 - 15,000 homes, 2 people / household, 60% of individuals online
 - Order Effect of questions
 - Operation of the Irish / Ulster-Scots filter
- Range of Pop-Up Testing
 - 2017 Balmoral Show – language and migration
 - 2019 Balmoral Show – Health questions
 - Central Belfast – quals, health, sign language, Irish/Ulster-Scots filter
 - Turas, An Droichead – Irish / Ulster-Scots filter

Content of questionnaire

- Comparability with previous censuses is important
- Covers household accommodation and individual questions
- Some questions only asked of over 16's
- Majority of 2011 questions remain unchanged
- 4-page questionnaire for all usual residents
- Some details taken for visitors staying on census night

New topics for 2021 Census

- **Renewable Energy systems**
 - To inform progress toward achieving government targets
 - To establish a detailed benchmark
- **Sexual Orientation**
 - To inform policy development
 - To enable organisations to meet and monitor their statutory obligations
 - Only asked of individuals aged 16 or over
 - Includes a 'Prefer not to say' tick-box
- **UK Armed Forces**
 - To help to better meet the needs of veterans and their families
 - Only asked of previously serving members



New Question – Renewable Energy systems

- Considered the current technologies in use today
- Ability to write in other technologies
- This is energy but the heating question has been amended to include renewables

H10 What type of **renewable energy systems** does this accommodation have?

 Tick all that apply.

- Solar panels for electricity
- Solar panels for heating water
- Wind turbine
- Other, write in

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- No renewable energy systems

New Question - Sexual Orientation

- Studied international convention on questions currently in use
- Established question in social surveys
- Question is being made voluntary
- Tested in 2017 test exercise with no issues
- Mitigations
 - 16 and over only
 - Individual form available

23 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Straight/Heterosexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other sexual orientation, write in

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- Prefer not to say

Likely Question - UK Armed Forces

- Developed with a number of stakeholders
- Harmonised UK question
- Tested in omnibus surveys
- Security risk raised as issue
 - online first
 - individual questionnaire
- Considering Administrative data alternatives

27 Have you **previously** served in the UK Armed Forces?

➔ Current serving members should only tick 'No'.

- No
- Yes, **previously** served in Regular Armed Forces
- Yes, **previously** served in Reserve Armed Forces

Questions amended from 2011

- Ethnic Group
 - To include Roma and Filipino
- Ability in Irish and Ulster-Scots
 - To include frequency of use of these languages
- Long-term health conditions
 - To include Autism or Asperger syndrome
- Qualifications
 - Revised after feedback from the 2011 Census
 - To include new question on apprenticeships

Revised ethnic group question

- Revised to reflect current make up based upon admin data sources
- Multiple write-ins as in 2011 to accommodate everyone

12 What is your ethnic group?

➔ Tick one box only.


- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Roma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed ethnic group, write in | |

- Any other ethnic group, write in

Revised Languages questions

- Will be identical for both Irish and Ulster Scots
- Added frequency of spoken language to question
- Closer to question in Republic of Ireland

17 Can you understand, speak, read or write Irish?

 Tick all that apply.

No ability

Understand

Speak

Read

Write

How often do you speak Irish?

Daily

Weekly

Less often

Never

Revised Health conditions

- Redesigned with multiple stakeholders
- Additional conditions
- Tested well with general public and groups with accessibility issues
- Online will be split across two screens

21 Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?

 Tick all that apply.

- Deafness or partial hearing loss
- Blindness or partial sight loss
- A mobility or dexterity difficulty which requires the use of a wheelchair in the home
- A mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities (for example walking or dressing)
- An intellectual or learning disability (for example Down syndrome)
- A learning difficulty (for example dyslexia)
- Autism or Asperger syndrome
- An emotional, psychological or mental health condition (for example depression or schizophrenia)
- Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss (for example dementia)
- Long-term pain or discomfort
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (for example asthma)
- Other condition (for example cancer, diabetes or heart disease)
- No condition

Revised Health conditions

- Redesigned with multiple stakeholders
- Additional conditions
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- No condition

Revised qualifications questions

- In line with ONS
 - Will allow better harmonisation
- Simplified more logical structure to questions
- Apprenticeships new question

24 Have you achieved a qualification at degree level or above?

➤ For example, degree, foundation degree, HND or HNC, NVQ level 4 and above, teaching or nursing.

Yes No

Revised qualifications questions

- In line with ONS
 - Will allow better harmonisation
- Simplified more logical structure to questions
- Apprenticeships new question

25 Have you achieved any other qualifications?

➔ Tick all that apply.

➔ If your qualifications are not listed below tick the box that contains the nearest equivalent.

- 5 or more GCSEs (A*-C, 9-4), O levels (passes) or CSEs (grade 1)
- Any other GCSEs, O levels or CSEs (any grades)
- 2 or more A levels, 4 or more AS levels
- 1 A level, 2-3 AS levels
- 1 AS level
- NVQ level 3, BTEC National, OND or ONC, City and Guilds Advanced Craft
- NVQ level 2, BTEC General, City and Guilds Craft
- NVQ level 1
- Any other qualifications
- No qualifications

Revised qualifications questions

- In line with ONS
 - Will allow better harmonisation
- Simplified more logical structure to questions
- Apprenticeships new question

26 Have you completed an apprenticeship?
➤ For example, trade, advanced, foundation, modern.

Yes No

Questions which have been removed

- Some questions have been removed from the questionnaire to manage burden
- Individual questions on:
 - Short-term migration
 - Voluntary work
- Household questions on:
 - Number of rooms
 - Self-contained accommodation

Household Questionnaires

- **Online**
 - Household Questionnaire (up to 30 people)
 - Individual Questionnaire
- **Paper**
 - Household Questionnaire – six persons
 - Household Continuation Questionnaire – households more than six
 - Individual Questionnaire

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Outputs

2021 Census Outputs Strategy Consultation

- Ran from 18th October 2018 to 9th January 2019
- Internal events – lunchtime seminars, meetings with local government statisticians
- Public events – Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen
- Consultation feedback – 52 responses
 - Government
 - Charities
 - Academics
 - Political parties
 - Local councils
 - Private sector
 - Members of the public

Release Schedule

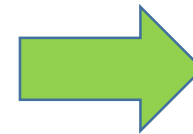
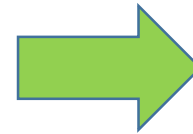
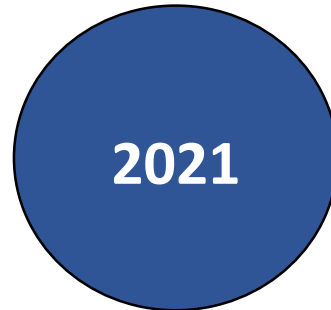
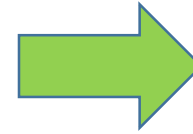
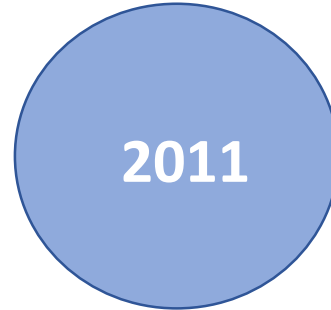
- UK Statistics Authority evaluation feedback – Timeliness
- First release by Summer 2022
- Majority of all other standard releases by Summer 2023

- Disseminated to a pre-arranged timetable
- Coordinate across the UK
- Detailed timeline early 2022

Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC)

Data Confidentiality

- Legal obligation
- Protection from identification
- UK-wide Harmonised approach
- Additional protection over 2011



Cell Key Perturbation

- Statistical technique
- Protection from 'differencing'
- Proportions remain the same
- More timely 2021 Census outputs
- Higher levels of geographies unperturbed



Flexible dissemination tool

- Jointly developing with Central Statistics Office (Ireland)
- Will have user self service facility
 - Allowing customisation of outputs
 - eg Preselection of groups or variables

Table - Layout 1
 Chart - Line
 Chart - Bar
 Table - Layout 2
 Tab delimited with heading
 Semicolon delimited with heading
 Excel (xlsx)
 Comma delimited with heading
 PX-file
 Space delimited with heading

Continue

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Accommodation Type - Households: QS402NI (statistical geographies) by SOA and Data					
2						
3			Unshared dwelling: Whole house or bungalow: Total			
4	95AA01S1	Aldergrove 1	305			
5	95AA01S2	Aldergrove 2	598			
6	95AA01S3	Aldergrove 3	533			
7						
8						

Output Geography: Making a decision

- Option to retain current geographies or to develop new geographies
- User consideration:
 - Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008
 - Boundaries Reviews every 8 to 12 years
 - Potential review: 2017 – 2021
 - Potential new boundaries: 2022 – 2026
 - Consultation responses
- NISRA consideration:
 - National and international obligations
 - Allocation of public money
 - Utility of census results
- Welcome views on this subject

2011/2021 Census Outputs

Output products will be like 2011

Standard Outputs

- Population and household counts
- Key Statistics
- Quick Statistics
- Local Characteristics
- Detailed Characteristics
- Alternatives Populations (daytime.....)

2011/2021 Census Outputs

Specialist Outputs

- Bulk download
- Microdata
- Origin and Destination
- Grid Square Product
- ADRC/NILS data provision
- Commissioned tables

2011/2021 Census Outputs

Supporting information

- Metadata
- Statistical bulletins
- Press releases
- Commentary and Analysis
- Short stories and infographics



2021 Census Outputs

- Same range of tables as produced in 2011
- Output from new questions
- Additional Statistical Disclosure Control
- New dissemination platform
- Commissioned table service
- Detailed Release schedule – early 2022

2021 CENSUS

Census Rehearsal 2019

Census Rehearsal - Overview

- Key milestone in the planning process
- Typically carried out 18-24 months prior to Census Day
- Large-scale rehearsal of processes and systems being developed for the 2021 census
- Rehearsal day - **Sunday 13 October 2019** – same date across UK
- Rehearsal Period – Mid-September to Mid November
- Test the major design changes from the last census in 2011 – online first approach



Main Aims of the Rehearsal

- To confirm the viability of the proposed 2021 Census field methodologies, data collection services and management arrangements;
- To assess the quality of the collected data arising from the new and innovative methodologies and systems being developed for the 2021 Census; and
- To provide NISRA, its partners and suppliers with exposure to, and experience of, the range of situations likely to be met in the 2021 Census operation so that improvements can be implemented where necessary.



Primary Objectives of the Rehearsal

Accuracy and coverage of the Address Register

Communications

Stakeholder engagement

Supporting public interface services

Proposed field management structure

Field processes and the Field Work Management Tool

Online collection platform

Paper questionnaire

Proposed questions

Data transfer methods and data processing

Criteria for choosing the Rehearsal Areas

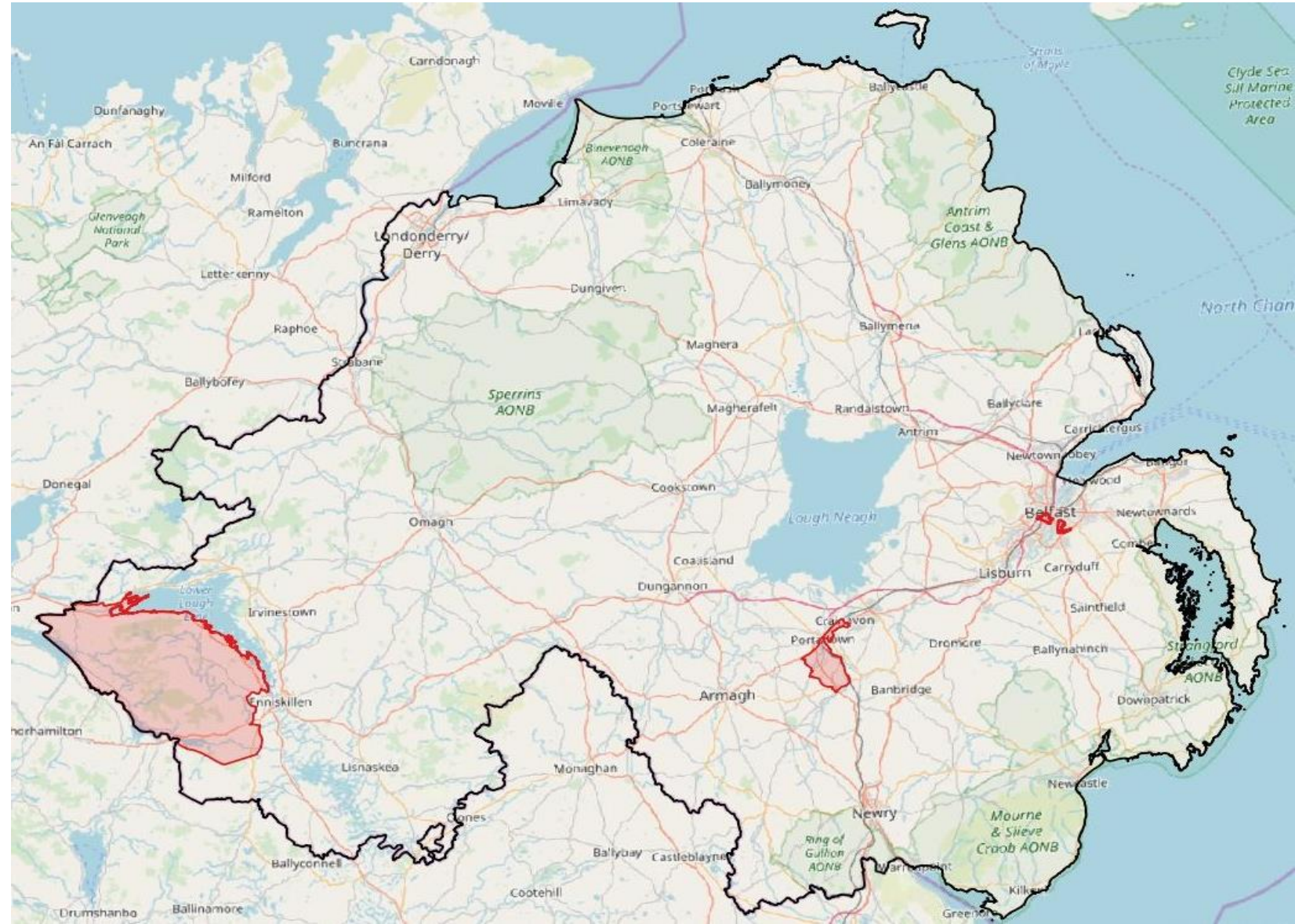
When choosing our rehearsal areas, we were looking for:

- Mixture of urban and rural areas
- Area with limited broadband coverage/limited mobile coverage
- Area with residents who don't have English as their first language
- Area with a nearby library to test the proposed Assisted Digital service

Locations for the 2019 Rehearsal

1. West Fermanagh
2. Craigavon
3. South & East Belfast

Overall sample size
of 19,000
households



West Fermanagh

18 enumeration districts with approx. 4,000 households

Reasons for selection:

- Rural, sparsely populated
- Assess accuracy/coverage of Address Register
- Understand the impact of poorer broadband services on online response
- Test of Field Work App and devices:
 - Area of limited mobile coverage
 - Influence of cross-border mobile coverage from RoI

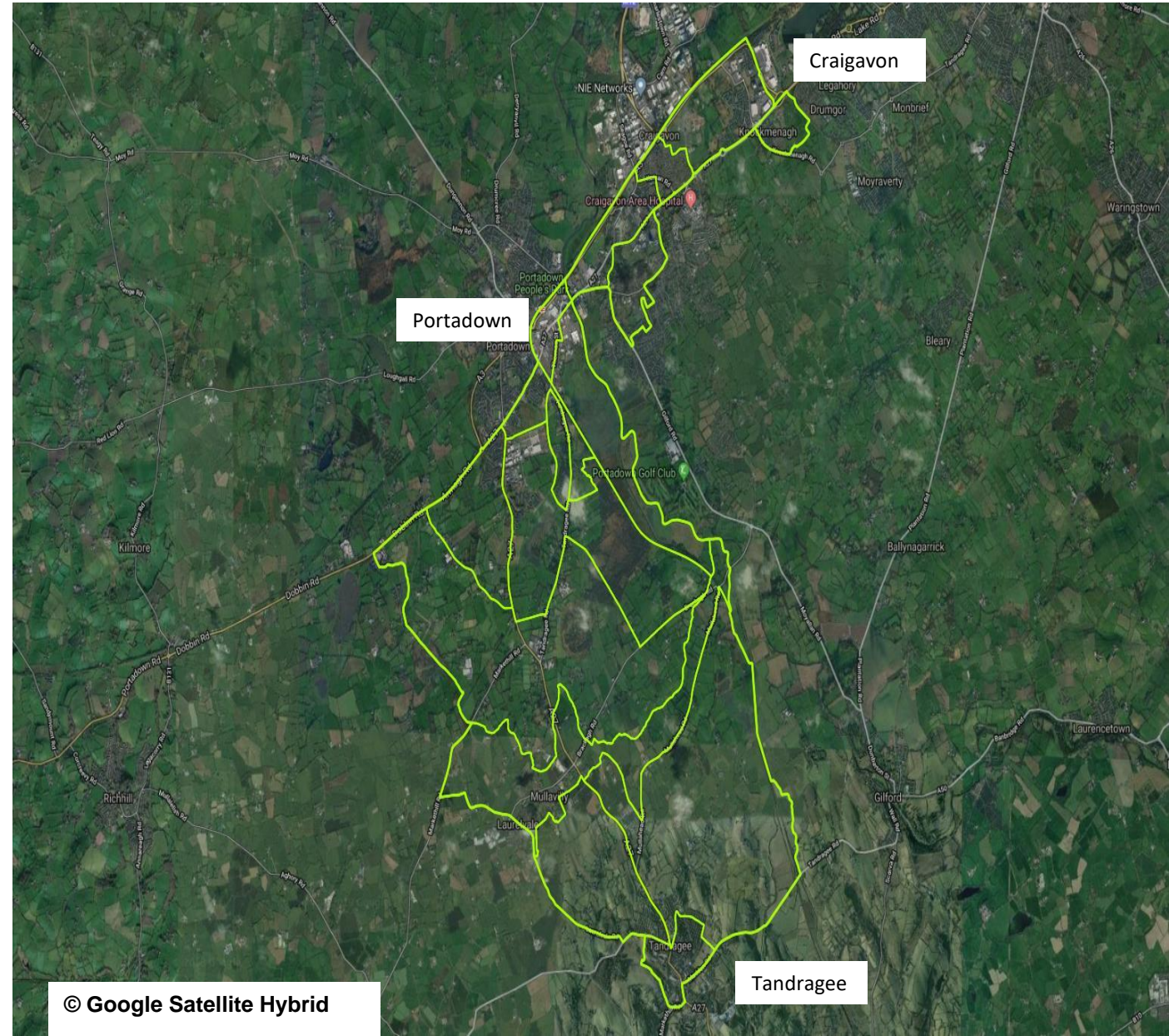


16 enumeration districts with approx.
7,000 households

Reasons for selection:

- Urban/rural mix with large market town
- Housing tenure mix of rented and owner occupied
- Relatively large migrant population provides test of:
 - Community engagement and communications strategies
 - Language support services

Craigavon



South & East Belfast

13 enumeration areas with approx.
8,000 households

Reasons for selection:

- Urban, densely populated
- Student population

Two clusters either side of River
Lagan in South & East Belfast



Belfast – Queen’s Quarter

8 enumeration areas with approx.
5,000 households

Reasons for selection:

- Large student population
- Deprived inner-city
- High number of private renters
- Was difficult to enumerate in 2011 Census

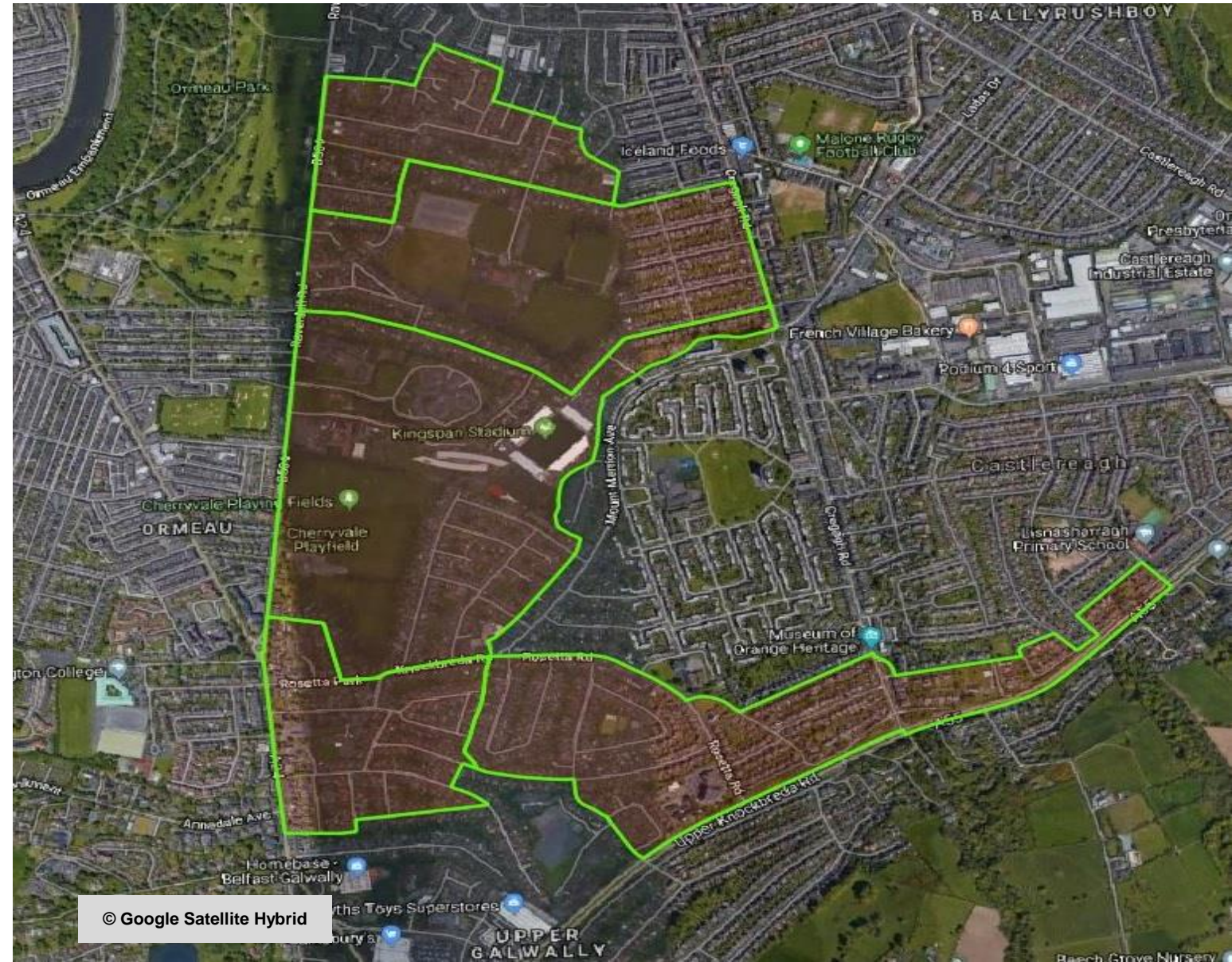


Belfast - Ravenhill

5 enumeration districts with approx.
3,000 households

Reasons for selection:

- Provides a reference group
- Non-deprived area
- Easier to enumerate in 2011 Census



Thank You for attending

For further information on the 2021 Census:

 www.nisra.gov.uk/census

 [@nisra \(#nicensus2021\)](https://twitter.com/nisra)

 [@nisra.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/nisra.gov.uk)

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