

Response ID ANON-9XT3-EASC-M

Submitted to 2021 Census Outputs Consultation Questionnaire

Submitted on 2021-11-23 20:01:55

## Section 1.1: About you

Please provide your contact details.

Your name: Brian French

Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Organisation - please specify:

Organisation:

Department for the Economy (NI)

Consent

Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response

## Section 1.2: Your usage of census data

### Usage of Census data

1 Have you or your organisation used data or analysis produced by NISRA from previous censuses?

Yes

- 2 Which topic areas would you access 2021 Census data or analysis products on?

Demography (including aging),

Education,

Labour market

- 3 Are there any specific topics, areas or population groups you need data for?

Yes, topics (e.g. ethnic group),

Yes, areas (e.g. Causeway Coast and Glens)

If you selected 'Yes', please list the topics, areas and/or population groups in priority order:

Education - Highest level of qualification, for instance, by age, sex, NIMDM and employment activity / occupation / industry.

DEA - In 2011, if outputs couldn't be published at geographies as low as SOA or ward level, the default was to publish at LGD, at a stage when 26 LGDs were in place, some of them with very small populations. We now have 11 LGDs, for the most part, with larger populations. Particularly if statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to producing more outputs at DEA, as, besides being both similar in population size to each other and of sufficient size for analysis purposes, these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.

## Section 2.1: Methods of dissemination

### Two main methods of dissemination

- 4 Do you plan to access 2021 Census results via the 'ready-made' tables system and/or the 'build-your-own' tables system?

Ready-made tables,

Build-your-own tables,

Other means of accessing 2021 Census data (such as the NISRA Research Support Unit)

5 Does the plan to release the 2021 Census results via “flat files” of information meet your requirements?

Yes

If you selected ‘No’, please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

6 Into which analysis software do you plan to import 2021 Census results?

Excel

If you selected ‘Other’, please tell us which analysis software you plan to use:

N/A

## Section 2.2: Release schedule

### Pre-defined tables

7 Does the proposed list of ready-made tables for releases one, two and three meet your requirements?

No

If you selected ‘No’, please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

My main concern relates to the highest level of qualifications tables. In connection with the production of performance indicators for the Northern Ireland '10X' Skills Strategy and the draft Programme for Government, I have been liaising with NISRA ELMS Branch regarding the production of similar-style outputs from the LFS, albeit ones that enable us to produce more granular outputs at levels 4 and 5 and above.

I think it needs to be made clearer in the (NI and UK-wide) Census and LFS headings (and related footnotes / metadata) that the level 2 and level 3 outputs relate to achievement of 'full' level 2 and 'full' level 3. Unlike level 4 and above, where a pass of one such qualification will suffice, it often isn't sufficient to have achieved a single level 2 or 3 qualification at a particular grade to meet the thresholds described. This Learning Records Service guidance refers <https://guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/ilr/field/priorlevel>, as does this NI Direct guidance <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/learning-free>.

I would also welcome the option of being able to request highest level of qualifications tables based on achievement of any qualification at any of these levels.

Regarding apprenticeships specifically, I recognise you have to do the best you can with the question you've asked and that it may have been difficult to distinguish between traditional and modern apprenticeships. Based on my experience with writing the 2011 Census publications, the proposed separation of apprenticeships into a category somewhere between levels 2 and 3 made it very difficult to write about / illustrate the interim levels, so I had little choice but to focus on the none and level 4 and above categories.

I note LFS plans to apply fractions to apportion apprenticeships mainly to either levels 2 or 3, rather than have a separate column where it's not clear what the relevant qualification level is. While I hope priority will be given to data stemming from the detailed questions on other qualifications at level 2 and above, I wonder whether a similar apportioning by level methodology could be applied to apprenticeships in the 2021 Census outputs?

While I recognise that still leaves you with the issue of how to classify qualifications achieved elsewhere, I would be happy to discuss the application and out-workings of the above proposals.

- 8 Does the proposal to publish all topics in the second and third releases simultaneously meet your data user needs?

Yes

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

- 9 Does the list of topics that will be included in the second and third releases meet your data user needs?

No

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

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While I recognise that still leaves you with the issue of how to classify qualifications achieved elsewhere, I would be happy to discuss the application and out-workings of the above proposals.

10 Do the proposed release dates for releases one, two and three meet your requirements?

Yes

If you selected 'No', please explain why and provide your requirements:

N/A

### Flexible table builder

11 Do the proposals for the release of data in the flexible table builder meet your data user needs?

Yes

If you selected 'No', please explain why and provide your requirements:

N/A

## Final staged releases

12 Does the proposed list of multivariate, ready-made tables meet your requirements?

No

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

As mentioned above, my main concern relates to the highest level of qualifications tables. In connection with the production of performance indicators for the Northern Ireland '10X' Skills Strategy and the draft Programme for Government, I have been liaising with NISRA ELMS Branch regarding the production of similar-style outputs from the LFS, albeit ones that enable us to produce more granular outputs at levels 4 and 5 and above.

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### Commissioned table service

13 Have you or your organisation used the commissioned table service from previous censuses?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us what information you have previously requested via this service:

Before my time, DEL requested commissioned tables on 16-24 year-olds by economic / employment activity (as a proxy for NEETs). I believe DfE economists have also requested various economic / employment activity outputs.

14 Do the proposals for the 2021 Census commissioned table service meet your data user needs?

Yes

If you selected 'No', please explain why, and provide your requirements:

N/A

### Grid Square

15 Have you or your organisation used grid square statistics from previous censuses?

No

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us which grid square products you have used previously:

N/A

16 Do the proposals for a 2021 Grid Square product meet your data user needs?

N/A - no user need for grid square data

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information. Please also include any extra variables you require in addition to those available in 2011:

N/A

### Workplace/Place of Study

17 Have you or your organisation used any of the microdata products from previous censuses?

No

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us which microdata products you have used previously:

N/A

18 Do the proposals for 2021 Census microdata products meet your data user needs?

N/A - no user need for microdata

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

### Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product

19 If available, would you use an Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product?

No

If you selected 'Yes', please describe the additional analysis that you plan to do, and the value of undertaking this research. Please also indicate the sample size and which variable(s) you would like in this dataset:

N/A



## Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study incorporation of Census 2021

20 Have you or your organisation used NILS data in the past?

No

21 Do the proposals for the NILS incorporation of Census 2021 data meet your needs?

N/A - no user need for NILS data

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Administrative Data Research Northern Ireland (ADR NI) - availability of 2021 data

22 Have you or your organisation used any ADR NI data in the past?

Yes

23 Do the proposals for the availability of 2021 data within ADR NI meet your data user needs?

Yes

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Ireland and Northern Ireland census report

24 Have you or your organisation used data or analysis from the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us which data from the Ireland and Northern Ireland report you have used previously:

Our two main uses of the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report have related to the economic research for EU Exit analysis (for instance, <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/movement-people-northern-ireland-ireland-border.pdf>) and our cross-border Higher Education Student Flows reports (for instance, <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/analysis-existing-statistics-student-flows-between-republic-ireland-and-northern-ireland-higher>).

I also use it as an occasional reference guide.

25 Do you or your organisation have any needs for Ireland and Northern Ireland data for the 2021 and 2022 Censuses?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us what information or key statistics you require and explain why you need this:

While I recognise additional, more up-to-date data sources have emerged, it may still be useful for economic and education research into cross-border people flows.

## Section 2.3: Standard Variables

### New variables in 2021

26 Do you require any additional output categories in the renewable energy systems classification?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

### Analysis of renewable energy systems

27 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for renewable energy systems?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Sexual orientation

28 Do you require any additional output categories in the sexual orientation classification?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Collapsed output classification

29 Does the collapsed output classification for more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please tell us why the collapsed output classification does not meet your needs:

N/A

## Analysis of Sexual Orientation

30 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for sexual orientation?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Frequency of speaking Irish and Ulster-Scots

31 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for Irish and Ulster-Scots?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

### UK Armed Forces veteran

32 Does the proposed output classification for UK Armed Forces veteran meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please tell us why the output classification does not meet your needs:

N/A

### Analysis of UK Armed Forces veterans

33 Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for UK Armed Forces veterans?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

### Other standard variables in 2021

34 Aside from 'current religion' and 'religion/religion brought up in', do you have any additional needs for further religion outputs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

## Full-detail tables

35 Do the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 meet your needs?

Not Answered

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

N/A

36 Do you have any data needs for a full-detail table on Sexual Orientation?

Not Answered

If you selected 'Yes', please describe the analysis you would undertake and why the analysis is needed:

N/A

## Section 2.4: Proposals for new derived variables

### Education and employment

37 If available, which of the proposed new variables on education and employment would you have data needs for?

Route to highest level of education,

Adult Students,

Not in employment, education or training (NEETs),

Skills mismatch

If you indicated that you would use one or more of the new variables, please describe the additional analysis that you plan to do using the variable(s) and the value of undertaking this research:

## Route to highest level of education

Without a date order of achievements, I'm not sure how this is going to work as a 'route'. For instance, someone could have a degree and then pursue a level 3 vocational qualification and career. While I'll be happy to look at the outputs, I don't know what is driving this proposal and I haven't planned any additional analysis.

## Adult Students

Not helped by the usage of different age categories for different purposes across the tertiary education sector and across the UK countries, I don't think either of the definitions proposed are workable. For instance:

- almost all Year 14 school pupils in the 2020/21 academic year would have turned 18 by June 2021 and would have been living with their parent(s) on Census Day
- for student finance purposes, regardless of their living arrangements, an applicant is not usually regarded as living independently until they are aged 25 or over
- In England, an adult learner tends to mean someone aged 19 and over in learning who has completed their initial education, whereas no such rule exists in Northern Ireland, with 25 and over tending to be used to avoid the in-between uncertainties
- HESA defines 'young' students as those aged under 21 and 'mature students' as those aged 21 and over on entry to a higher education course
- Northern Ireland FE sector statistics include the age categories 19 and under, 20-24 and 25 and over
- most learners aged 25 and over are part-time, so trying to define 'adult students' as those in full-time education isn't going to work without changing the descriptor

Based on the above, aged 25 and over would cover all the bases, although I imagine most users would appreciate the opportunity to specify / build their own tables for their own particular purposes. From that perspective, facilitating single year of age for the peak years of those in further or higher education would seem more appropriate than a hard and fast definition.

## Not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Given the limited scope of LFS to produce accurate / granular detail on NEETs, I would like to see similar analyses to those DEL commissioned from the 2011 Census.

## Skills mismatch

As this is a similar proposal to the approach adopted by OECD, I would be keen to see this type of analysis. As the term 'under employed' is often used to mean someone working fewer hours than they would prefer, I don't think it should be used in this context. OECD uses the terms 'qualification mismatch' ("when workers have an educational attainment that is higher or lower than that required by their job") and 'field-of-study mismatch' ("when workers are employed in a different field from what they have specialised in). In the case of qualification mismatch, "if their education level is higher than that required by their job, workers are classified as over-qualified; if the opposite is true, they are classified as underqualified". [See information column at <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MISMATCH>].

## Health and living arrangements

38 If available, which of the proposed new variables on health and living arrangements would you have data needs for?

Not Answered

If you indicated that you would use one or more of the new variables, please describe the additional analysis that you plan to do using the variable(s) and the value of undertaking this research:

N/A

## Accommodation type

39 If available, would you have any data needs for a “Care home resident” variable?

Not Answered

If you selected ‘Yes’, please describe the analysis you would undertake and why the analysis is needed:

N/A

## Additional data needs

40 Are there any new derived variables you require that have not been discussed in this consultation?

Not Answered

Specifics on additional derived variables required:

N/A

## Section 2.5: Population base specifications

### Workplace population

41 Do the proposals for workplace population outputs meet your data user needs?

No

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

It's not clear why SOA is mentioned at workplace population and SA at daytime population. More fundamentally, based on the presumption that statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to ward and, failing that, DEA geographies, as these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.

### Daytime population

42 Do the proposals for daytime population outputs meet your data user needs?

No

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

It's not clear why SOA is mentioned at workplace population and SA at daytime population. More fundamentally, based on the presumption that statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to ward and, failing that, DEA geographies, as these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.

### Out-of-term population

43 Do the proposals for out-of-term population outputs meet your data user needs?

No

If you selected 'No', please provide your requirements and explain why you need this information:

As a possible alternative to LGD, I think consideration should be given to analysis by settlement categories A-E (5,000 population and over), even if it means grouping some of these together, for instance, the Coleraine / Portstewart / Portrush 'triangle area' that houses many of the students attending UU Coleraine.



## Small populations

44 Do you have any requirement for census information for a small population group?

Not Answered

Specific requirements for census information for a small population group:

N/A

## Section 2.6: Taking a census during a period of change

Not Answered

## Section 2.7: Paradata

Paradata refer to information about how we collected the census.

56 If available, which of the proposed paradata for the 2021 Census would you use?

Not Answered

If you indicated that you would use one or more of the paradata, please describe the additional analysis that you plan to do using the variable(s) and the value of undertaking this research:

N/A

## Section 2.8: Statistical Output Geography

Revision of statistical output geography

57 Other than the current local government districts, do you have any requirements for census statistical outputs aligned with any other geographies?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us which additional geographies you need census statistical outputs to align with. Please also explain why you need this, including the analysis that you plan to do and the value of undertaking this research:

DEA - In 2011, if outputs couldn't be published at geographies as low as SOA or ward level, the default was to publish at LGD, at a stage when 26 LGDs were in place, some of them with very small populations. We now have 11 LGDs, for the most part, with larger populations. Particularly if statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to producing more outputs at DEA, as, besides being both similar in population size to each other and of sufficient size for analysis purposes, these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.

### Section 3: Any other comments

58 Do you have any data or analysis needs related to any of the areas listed below that will not be met and you have not been able to note elsewhere in this consultation?

Release schedule,

Standard variables

If you selected "Other", please provide more information about the topic area for which you have unmet data needs:

N/A

59 Describe your unmet data needs

Please provide your requirements and explain why you require this. For example, what policy or planning decisions would the results effect? Please make it clear what variables and geographies you would need in relation to each of your additional unmet needs:

While I've already included these wordy points under 'Release Schedule', I wasn't sure whether that was the appropriate place, so apologies for re-including them here!

My main concern relates to the highest level of qualifications tables. In connection with the production of performance indicators for the Northern Ireland '10X' Skills Strategy and the draft Programme for Government, I have been liaising with NISRA ELMS Branch regarding the production of similar-style outputs from the LFS, albeit ones that enable us to produce more granular outputs at levels 4 and 5 and above.

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While I recognise that still leaves you with the issue of how to classify qualifications achieved elsewhere, I would be happy to discuss the application and out-workings of the above proposals.

60 If you have any further comments on the content of this consultation, please provide these below.

Further comments on the content of the consultation:

None provided