

2011 Census

Ethnic group, national identity, religion and language consultation

Local service provider responses to the 2011
Census stakeholders consultation 2006/07

**Local Service Provider Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation
2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and
Wales.**

Contents

Summary of Findings from Local Service Providers	3
Ethnic group	3
National identity	5
Religion	6
Language	6
1. Introduction	8
2. Review of Requirements for Information on Ethnic Group	11
2.1 Requirements for information on concepts of ethnicity	11
2.2 Suitability of ethnic group categories and suggested changes	13
2.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 ethnic group information	18
2.4 Requirements for comparison between UK countries	21
2.5 Acceptability of ethnic group terminology	22
2.6 Advantages and disadvantages of multiple response ethnicity data	26
2.7 Comments on the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification	29
3. Review of Requirements for Information on National Identity	34
3.1 Requirements for information on national identity	34
3.2 Suitability of the proposed national identity question and suggested changes	35
4. Review of Requirements for Information on Religion	37
4.1 Requirements for information on religion	37
4.2 Suitability of religion categories and suggested changes	38
4.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 religion information	39
5. Review of Requirements for Information on Language	41
5.1 Requirements for information on language	41
5.2 Suitability of proposed language questions in the 2007 Census Test	42
5.3 Additional requirements on language ability	44
5.4 Most important aspects of language ability	45
Appendix	47
A.1 References	47
A.2 Consultation Local Service Provider Respondents	48

A.3 2007 Census Test Question for Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion, England and Wales	49
A.4 2006 Scottish Census Test Ethnicity Classification	50
A.5 Consultation Questionnaire on Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion for 2011 Census in England and Wales	51

Data Conventions

Rounding of figures

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Units in tables

Figures are shown in italics when they represent percentages.

Summary of Findings from Local Service Providers

The 2006/07 Census Stakeholders Consultation was held to provide a detailed picture of user needs for information on ethnic group, national identity, language and religion to help decide which questions should be asked in the 2011 Census. The Local Service Providers report summarises the responses from, for example, local police forces, fire services, NHS organisations and housing associations.

More than four-fifths of respondents (93 per cent) stated that they needed information on ethnic group, 45 per cent on national identity, 77 per cent on religion and 93 per cent stated that they had a requirement for language information from the 2011 Census.

Ethnic group

The consultation looked at several aspects of ethnicity. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 2 of this report.

Additional information required

Around two-fifths (42 per cent) of local service provider respondents said they were satisfied with the combined ethnic group categories while 30 per cent were satisfied with the single ethnic group categories listed in the 2007 Census Test question. Respondents required more information, either by refining the existing categories or including new categories, on the following groups:

- 'Other White' – more specific information, for example, on eastern European identities
- 'Asian' – this category is too broad, and that it should be broken down into more specific groups.
- Kashmiri
- Somali

Acceptability of ethnic group terminology

Local service provider respondents generally found the combined ethnic group categories acceptable. Around nine in ten stated that the broad categories for 'Other ethnic group' (92 per cent) 'White' (88 per cent) and 'Asian or Asian British' (also 88 per cent) were acceptable. The 'Black or Black British' category was acceptable to 86 per cent, while 79 per cent found the remaining 'Mixed' category acceptable.

Around two-thirds (67 per cent) of respondents found the terms used in the single ethnic group categories acceptable largely, as in their experience, they were generally accepted by different groups. Respondents gave the following reasons why the combined and single ethnicity groups were unacceptable:

- Colour terminology – some expressed the opinion that colour terminology, or a mix of colour and geographical terms, was not acceptable
- The term 'Mixed' – some expressed the opinion that this was not an acceptable term and that 'Multiple Heritage' was preferable
- 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' – some respondents requested separate categories for Gypsies and for Irish Travellers
- 'Arab' – some expressed the opinion that this term was ambiguous and would not provide specific enough information

Comparability over time and across the UK

Around one-half (51 per cent) of local service provider respondents who needed ethnic group information needed to compare information on single ethnic groups from the 2011 Census with data from the 2001 Census. A smaller proportion (41 per cent) needed to compare information on combined ethnic groups. The main reasons given were to monitor trends, analyse changes in local populations and plan the provision and allocation of services in their locality.

Most respondents commented that a small loss of comparability would have very little effect and would be outweighed by having more relevant ethnic group information in the 2011 Census.

There was very little concern from respondents about comparison between UK countries.

Multiple response ethnic group information

Advantages of the multiple response ethnic group question identified by some local service provider respondents included greater accuracy and reliability of information, that it would enable self-identification, and that it would improve the completion of the question. However, other respondents stated that any advantages would be outweighed by difficulties in implementation and interpretation, and were concerned about the impact on existing systems of measuring ethnic group.

National identity

A question on national identity has not been asked in previous censuses and this consultation investigated what users would need from such a question. The rationale for including a separate question on national identity is to make the census form more accessible and clearer. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 3 of this report.

Less than one-half (45 per cent) of local service provider respondents stated that they needed data on national identity. This data would help them to gain a better understanding of their local populations and communities they served and identify particular groups residing there.

Seven in ten (70 per cent) of respondents who required information on national identity stated that 2007 Census Test question would provide the information they required. Respondents who stated that it wouldn't meet their needs said that too much emphasis was placed on UK national identities.

Religion

Following the introduction of a voluntary question on religion in the 2001 Census, the consultation looked at user needs in this area. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 4 of this report.

Around three-quarters (77 per cent) of local service provider respondents required information on religion. This information would help them to gain a better understanding of the local religious population to improve services and to provide information on inequalities based on religion. However, some respondents stated that information on religion was less important than information on ethnic groups.

Most respondents (89 per cent) who required information on religion stated that the proposed categories for religion in the 2007 Census Test either fully or partially provided the information they required. Respondents whose needs would not be met required that religious activity should also be measured.

Seven in ten (70 per cent) respondents who needed religion information stated the need to compare information on religion in the 2011 Census with data from the 2001 Census.

Language

Proficiency in languages (apart from Welsh) has not been included in previous censuses in England and Wales. Key findings of the needs of local service provider respondents are presented below and full details can be found in Section 5 of this report.

A large majority (93 per cent) of stated that they had a requirement for a language question on the 2011 Census. The main purposes were to gain a better knowledge of the community so that a better service could be planned, especially in providing interpreting/translation and written information in appropriate languages.

In general respondents were interested in proficiency in English and in the minority languages used within their local area, or their client groups. Respondents were most interested in information on 'the ability to understand spoken English' considered 'Very important' by 88 per cent and the 'ability to speak English' and 'preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities' (both 85 per cent), followed by 'ability to read English' (83 per cent) and 'preferred written language for communicating with public authorities' (80 per cent).

The proposed language question in the 2007 Census Test included categories for the ability to understand, speak, read and write for English, Welsh and one other language (to be specified by the respondent). Categories for the ability to understand and sign British Sign Language were also included. Over one-half (53 per cent) of local service provider respondents stated that the proposed categories for language provided the information they required, and a further 20 per cent stated that their requirements would be partially met. The problems identified with the proposed question included the inability to be able to distinguish between different levels of proficiency, the inability to be able to identify specific non-UK languages and that the question did not identify preferred written language and preferred spoken language.

1. Introduction

The census is carried out every ten years and provides vital information about the UK population. As part of the preparations for the next Census in 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed a programme of consultations to help inform the question development for the 2011 Census and to gain a better understanding of user and stakeholder requirements. The first consultation was held in 2005¹ and in March 2006 ONS published a summary of user requirements for each topic.

This consultation builds on the 2006 summary assessment of initial user requirements on ethnicity, identity, language and religion² and aims to provide a detailed view of user needs for information on these topics in England and Wales. It took place between December 2006 and March 2007.

Comments from interested people and organisations were gathered so that ONS could:

- gain a better understanding of key data requirements
- gain an awareness of the range of views held on these topics
- identify the relative priorities for this information given the constraints of space on the census form

Details of the consultation were published on the National Statistics website, www.statistics.gov.uk, and were also sent to recognised stakeholders. Respondents to the consultation were required to complete a questionnaire, see Appendix (A.5). Local service provider respondents participating in the consultation are listed in Appendix (A.2).

**Table 1: Number of respondents: by organisation type
England and Wales**

	Number of respondents	Number of respondents (excluding repetitions and non-questionnaire responses)
Central & devolved government	27	23
Experts, community & special interest groups	441	139
Local & regional government	92	89
Local service providers	46	46
All respondents	606	297

There were 606 responses to the consultation (Table 1). For reporting purposes, respondents have been grouped into four stakeholder types:

- central and devolved government – includes central government departments and agencies and devolved government
- expert, community and special interest groups – includes community based organisations, special interest groups, academia, private companies and individuals
- local and regional government
- local service providers – includes organisations providing services at the local level, such as the police, fire service and primary care trusts

Some community organisations and special interest groups arranged for copies of their response to be sent in by individuals as well, resulting in some duplication. This occurred particularly among organisations representing Sikh, Kashmiri and Cornish interests. As the main purpose of the consultation was to identify the range of views held, the responses presented in this report are based on the 297 unique responses received, without the duplicates. In addition, while respondents were invited to submit their responses using the questionnaire, some supplied their views by correspondence. As the data in the tables are derived from the responses to specific questions in the questionnaire, the data presented in the reports includes questionnaire and unique responses only.

Findings from the consultation have been published in five reports. A summary report conveys the main messages from the consultation from all the respondents. The other four reports summarise the key findings from the different stakeholders consulted and this report summarises responses received from local service providers.

1. *Consultation Summary Report of Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
2. *Central and Devolved Government Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
3. *Expert, Community and Special Interest Groups Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
4. *Local and Regional Government Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
5. ***Local Service Providers Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales***, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]

2. Review of Requirements for Information on Ethnic Group

The consultation asked about seven different aspects of ethnicity:

- requirements for information on concepts of ethnicity
- suitability of ethnic group categories and suggested changes
- requirements for comparison with 2001 ethnic group information
- requirements for comparison between UK countries
- acceptability of ethnic group terminology
- advantages and disadvantages of multiple response ethnicity data
- comments on the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

2.1 Requirements for information on concepts of ethnicity

Although the census question has always used the term ‘ethnic group’ rather than ‘race’ the current legal framework (as set out by the *Race Relations Act*) is phrased in terms of race. However, the Act protects people from discrimination on the grounds of several related factors: colour, race, nationality, or national or ethnic origins.

The vast majority of local service provider respondents (93 per cent) required ethnic group information from the 2011 Census (Table 2).

Table 2: Requirements for information on ethnic group from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales **Percentages**

Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	96	4	23
Experts, community & special interest groups	87	13	130
Local & regional government	97	3	86
Local service providers	93	7	44
All respondents	92	8	283

Users were invited to consider whether their need is for information on ethnic group (a cultural characteristic), or if they require information on other related concepts as well as, or instead of, ethnic group, for example race, visible minorities, non-White groups and ancestry. Classifications of race are generally based on a set of physical characteristics. Visible minority status is related to having a different appearance from the majority. Ancestry relates to historical information about where an individual's forebears come from, though it also has a subjective element in deciding how many generations of ancestry to consider.

Table 3: Requirements of information for concepts related to ethnicity from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages				
	Visible minority population	Non-White population	Ancestry	Race	Base ^{1,2} = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	32	41	27	27	22
Exerts, community & special interest groups	54	27	28	28	113
Local & regional government	48	57	23	46	83
Local service providers	27	32	22	46	41
All respondents	46	39	25	37	259

1 Respondents could respond to more than one category.

2 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Visible minority population/Non-White population

Around one-third (32 per cent) of local service provider respondents identified a need for data on non-White populations, and 27 per cent on visible minorities. The information was predominantly needed to help refine service provision and monitoring.

' . . . identification of vulnerable groups ...Targetting and delivery of community safety initiatives and education to different ethnic groups.'

(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'To build a full picture of London's ethnic groups. Visible minority and non-White populations form identifiable groups for travel market analysis.'

(Transport for London)

'Poorly recorded elsewhere so may help fill gaps in database records. Assess expected disease prevalence, especially where there has been shown to be a genetic link. Provide a single "definition file" to assist data collection elsewhere in public services.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

Race

Almost a half of local service provider respondents required information on race. Those that required information on race, as distinct from ethnic group, required this information for the *Race Relations Act*.

'Monitoring and reporting of workforce profile compared to census under Race legislation.'

(NHS Wales Business Services Centre)

Ancestry

One quarter (22 per cent) of respondents required information on ancestry. Some of these expressed a need for this information to inform public health and for treating certain health conditions.

'[Information on ancestry is] poorly recorded elsewhere so may help fill gaps in database records. [It will help] assess expected disease prevalence especially where there has been shown to be a genetic link.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

2.2 Suitability of ethnic group categories and suggested changes

The consultation invited comments on how well the 2007 Census Test question on ethnic group would meet user needs for information. Details of the 2007 Census Test question can be found in Appendix (A.3).

**Table 4: Suitability of the proposed ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Percentages

	Combined ethnic groups ¹				Single ethnic groups ²			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)	Yes	No	Partially	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	36	45	18	22	45	14	41	22
Community & special interest groups	14	71	15	108	13	59	28	112
Local & regional government	30	33	37	84	24	25	52	85
Local service providers	42	42	17	36	30	38	33	40
All respondents	25	52	23	250	22	41	37	259

¹ Combined ethnic groups include 'White', 'Mixed', 'Asian or Asian British', 'Black or Black British' and 'Other ethnic groups'.

² Single ethnic groups refer to individual tick boxes in the ethnic group question e.g. 'Chinese', 'Indian', 'White English'.

³ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Two-fifths of local service provider respondents (42 per cent) stated that the combined ethnic group categories would not provide the information required and 38 per cent thought the single ethnic group category would not meet their requirements (Table 4).

Additional requirements and suggested changes were invited. Local service provider respondents required improved information on the following areas.

Combined ethnic group categories:

- Combined ethnic groups are too broad
- 'Asian or Asian British' is too broad

Single ethnic group categories:

- 'Other White Background' covers a vast and varied population
- 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' should be recorded separately
- additional single ethnic groups should be included

2.2.1 Details of additional requirements – combined ethnic group categories

Combined ethnic groups are too broad

General comments suggested combined ethnic groups data would not provide the level of detail required to tailor services to meet the diverse language, socioeconomic and health needs of ethnic communities. Respondents commented that more specific categories were needed for some groups.

'The combined categories (vs single categories) are too broad to give the detailed understanding of the local population that is required in a highly diverse geographical area.'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

'Very different health needs are identifiable for single ethnic groups, which may become masked in combined groupings. If single groups [were] provided we are able to aggregate up to wider groupings ourselves.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

'Asian or Asian British' is too broad

Several respondents viewed the Asian category as being too broad, and that it should be broken down into more specific groups.

'We need much greater breakdown because of major differences within groups, for example Pakistani and Indian groups have different socioeconomic profiles and health needs.'

(Nottingham City Primary Care Trust)

'There are substantial differences in lifestyles, income levels, education levels, working status, etc within the combined ethnic groups, for example between Indian communities and Bangladeshi communities. Individual ethnic groups show distinct travel patterns that are obscured by the combined categories.'

(Transport for London)

2.2.2 Details of additional requirements – single ethnic group categories

'Other White Background' covers a vast and varied population

Some local service provider respondents thought that the 'Other White Background' category was too broad and included a very diverse population. They required information on eastern European groups, particularly Poles, and requested separate categories for eastern Europeans, Gypsies, and Irish Travellers to reflect their very different cultures.

'The populations with European ethnic origins are normally lumped together with White and therefore do not get information language needs, therefore cannot develop appropriate services.'

(NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme)

'Need to have an option to specify continent, for example "White Other" does not indicate ... where the person is from, could be EU, could be South African. This information is needed to have true reflection of the diverse communities on local areas.'

(East Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support)

'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' should be recorded separately

Local service provider respondents wanted information on Gypsies and Travellers to be recorded separately as they represent very different cultures.

'A separate category for European Roma to ensure numbers are not confused with Gypsy/Romany/Traveller of Irish Heritage.'

(Traveller Education Service)

'Doubt whether Gypsy, Romany and Irish Travellers regard themselves as the same group, or have the same demographics. Where do New [Age] Travellers fit with this?'

(Transport for London)

Additional single ethnic groups should be included

Some respondents requested additional categories to be added to the 2007 Test Census ethnic group question, including Kashmiri and Somali.

Kashmiri

Specific information was requested on Kashmiris. Kashmiris are considered a distinctive ethnic group with specific needs. In previous censuses the Kashmiri population have been concealed within the Pakistani or 'Other Asian background' categories.

'Many ethnic Kashmiris self identify as "Pakistani", hence depriving themselves of services that might be delivered in their actual mother tongues.'

(West Midlands Police Force Diversity Unit)

'The ethnic group categories do not adequately represent the population within Leeds. The Asian categories given require the large Kashmiri population within the city to select either "Pakistani" or "Other Asian background". However, the Kashmiri community regards itself as a separate ethnic group, and therefore in line with the legal definition of ethnic group should be included as a separate category.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust)

'... data on all people in the city of Leeds, including ethnic minorities within nation states (such as Kashmiri or Kurdish). This is especially true of this and other dispersal areas under the Government's immigration policies.'

(Leeds Mind)

'In Leeds a majority of the so-called Pakistani population is thought to actually be Kashmiri, but because the 2001 Census did not include Kashmiri as a separate category we do not have adequate information.'

(West Midlands Police Authority)

Somali

There was a similar requirement for information on Somalis.

'Deliver appropriate information, advice and guidance services to young people and adults. We want to be sure our services reach new communities to the area, that is new EU migrants and the Somalian community.'
(Connexions Leicestershire)

2.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 ethnic group information

Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 might reduce the comparability with information collected in 2001, and the degree to which comparability is reduced will depend on the extent of any changes.

**Table 5: Need to compare combined and single ethnic group information in 2011 with information from the 2001 Census: by organisation type
England and Wales**

	Combined ethnic groups ¹			Single ethnic groups ²		
	Yes	No	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)	Yes	No	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	59	41	22	77	23	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	37	63	104	54	46	110
Local & regional government	79	20	81	90	10	83
Local service providers	41	59	39	51	49	39
All respondents	53	46	246	67	33	254

¹ Combined ethnic groups include 'White', 'Mixed', 'Asian or Asian British', 'Black or Black British' and 'Other ethnic groups'.

² Single ethnic groups refer to individual tick boxes in the ethnic group question e.g. 'Chinese', 'Indian', 'White English'.

³ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Four in ten (41 per cent) needed to be able to compare combined ethnic group data and 51 per cent single ethnic groups.

Those local service providers who did require comparability between censuses the needed it to monitor trends, analyse changes in local populations, plan the provision and allocation of services, and to compare changes over time in their locality.

'To determine whether there are changes in certain locations over time.'

(London Underground)

'Analysis of changing population with areas of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to determine where resources are now and where they should be redeployed.'

(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'To make comparisons about the changing ethnic population and set benchmarks to assess future changes.'

(Connexions Leicestershire)

'To analyse change in size of each ethnic group between 2001 and 2011 and to identify the key minority ethnic groups in the city to ensure service provision is appropriately targeted.'

(West Yorkshire Police Authority)

Other local service provider respondents expressed a need to compare data to provide trend information in relation to asylum and migration, and population growth and births in different ethnic groups as well as socio-economic inequalities in these groups.

' ... looking at demographic changes in the north east, particularly in relation to asylum and migration.'

(North East Public Health Observatory)

'To establish patterns of change in the population that could help predict future trends, for example around population growth and numbers of births that could be expected in different ethnic groups.'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

'To compare socioeconomic information and progress against inequalities over that time.'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

'Identify population change over time, especially to identify where ethnic groups are concentrated/whether they are dispersing over time. Identify areas of co-locating ethnic groups.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

'To look at the change in population, movement and dispersal to help shape local services and ensure strategic health authorities know their population.'

(NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme)

Most local service provider respondents commented that a small loss of comparability would have very little effect, and would be outweighed by having more relevant ethnic group information in the 2011 Census.

'We could work around the single changes by using the combined groups to compare, as per your example.'

(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'Important, but not as important as having detailed information on ethnicity.'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

'Loss of detail for transport planning. However, it is more important to reflect changes in the population than to maintain absolute comparability with the past.'

(Transport for London)

However, some respondents raised concerns over the effect of amending the question,

'We might assume there have been reductions in local populations of certain ethnicities when, in reality, they have been recoded. We could avoid this by checking possible recoding. In the end, we would use the 2011 data to plan services.'

(London Underground)

A large loss of information on single ethnic groups for some local service providers was not deemed as important as for the combined categories.

'It is important that we are able to compare the combined categories, but loss of comparability for single ethnic group categories is less important.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust and West Yorkshire Police Authority)

But for some local service provider respondents, a large loss of comparison with 2001 would be a problem, and would impact on information gathering. For example:

'Very significant loss of value.'

(Transport for London)

'Negates opportunity to monitor change in health status of ethnic groups through time.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

2.4 Requirements for comparison between UK countries

Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 may affect comparability across the UK. Respondents were asked what impact this would have on their use of the information. In 2001 ethnic group classifications in Scotland and Northern Ireland were different to those in England and Wales, reflecting differences in the ethnic minority populations in each country. The Registrars General of the respective countries are committed to working towards consistent UK Census outputs, but it is possible that the differences between ethnic group classifications in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may increase if there are different needs for information in each area.

There was little concern from local service provider respondents about comparison between the UK countries, as long as some comparisons were possible. Some respondents favoured more recent and accurate data for the area they serve. Several required data to make comparisons within their local area.

'We want each country of the UK to use the same broad ethnicity groupings, but local differences in detailed classification are not a problem.'

(National Clinical Assessment Service)

'[Comparability is] not the issue – having recent information is what is important.'

(Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust)

'We only require comparability with the rest of England.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust)

2.5 Acceptability of ethnic group terminology

The consultation sought feedback on the ethnic group terminology used in the 2007 Census Test, in particular whether it was clear, understandable and acceptable to respondents. Responses were required for the broad ethnic categories and for single ethnic groups. Respondents who found the terms unacceptable were asked to suggest alternatives or improvements.

**Table 6: Respondents who found the terms for the combined ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test acceptable: by organisation type
England and Wales** **Percentages**

	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Other ethnic group	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	100	100	95	88	100	18
Experts, community & special interest groups	76	75	73	54	60	112
Local & regional government	89	82	84	80	86	78
Local service providers	88	79	86	88	92	42
All respondents	84	80	80	71	76	251

The majority of local service provider respondents stated that the terms used in 2007 Census Test for both the combined ethnic group categories (including the terms Black and White) were acceptable (Tables 6).

Table 7: Respondents who found the terms for the single ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test acceptable: by organisation type

England and Wales **Percentages**

Organisation type	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	74	26	19
Experts, community & special interest groups	52	48	104
Local & regional government	71	29	78
Local service providers	67	33	42
All respondents	62	38	243

Around two-thirds (67 per cent) of local service provider respondents found the terms used in the single ethnic group categories acceptable. In their experience, these terms were generally accepted by different groups.

'Understood and accepted by most as good categorisation of the different groups.'
(Bordesley Green Girls' School)

'These all seem to be in general use in the community.'
(Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust)

'Easy to apply generic groups and collate single ethnic groups.'
(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'... are clear, unambiguous and widely accepted.'
(Dyfed Powys Police)

'Have not had any concerns raised when using [these terms] for ethnic monitoring.'
(North East Public Health Observatory)

Respondents found the terms used in both the combined and single ethnicity groups unacceptable for the following reasons:

- use of colour (White and Black) to define ethnicity
- terminology confuses different concepts of ethnicity
- use of the term 'Mixed'
- use of the term 'Arab'

Use of colour (White and Black) to define ethnicity

The objections to colour terminology were largely because respondents thought that skin colour does not identify ethnicity.

'Ethnic groups are not defined by the colour of someone's skin, it is defined by the cultural identity. This option just furthers the illusion that anything different from White is out of the norm, which is not the case. It is actually a cultural identity [that] is more relevant and valid data to be included in the census.'

(Brighton and Hove Deaf Equality and Access Forum)

'We have not come across any problems when using these terms. However, concerns have been made about the term "non-White" (as used in Q8) as it was a term used by the South African apartheid government, implicitly implying "not the norm".'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

'What is the purpose of defining people by their colour? How do youngsters born of two white skinned, second generation Mixed race parents describe themselves? Who needs to know ethnic origin? How is this revealed or interpreted? What is the point? Just 'Country of Origin' or leave a line for everyone to describe themselves the way they choose to be seen.'

(Millfield Medical Centre)

However, some respondents thought colour terms would be hard to replace.

'The use of "White" and "Black" is becoming less useful, but at the moment there seem to be no adequate alternatives.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust and West Yorkshire Police Authority)

Terminology confuses different concepts of ethnicity

Several local service provider respondents stated that the current terminology is confusing as it combines different concepts relating to ethnicity. For example:

'These terms are too general to be helpful when seeking to describe whole populations ... We think that ultimately people should determine for themselves whom they think they are.'

(Leeds Mind)

Use of the term 'Mixed'

A few local service provider respondents raised concerns about the term 'Mixed'. Alternative terms were suggested such as 'Dual Heritage' or 'Multiple Heritage'. For example:

'I feel the term "Dual Heritage" is more acceptable than "Mixed". This term implies "Mixed Race" and I feel that we should not be using this term as we are all the human race, not separate races.'

(Grassroots (Cardiff) Ltd)

"Mixed Heritage/Black European" (not British). Some of our Black community are Black European but not British (that is French, Dutch, etc). Further breakdown of information to include ethnic heritage and identity.'

(Connexions Leicestershire)

Use of the term 'Arab'

Several local service provider respondents were confused by the term 'Arab'. For example:

'The umbrella category "Arab" is also too large and should be broken down by region, as per the 2006 Census Test in Scotland.'

(Chevin Housing Group)

'Unsure what "Arab" means.'

(Nottingham City Primary Care Trust)

'... be more specific about the meaning of "Arab", this is needed to provide detailed information about the population.'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

2.6 Advantages and disadvantages of multiple response ethnicity data

Ethnic group information on previous UK censuses has been based on asking people to tick one box only. Specific categories were introduced in 2001 to record people with 'Mixed' ethnicity. As the proportion of the population with Mixed ethnicity is likely to increase, ONS proposes to test whether a multiple response ethnic group question, based on asking people to tick all categories that apply, would allow people to record their ethnic group more efficiently/accurately. In the 2001 Census in England and Wales around 2 per cent of respondents ticked more than one answer to the ethnic group question, despite the instruction to tick only one box.

2.6.1 Advantages of a multiple response ethnicity data

Local service provider respondents identified the following potential advantages of a multiple response ethnic group question:

- improved accuracy and reliability of information
- enables self-identification
- would improve completion of the question

Improved accuracy and reliability of information

As ethnicity information collected in the census is a subjective measure, some respondents thought that a multiple response question would provide a more accurate picture of ethnicity.

'Reflects the complexity of the individual heritage and culture in our society.'
(Connexions Leicestershire)

'More flexible taking into account increase in mixed ethnicity.'
(Chevin Housing Group)

'This should give more accurate information on which to base initiatives, therefore enabling us to provide the healthcare services that are required by these communities.'
(Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust)

Enables self-identification

In addition, a multiple response question would allow for self-identification and enable individuals to determine their own ethnic group.

' ... more detailed breakdown, as it allows respondents to describe their ethnicity more accurately ... can be used to identify groups that are integrating well within society and helps us to help pupils who need it most.'
(Shaw Hill School)

'More sensitive to the variety of influences of self-perceived ethnicity.'
(Dyfed Powys Police)

'Meets the needs of the individual for self-classification in a flexible way. Allows the system to respond to changes in the population and how people perceive their identities.'
(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

Improve completion of the question

Local service provider respondents also recognised that a multiple response question could encourage better completion of the ethnicity question in the census. For example:

'Users more likely to respond with full information.'
(Caerphilly Local Health Board)

2.6.2 Disadvantages of a multiple response ethnicity data

Although respondents viewed gaining a more accurate response as an advantage of a multiple response question, this was also regarded as a disadvantage. Many held the view that any advantages of a multiple response ethnic group question would be outweighed by the following disadvantages:

- difficulty in implementing and interpreting a multiple response classification
- impact on existing systems measuring ethnic group
- number of people with 'Mixed' ethnic group would increase

Difficulty in implementing and interpreting a multiple response classification

Respondents were concerned that the perceived advantage of having a more detailed response would not be borne out in practice, as it would be difficult for data users to interpret the results and respondents would be confused by a multiple tick option.

'Problems with robust interpretation. It would be preferable simply to expand the range of single choice descriptions the individual could use.'

(Chevin Housing Group)

'May make the data too complex to use easily – need to enable to collapse categories of data for small groups.'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS)

Impact on existing systems measuring ethnic group

Since ethnicity categories from the census are used by organisations as a basis for a range of data collection systems, some local service provider respondents stated that the proposed change would have a significant impact and be difficult to implement.

'[It would affect] comparability with routine data systems and comparability over time.'

(North East Public Health Observatory)

'It would make comparisons with previous data difficult and may also require changes to our own categories.'

(Gwent Police)

The number of people with 'Mixed' ethnic group would increase

Some local service provider respondents stated that a multiple response category would change the concept of the 'Mixed' group. It would potentially inflate the numbers in this category, compared with a single response question.

'Simple multi-response does not show how respondents rank their responses, that is which they regard as primary and which secondary aspects of their self-definition. The proposal seems likely to lead to much larger numbers being recorded as in "Mixed" groups; or more or less arbitrary rules for deciding a primary group. Ultimately we need a single classification that enumerates the whole population without double counting, and this is best provided by single-coded responses.'

(Transport for London)

2.7 Comments on the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland used a different ethnic group classification to the one proposed for the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales. The main difference was that it replaced the term 'White' with 'European' and the term 'Black' with 'African or Caribbean'. It also contained a larger number of tick-box categories. Respondents were asked to compare the two classifications and provide views on the advantages or disadvantages between the classifications of ethnic group.

2.7.1 Advantages of the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

Local service provider respondents identified the following advantages in the Scottish classification:

- the Scottish classification better reflected current society
- included additional categories that would give more detailed information
- use of term 'Multiple ethnic groups' for 'Mixed' categories

Scottish classification better reflected current society

Many local service provider respondents felt the Scottish categories reflected the changes in society and cultural identities more closely.

'More reflective of the current ethnic migration to the UK and the associated cultural breakdown by groups.'

(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'More closely correlating with cultural identities and providing valid information.'

(Brighton and Hove Deaf Equality and Access Forum)

'The data would have an increased richness; they would present a more accurate picture open to more fruitful analysis and would give a better idea of the diversity within an area.'

(Leeds Mind)

Included additional categories that would give more detailed information

Local service provider respondents viewed the inclusion of additional categories to those proposed in England and Wales as advantageous.

'Breakdown of African groups may be helpful, particularly in the future.'

(Nottingham City Primary Care Trust)

'More defined single group categories. Different African countries a good idea as "Black African" is too vague for such a vast diverse continent.'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

'1. It includes an "Other European" category to encompass migrant workers.

2. It includes a regional breakdown of the African continent rather than the umbrella category "Black African".

3. It includes a regional breakdown of the "Arab" ethnic group category.'

(Chevin Housing Group)

Use of term 'Multiple ethnic' groups for 'Mixed' categories

Some local service respondents also favoured the use of the term 'Multi-ethnic' rather than 'Mixed'.

'...the use of the term "Multiple ethnic groups" is perhaps a preferable and clearer term than "Mixed" to describe these respondents.'

(Dyfed Powys Police)

2.7.2 Disadvantages of the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

Some of the advantages of the Scottish ethnicity classifications outlined above were also considered to be disadvantages by some respondents. These included:

- Scottish classification combines different ethnic concepts and contains too many categories
- removal of colour terminology
- problems with Arab/Middle Eastern tick-boxes
- loss of comparability with the 2001 Census and across the UK
- too little information on respondents from 'Multiple ethnic' groups
- lack of detail provided by combined categories
- excludes certain ethnic groups

Scottish classification combines different ethnic concepts and contains too many categories

Some local service respondents commented that the Scottish classification was confusing as it combined different concepts.

'On balance, the mix of ethnicity, religion and geography (for example North/East/West/Central Africa) does not add clarity.'

(Transport for London)

Removal of colour terminology

The removal of colour terminology from the Scottish classification was seen by some as a disadvantage, particularly the removal of 'White' from the classification.

'Major problems with this list. "Whites" classified as "European" – what about "Other White" category, for example, which included Turks or Commonwealth country "Whites"? Assumes major homogeneity within the respective White British groups. Not sure how "Multiple ethnic groups" is useful, prefer "Mixed" as in English census. Is Sikh an ethnic group? List is too long.'

(Nottingham City Primary CareTrust)

'Referring to "Other White" as "Other European" suggests that there is only "White European".'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

Problems with Arab/Middle Eastern tick-boxes

Some local service provider respondents identified problems with the sub-division of the 'Arab' categories. For example:

'Difficult to place major groups (Iranian, Afghan, etc). Combined Group "Arab" is a problematic term if it contains many non-Arab groups in the Middle East and central Asia.'

(North East Public Health Observatory)

Too little information on respondents from 'Multiple ethnic' groups

Some local service provider respondents were concerned that the Scottish Classification would provide too little information on 'Multiple ethnic groups'.

'The classification is less well suited to London groups than it may be to Scotland. If single coded, it gives no detail about multiple ethnic groups. "Mixed" groups are the fastest growing BME [Black and Minority Ethnic] community in London.'

(Transport for London)

'"Multiple ethnic groups" is too broad.'

(London Underground)

Lack of detail provided by combined categories

Several local service provider respondents found the combined categories too broad, especially 'Asian' and 'Other' groups. For example:

'For our purposes it is not sufficient to have one category for all Asian groups, and one for "Other" ethnic groups. There are differences in culture and healthcare between different Asian communities – to put them all together would make it more difficult to provide specific care. [Also] not appropriate to put Jewish and Travellers in same category because [they have] different cultural needs.'

(Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust)

Excludes certain ethnic groups

Some local service provider respondents thought that some ethnic groups, including the Deaf, people from the Americas and the Pacific rim, Australia and South Africa, were not represented within the Scottish classification.

'Will always have one cultural minority group who will feel left out. You have already missed "Deaf" people, who consider themselves to be part of a cultural minority group who participate in a community and use a common language.'

(Brighton and Hove Deaf Equality and Access Forum)

'Over predominance of African, when Americas and Pacific rim are largely ignored. "Other Europeans" requires as much breakdown as Africans as many of these hard to establish from immigration records and difficult to recognise "colonial" influence within European populace.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

'No Australians, South Africans or White Europeans in Scotland.'

(Millfield Medical Centre)

3. Review of Requirements for Information on National Identity

ONS developed a national identity question after controversy around the 2001 Census. Public and political concerns were expressed in Wales about the lack of a Welsh tick-box category in the ethnic group question to enable Welsh people to specify their national identity in the same way that people in Scotland could record themselves as Scottish. A question on national identity has not been included in previous censuses in England and Wales, though it has been asked in surveys such as the ONS Labour Force Survey since 2001.

National identity is subjective and self-perceived, unlike objective information such as country of citizenship. It records, for example, British, English, Scottish and Welsh national identities independently from ethnic group. It also allows recording of national identities outside the UK. Testing of the national identity question showed that British-born people from ethnic minority groups preferred answering the ethnic group question if they were asked to record their national identity first. The proposed national identity question is a multiple response question, so would provide information for different combinations of national identities.

3.1 Requirements for information on national identity

Less than one-half (45 per cent of local service provider respondents stated they needed data on national identity from the 2011 Census. The remaining 55 per cent stated that they did not need for this information (Table 8).

Table 8: Requirements for information on national identity from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales Organisation type	Percentages		
	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	50	50	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	57	43	114
Local & regional government	67	33	81
Local service providers	45	55	40
All respondents	58	42	257

Respondents needed national identity information to gain a better understanding of local populations and communities they serve, and to identify particular groups residing there.

'[Information on national identity can help] to ensure we have a wide an understanding as possible of the communities we police.'

(Dyfed Powys Police)

'[To] inform service delivery.'

(South Wales Fire and Rescue Service)

'Health of Scots and Irish in England has been of concern.'

(North East Public Health Observatory)

'Irish Travellers tend to apply to Catholic schools – this information helps us predict demand for places/target support/plan ahead.'

(Traveller Education Service)

'National Identity is just as important as ethnicity and language as they all go hand in hand to provide relevant information.'

(Birmingham Voluntary Service Council)

Some local service provider respondents were against asking a national identity question on the 2011 Census. For example:

'Don't think this is a useful question.'

(Nottingham City Primary Care Trust)

3.2 Suitability of the proposed national identity question and suggested changes

More than two-thirds (70 per cent) of local service provider respondents stated that the proposed national identity categories would provide the data they required (Table 9).

Table 9: Suitability of the proposed national identity categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type

England and Wales Organisation type	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	64	18	18	11
Experts, community & special interest groups	39	15	46	72
Local & regional government	40	27	32	62
Local service providers	70	17	13	23
All respondents	45	20	35	168

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed national identity information from the 2011 Census in Question 30.

Around one-fifth (17 per cent) of local service provider respondents who required information on national identity thought that the national identity categories would not meet their needs. The main reason given for this was that the question gave too much emphasis to UK national identities. Some respondents would like to see non-UK categories added so that they could determine whether people with non-UK national identities also identified themselves as British.

For example, the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, Saltley School and the West Midlands Police Force Diversity Unit all needed to identify British Kashmiris and non-British Kashmiris to provide an indication as to whether one group were better off than the other. In addition, several Sikh organisations stated that they would support having 'Sikh Nation – Khalistan' as a tick box.

'[We] need specific details of nationality from those from outside the UK as a standard output ... it could be argued that nationality is something that we need to know more about for non-UK nationalities than [for] UK nationalities.'

(Dyfed Powys Police)

One local service provider requested a Deaf national category.

'... because it would show the breadth and depth of the Deaf community and the Government would have to recognise their needs.'

(BID Services with Deaf People)

4. Review of Requirements for Information on Religion

A voluntary question on religion was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2001. The question in England and Wales gathers information on religious identity or affiliation. It is not intended to provide information on religious observance or practice. It differs from the religion questions used in the Scottish and Northern Irish Censuses.

4.1 Requirements for information on religion

Table 10: Requirements of religion information from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	68	32	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	78	23	120
Local & regional government	91	9	81
Local service providers	77	23	43
All	81	19	266

Most local service provider respondents (77 per cent) required information on religion from the 2011 Census (Table 10). Respondents cited a variety of reasons for needing this information, including:

- to provide a better understanding of the local population to improve services
- to provide information on inequalities based on religion

To provide a better understanding of the local population to improve services

Information on religion helped respondents to gain a better picture of the local populations they serve.

'For mapping the size of different communities in our service catchment area.'
(Birmingham Voluntary Service Council)

Respondents stated that understanding the religious backgrounds within the community helped them to provide a quality service.

'... providing user-led care and treatment, for example diet, birth and death observances, and targeting of interventions appropriately.'

(Nottingham City Primary Care Trust)

'To identify locations where customers of different religions live so that station staff are aware of the transport needs of the local population and how they might vary with religion.'

(London Underground)

'To ensure service delivery adequately takes into account the various religious identities/beliefs of those coming into contact with police.'

(West Midlands Police Authority)

To provide information on inequalities based on religion

Data on religion was also required by some local service providers for research into inequalities based on religion. For example:

'There is a suggestion, anecdotally, that people from certain religious persuasions may be suffering greater inequalities than others. Therefore, some health determinants may be as much related to religion as to ethnicity.'

(England's Public Health Observatories)

However, several local service provider respondents stated that information on religion was less important than information on ethnic groups.

'This is of much lower priority than ethnicity and language.'

(North East Public Health Observatory)

4.2 Suitability of religion categories and suggested changes

Most local service provider respondents (96 per cent) stated that the proposed categories for religion were fully or partially suitable for the information they required (Table 11)

**Table 11: Suitability of proposed religion categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Organisation type	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	79	0	21	14
Experts, community & special interest groups	65	19	17	96
Local & regional government	82	4	14	72
Local service providers	85	11	4	27
All respondents	74	11	14	209

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed religion information from the 2011 Census in Question 35

The main reasons why respondents did not think the question on religion would meet their needs was that religious activity should also be measured.

Religious activity should also be measured

At present the religion question in England and Wales asks 'What is your religion?' Some local service provider respondents requested that the question be extended to include religious activity.

'It might be nice to know a little more about the status of their faith – from devout to people whose faith is a less defining quality, that is whether they practised their religion regularly, occasionally, or never – to understand potential tensions in our communities.'

(Dyfed Powys Police)

4.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 religion information

Table 12: Need to compare information on religion in the 2011 Census with the 2001 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
	Yes	No	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Organisation type			
Central & devolved government	73	27	11
Experts, community & special interest groups	69	31	51
Local & regional government	85	15	52
Local service providers	70	30	10
All respondents	76	24	124

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed religion information from the 2011 Census in Question 35.

More than two-thirds of local service provider respondents (70 per cent) stated that they needed to compare information on religion from the 2011 Census with information from the 2001 Census (Table 12). Several respondents stated that it was useful to monitor changes over time for policy evaluation and service provision. Other uses included:

“Comparative information would be useful to monitor changes in observance that might be linked to changes in mental health.’

(North East Public Health Observatory)

5. Review of Requirements for Information on Language

A question on Welsh language proficiency has been included in every census in Wales since 1891. ONS proposes to continue to measure Welsh language proficiency in Wales in 2011. Proficiency in other languages has not been recorded in previous censuses in England and Wales, and is currently much less likely to be included than the other topics covered in this consultation. It will definitely not be included unless there is space for four pages of individual questions per person. This consultation aimed to gain a better understanding of user requirements for language information.

5.1 Requirements for information on language

Table 13: Requirements for information on language from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	86	14	21
Experts, community & special interest groups	88	12	121
Local & regional government	96	4	84
Local service providers	93	7	45
All respondents	92	8	271

The majority of local service provider respondents (93 per cent) stated that they had a requirement for language from the 2011 Census (Table 13). Respondents would like this information to gain a better knowledge of the community so that a better service could be planned, especially in providing interpretation/translation services, and written information in appropriate languages.

'To enable us to plan an appropriate curriculum, at an appropriate level, and in appropriate locations. Important to know what level [of language] people have – the question is very vague re proficiency.'

(Rawlins Community College)

'To identify areas or groups of people who need service information (spoken or written) in languages other than English and what that language would be.'

(London Underground)

'To develop appropriate preventative literature for the most vulnerable groups.'

(South Wales Fire and Rescue Service)

'To assess the need for interpretation and translation. High quality healthcare requires good communication and there is currently poor information on the language support needs of patients or the population.'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

'To influence where services need to consider Deaf people who may use BSL [British Sign Language] as a first language. This will help to map out where services can be targeted.'

(Brighton and Hove Deaf Equality and Access Forum)

'To ensure that patients are aware of the services available to them, and how to access them.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust)

Some respondents stated that proficiency in English language could be used as an indicator of integration.

'English should be recognised as the official language of government and public authorities. Residents must be encouraged to learn English or accept problems of integration.'

(West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)

5.2 Suitability of proposed language question in the 2007 Census Test

The proposed language question in the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales measured aspects of language ability. It included categories for the ability to understand, speak, read and write English, Welsh and one other language (to be specified by the respondent). Categories for the ability to understand and sign British Sign Language (BSL) were also included.

Table 14: Suitability of proposed language categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type

Organisation type	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	63	6	31	16
Experts, community & special interest groups	39	37	24	100
Local & regional government	48	18	34	82
Local service providers	53	28	20	40
All respondents	46	27	27	238

¹ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed language information in Question 42.

Over half (53 per cent) of local service provider respondents who required information on language stated that the proposed language categories would meet their needs. A further 20 per cent stated that their requirements would be partially met (Table 14).

The main problems identified with the proposed language question included:

- unable to distinguish between levels of proficiency
- lack of space for recording other languages

Unable to distinguish between levels of proficiency

Respondents needed information on the level of proficiency of each language.

'It's more useful to know about first language rather than what languages people can speak. We don't want to know about holiday French.'

(Connexions Leicestershire)

Lack of space for recording other languages

The lack of space for recording other languages was identified as a problem. The 2007 Census Test question on language allows respondents to add information on only one other language (other than English, Welsh and BSL) and many respondents felt that this was too limiting.

'The question needs to enable gathering of information on all languages spoken in England. There should be a `write-in` section for the other languages. To ensure that we get a full picture of the languages spoken within our communities.'

(Leeds Primary Care Trust)

Local service provider respondents largely supported the collection of language information in the census.

'Understanding the changing language support needs of the local population is difficult and poorly researched at present. Census data would be an extremely helpful basis to better understanding and thus better matching of resources to needs.'

(Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust)

'Reliable language information is not captured anywhere else and potentially has a large impact on how we deliver services. It cannot be determined from national identity. We have recently made progress in including language on in-house surveys and it would be very useful to compare that with the situation for potential users too. The information would help keep our communications policy up-to-date.'
(London Underground)

5.3 Additional requirements on language ability

Respondents who thought that the language question in the 2007 Census Test would not meet their requirements were asked to specify what additional information they required on different aspects of language in the 2011 Census. In general local service provider respondents were interested in more information on the minority languages used within their local area or client group.

'Any first languages other than English.'
(Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service)

'Pahari/Mirpuri.'
(Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, Bordesley Green Girls' School, Shaw Hill School, Saltley School, and West Midlands Police Diversity Unit)

'Arabic, Bengali, French, Farsi, Polish, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu.'
(Chevin Housing Council)

'British Sign Language (BSL), Sign Support English (SSE), Lipreading.'
(BID Services with Deaf People)

'European languages/Arabic, Somali, Albanian – linked with our asylum seeker and refugee communities.'
(Connexions Leicestershire)

'Welsh.'
(Gwent Police, Caerphilly Local Health Board and NHS Wales Business Services Centre)

5.4 Most important aspects of language ability

There are many different aspects of language ability. Respondents were provided with a list of 19 different aspects of language ability, and were asked to indicate whether they required this information and if so, to what extent.

**Table 15: Requirements for specific aspects of language ability: all respondents
England and Wales**

	Percentage			
	Very important	Quite important	Do not need	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Ability to understand spoken English	88	10	3	40
Ability to speak English	85	13	3	40
Preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities	85	8	8	40
Ability to read English	83	13	5	40
Preferred written language for communicating with public authorities	80	13	8	40
Mother tongue or first language	75	23	3	40
Which languages are spoken, other than English	74	23	3	39
Which languages are read, other than English	74	23	3	39
Which languages are understood, other than English	72	23	5	39
Ability to write in English	67	21	13	39
Main language (spoken at home)	61	27	12	41
Which languages are written, other than English	51	38	10	39
Frequency of speaking other languages	45	37	18	38
Other aspects of language ability	25	19	56	16
Ability to speak Welsh (among population in England)	11	16	73	37
Ability to read Welsh (among population in England)	11	16	73	37
Ability to write in Welsh (among population in England)	11	11	78	37
Frequency of speaking Welsh	11	8	81	37
Ability to understand spoken Welsh (among population in England)	8	16	76	37

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed language information in Question 42.

2 Responses were only sought for requirements for Welsh in England as a Welsh language question is already asked in Wales.

3 Requirements for language ability for each organisation type can be found in the consultation reports relating to that stakeholder group.

The top nine different aspects of language ability in Table 15 were considered to be very important by 70 per cent or more of local service provider respondents. The single most important aspect was ability to understand spoken English, which was requested by 88 per cent of respondents.

APPENDIX

A1. References

1. *The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, May 2005

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census.asp>

2. *The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales – Ethnicity, identity, language and religion*, Office for National Statistics, March 2006
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_assessment_of_user_requirements.pdf

A.2 Local Service Provider Consultation Respondents

Asthma UK
BID Services with Deaf People
Birmingham Voluntary Service Council
Bordesley Green Girls' School, Birmingham
Brighton and Hove Deaf Equality and Access
Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust
Caerphilly Local Health Board
Chevin Housing Group
Comenius (CfBT Education Trust)
Connexions Leicestershire
Dyfed Powys Police
EAL (English as an Additional Language) Advisory Service Professional Education Centre, Ceredigion
East Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support
England's Public Health Observatories (completed on behalf of)
Grassroots (Cardiff) Ltd
Gwent Police
Leeds Mind
Leeds Primary Care Trust
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
London Underground
Millfield Medical Centre
National Clinical Assessment Service
National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education
NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme
NHS Wales Business Services Centre
North East Public Health Observatory
Nottingham City Primary Care Trust
Rawlins Community College, Quorn, Loughborough
Royal National Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust - Royal National Hospital
Saltley School, Birmingham
Saltley and Washwood Heath Practical Care Project
Shaw Hill School, Birmingham
Socialist Health Association
South Asian Health Foundation
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Thames Valley Police
Transport for London
Traveller Education Service, Cardiff
The WM Merritt Disabled Living Centre & Mobility Service, St Mary's Hospital, Leeds
West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit
West Midlands Police Authority
West Midlands Police, Force Diversity Unit
West Yorkshire Police Authority
West Midlands Regional Observatory

A.3 2007 Census Test Question for Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion, England and Wales

Information on the entire 2007 Census Test questionnaire is available at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/censustestquestionnaire

<p>12 What do you consider your national identity to be?</p> <p>◆ Tick all boxes that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Welsh</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> English</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scottish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p>	<p>14 What is your religion?</p> <p>◆ This question is voluntary.</p> <p>◆ Tick one box only.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Christian (including Church in Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hindu</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jewish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Muslim</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sikh</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p>																																																						
<p>13 What is your ethnic group?</p> <p>◆ Choose one section from A to E, then tick the box to show your ethnic group.</p> <p>A White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Welsh</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>B Mixed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other Mixed background, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>C Asian or Asian British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>D Black or Black British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> African</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>E Other ethnic group</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Arab</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any other, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p>	<p>15 What languages can you understand, speak, read or write?</p> <p>◆ Tick all boxes that apply.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No ability</th> <th>Understand spoken</th> <th>Speak</th> <th>Read</th> <th>Write</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Welsh</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>English</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other language, write in</td> <td colspan="5"><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>No ability</th> <th>Understand sign</th> <th>Sign</th> <th colspan="2"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>British Sign Language</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other sign language, write in</td> <td colspan="5"><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No ability	Understand spoken	Speak	Read	Write	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other language, write in	<input type="text"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No ability	Understand sign	Sign			British Sign Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Other sign language, write in	<input type="text"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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Other sign language, write in	<input type="text"/>																																																						
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																					
	<p>16 How often do you speak Welsh?</p> <p>◆ Tick one box only.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daily</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Weekly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less often</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Never</p>																																																						

A.4 2006 Scottish Census Test Ethnicity Classification

Information on the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is available at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/2006-census-test/index.html>

What is your ethnic group Tick one box which best describes your ethnic background or culture.	
European	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> British
<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Multiple Ethnic Groups	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any multiple background, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Asian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi
<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in
<input type="text"/>	
Arab	
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle East	<input type="checkbox"/> North African
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
African or Caribbean	
<input type="checkbox"/> North African	<input type="checkbox"/> East African
<input type="checkbox"/> Southern African	<input type="checkbox"/> West African
<input type="checkbox"/> Central African	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Other ethnic group	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	

A5. Consultation Questionnaire on Ethnicity, National identity, Language and Religion for 2011 Census in England and Wales

Please fill in this questionnaire by checking the boxes with your mouse or typing in the shaded sections. The shaded sections expand as you type so your answer can be as long or short as you wish. Save this document when you have finished and email it back to ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk. (If you have any questions please contact us at ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk.)

Your comments will help to inform the development of the 2011 Census. Your answers may be made public and attributed to you/your organisation.

Please leave blank any sections that are not relevant to you/your organisation.

About you/your organisation

Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone number	
Email address	

Q1. In which of these topics do you or your organisation have an interest? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. National identity	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Language	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. None of these	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2. What roles or responsibilities does your organisation have with respect to the areas you have ticked above (at Q1)? *Please describe.*

--

Q3. Which of the following sources of information on ethnic group, national identity, language and/or religion do you use? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Census	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Government social surveys (such as the Labour Force Survey or British Crime Survey)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Surveys or information collected by/on behalf of your own organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
4. Information collected by other public authorities (e.g. NHS, Local Authorities)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
5. Other information on these topics	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q4. For which UK countries/geographies do you need this information? *Tick all that apply.*

1. England	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Great Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. United Kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Other	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Your views on ethnicity

A question on ethnic group has been included in previous censuses (1991 and 2001). This provides information on the self-identified ethnic group of the population.

The 2007 Census Test questionnaire contains some new ethnic group categories. But there may not be space to include these in the 2011 Census. Alternative options include repeating the 2001 ethnic group question or having a multiple-response question for ethnic group.

Q5. Do you need ethnic group information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q20

Q6. Which of these do you require? *Tick all that apply.*

1. General information on the ethnic composition of the population	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Information on specific ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
3. Information on combinations of ethnic groups (e.g. the total ethnic minority population; the Asian population; etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
4. Other information on ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q7. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

Q8. Do you require information on any of the following concepts? (See the accompanying consultation document for definitions.) *Tick all that apply.*

1. Visible minority population	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Non-White population	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Any other concepts related to ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q9. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
1. White English (in England)	1. White (categories 1 to 4)
2. White Welsh (in Wales)	2. Mixed (categories 6 to 9)
3. Other White British	3. Asian or Asian British (categories 10 to 14)
4. White Irish	4. Black or Black British (categories 15 to 17)
5. Other White background	5. Other ethnic groups
6. Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
7. Mixed: White and Black African 8. Mixed: White and Asian 9. Mixed: Other Mixed background 10. Indian 11. Pakistani 12. Bangladeshi 13. Chinese 14. Other Asian background 15. Black Caribbean 16. Black African 17. Other Black background 18. Arab 19. Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller 20. Other Ethnic Group	(categories 18 to 20)

(Note: information on the 'other' ethnic categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q10. Would the categories for **single** ethnic groups listed above provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q12
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q11. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<i>Reasons why:</i> <i>Additional information needed:</i> <i>Reasons needed:</i>
--

Q12. Would the **combined** ethnic group categories (White; Mixed; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; or Other ethnic groups) provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q14
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q13. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<i>Reasons why:</i>
<i>Additional information needed:</i>
<i>Reasons needed:</i>

Q14. Will you need to compare the information on **single** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q16

Q15. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Q16. Will you need to compare the information on **combined** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q18

Q17. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Comparability over time and across the UK

Q18. Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 may reduce the comparability with information collected in 2001. The degree to which comparability is reduced will depend on the extent of any changes.

Changes may also affect comparability across the UK. The ethnic group classifications in Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2001 were different from that in England and Wales, due to differences in the ethnic minority populations in each country. The Registrars General of the respective countries are committed to working towards consistent UK Census outputs, but it is possible that the differences between the ethnic group classifications in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may increase if there are different needs for information in each area.

What would be the effect of a **small** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a few of the single ethnic group categories are not comparable, but comparisons between the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group could still be made.) *Please describe for each aspect of comparability.*

Comparability with 2001:

Comparability across UK or GB:

Q19. What would be the effect of a **large** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a majority of the single ethnic group categories and the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group are not fully comparable.)

Please describe for each aspect of comparability.

Comparability with 2001:

Comparability across UK or GB:

Your views on the acceptability of ethnic group terms

Q20. Ethnic identity and the terms used to describe it can change over time. Sometimes terms that were initially perceived as acceptable come to be seen as unacceptable (for example out-of-date or derogatory), and vice versa. ONS aims to use terminology that is clear, understandable and acceptable to respondents and we welcome comments on the terminology used.

For each of the following terms, do you find them acceptable for use in an ethnic group question? *Tick 'yes' or 'no' for each term.*

	Yes	No
1. White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Asian or Asian British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q21. Please give reasons for your answers to Q20.

Q22. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the terms listed in Q20?

--

Q23. Do you find any of the names used to describe the single ethnic group categories **unacceptable** for use in an ethnic group question? (The single ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24. Please give reasons for your answer to Q23.

--

Q25. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the ethnic group category names? (The ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

--

Your views on multiple response ethnic group information

Ethnic group information from previous UK censuses has been based on asking people to tick one box only. Specific categories were introduced in 2001 to record people with mixed ethnicity (see list after Q9, categories 6 to 9). As the proportion of people with mixed ethnicity is likely to increase, ONS proposes to test whether a multiple-response ethnic group question, based on asking people to tick all categories that apply, would allow people to record their ethnic group more efficiently/accurately. (Note that in the 2001 Census in England and Wales around 2 per cent of respondents ticked more than one answer to the ethnic group question, despite the instruction to tick only one box. They were re-allocated to a single ethnic category during the data processing stage.)

The information from a multiple response ethnic group question would be reported in two different ways.

- a. A count of all **individuals** (with people who tick a single response recorded as being of this ethnic group and people who tick more than one response recorded as 'Mixed: X and Y' according to the combination of their responses)
- b. A count of all **responses** (e.g. the total number of people who ticked each ethnic group, whether singly or in combination with other responses)

The majority of outputs and reporting would use a count of all individuals. This would contain the ethnic group categories listed in the question, with additional 'Mixed' categories for the most common multiple responses.

Since 2000 several other countries, including USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, have provided multiple-response information on ethnicity or related topics in their censuses. However, changing to multiple-response ethnic categories will reduce the comparability with the single-response information from previous UK censuses.

Q26. What would be the effect of changing to multiple-response ethnic group on your use of the information? *Please describe.*

--

Q27. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of multiple-response ethnic group information?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	
Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i>	

Comparison with Scottish test categories

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland used a different ethnic group classification to the one proposed for the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales. The main difference is that it replaces the term 'White' with 'European' and the term 'Black' with 'African or Caribbean'. It also contains a larger number of tick-box categories. If the 2006 Scottish ethnic group question was used in 2011 it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scottish 2. English 3. Welsh 4. British 5. Northern Irish 6. Irish 7. Other European 8. Multiple ethnic groups 9. Pakistani 10. Indian 11. Sikh 12. Chinese 13. Bangladeshi 14. Other Asian 15. Middle East 16. North African Arab 17. Other Arab 18. North African 19. East African 20. Southern African 21. West African 22. Central African 23. Caribbean 24. Other African or Caribbean 25. Gypsy/Traveller 26. Jewish 27. Other ethnic group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European (categories 1 to 7) 2. Multiple ethnic groups (category 8) 3. Asian (categories 9 to 14) 4. Arab (categories 15 to 17) 5. African or Caribbean (categories 18 to 24) 6. Other ethnic groups (categories 25 to 27)

More information on the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is available here:

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/index.html

Q28. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of the Scottish 2006 test classification (above) compared with the England and Wales 2007 test classification (shown after Q9)?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	
Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i>	

Other comments on ethnicity

Q29. If you have any other comments on ethnic group in the census please record below.

--

Your views on national identity

A question on national identity has not been included in previous censuses, though it has been asked in surveys such as the Labour Force Survey since 2001. National identity is subjective and self-perceived, unlike objective information such as country of citizenship. It records (for example) English, Welsh and Scottish national identities separately from an overall British identity and independently from ethnic group. It also allows recording of national identities from outside the UK. Testing of the national identity question showed that British-born people from ethnic minority groups preferred answering the ethnic group question if they were asked to record their national identity first.

Q30. Do you need national identity information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q34

Q31. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following national identity categories:

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 1. English |
| 2. Welsh |
| 3. Scottish |
| 4. Northern Irish |
| 5. British |
| 6. Irish |
| 7. Other national identities |

National identity is a multiple response question, so it would also provide information for different combinations of national identities. (Note: information on the ‘other’ national identity categories, based on respondents’ written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q32. Would the proposed categories for national identity provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q34
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q33. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q34. If you have any other comments on national identity in the census please record below.

--

Your views on religion

A voluntary question on religion was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2001. The question in England and Wales gathers information on religious identity or affiliation, rather than observance or practice. It differs from the religion questions used in the Scottish and Northern Irish censuses.

Q35. Do you need religion information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41

Q36. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following religion categories in England and Wales:

1. No religion
2. Christian
3. Buddhist
4. Hindu
5. Jewish
6. Muslim
7. Sikh
8. Other religions

(Note: information on the 'other' religious categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q37. Would the proposed categories for religion provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q38. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<i>Reasons why:</i> <i>Additional information needed:</i> <i>Reasons needed:</i>
--

Q39. Will you need to compare the information on religion in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

3. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
4. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41

Q40. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Q41. If you have any other comments on religion in the census please record below.

--

Your views on language

A question on Welsh language proficiency has been included in previous censuses in Wales. ONS proposes to continue to measure Welsh language proficiency in Wales in 2011.

Proficiency in other languages has **not** been recorded in previous censuses in England or Wales, and will only be included in 2011 if there is space for four pages of individual questions per person. But we are aiming to get a better understanding of users' requirements for language information. If there is a strong requirement for language information it may be possible to collect it using another survey, subject to funding.

Language ability can be difficult to measure using a self-completion form, and there are many different aspects of language. Please use the section below to record your requirements on this topic.

Q42. Do you need language information?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q50

Q43. Which languages are you particularly interested in, if any? *Please write in.*

--

Q44. For what purposes do you/your organisation need language information?

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following **new** aspects of language ability in England and Wales:

1. Ability to understand spoken English
2. Ability to speak English
3. Ability to read English
4. Ability to write in English
5. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (new for population in England)
6. Ability to speak Welsh (new for population in England)
7. Ability to read Welsh (new for population in England)
8. Ability to write in Welsh (new for population in England)
9. Ability to understand British Sign Language (BSL)
10. Ability to sign in BSL
11. Other languages understood
12. Other languages spoken/signed
13. Other languages read
14. Other languages written

Q45. Would the proposed categories for language ability provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q47
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q46. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q47. To what extent would information on the number of people who do not speak English, and the languages spoken by those who do not, be useful to you?

1. Very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Useful	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q48. There are many aspects of language ability. Which of the following aspects of language ability do you need to know about, and to what extent? *Tick the relevant box in each row.*

	Very important	Quite important	Do not need
1. Ability to understand spoken English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ability to speak English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ability to read English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Ability to write in English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Which languages are understood, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Which languages are spoken, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Which languages are read, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Which languages are written, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Ability to speak Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Ability to read Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Ability to write in Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Frequency of speaking Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Frequency of speaking other languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Mother tongue or first language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Main language(s) spoken at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Preferred written language for communicating with public authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Other aspects of language ability, please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q49. If only **one** piece of language information could be collected, what would be the most useful to you/your organisation?

Choose one aspect from Q48 above and write in the number below, or describe in your own words.

Piece of information required	
Specific language (if applicable)	

Q50. If you have any other comments on language please record below.

--

Prioritising your requirements

The eventual questions used in 2011 will have to balance the requirements for information with the constraints on questionnaire length.

Q51. Please rank these four topics in order, based on how important each piece of information is to you/your organisation.

Number each topic from 1 to 4, where 1 is the most important topic and 4 is the least important.

Ethnic group	
National identity	
Religion	
Language	

Q52. Of all the requirements you have mentioned in this questionnaire, which are the most important to you/your organisation? *List up to three.*

1.
2.
3.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Q53. Use the space below for any other comments you want to add.

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Thank you for contributing your views. Please return this form to:
ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk

Emailed forms are preferred. We can also be contacted at:

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