Advisory Group Paper (05)06

2006 Census Test Scotland

Executive summary

1. This paper presents a summary of the plans for the 2006 Census Test in Scotland, and covers the main aims of the Test.

Action: Advisory Group members are asked to note the plans for the 2006 Test in Scotland.

Aim of paper

2. This paper provides a brief overview of the current design plans of the 2006 Census Test. The Test is well under way so a lot of the design is immutable. Nonetheless, Census Advisory Groups are asked to consider the ideas put forward in this paper and provide their views on the 2006 Census Test design. All views will be welcome.

The Test

3. The test is designed to answer the following questions:

    *   Does an income question affect coverage?
    *   How much do post out and enumerator delivery cost?
    *   Can we use enumerators to improve the quality of returns?
    *   Does enumerator delivery compared to post out improve confidence among enumerators?
    *   Do the new questions work?
    *   Do enumerators correctly classify properties from which there is no return?
    *   Do address registers improve coverage?

4. The 3 Test Areas (Glasgow, Lochaber & Breadalbane and West Dunbartonshire) have been chosen to reflect different problems:

    *   **West Dunbartonshire** was the area with the highest male unemployment and imputation levels in 2001 in Scotland

- **Glasgow** has two areas to cover the main ethnic groups in Scotland
- **Lochaber and Breadalbane** have many holiday homes and we can check enumerator classification of them and find the cost of address checking in our most rural areas.

5. The sizes of the test areas are shown in Table 1:

Area	Estimate Household value
Milton	2,795
North Dumbarton	2,560
Renton	2,424
Alexandria	3,622
W Dunbartonshire total	**11,401**
Highland	7,082
Argyll & Bute	3,332
Stirling	656
Perth and Kinross	1,706
Lochaber & Breadalbane total	**12,776**
N Glasgow	11,982
S Glasgow	15,688
Glasgow total	**27,670**
Total	**51,847**

6. The areas have also been chosen to cover our largest council, Glasgow, and a range of other councils so that we can initiate co-operation over address lists. The councils with test areas are shown along with the number of households in those areas.

Major features

7. Enumerators will deal with Enumeration Districts where

- About 50% of the forms will have an income question;
- About 50% of the forms will be posted out and 50% will be enumerator delivered.

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8. The 2x2 design leads to 4 variants. A postcode will only have 1 variant, but an enumeration district of about 300-450 households will contain all 4 variants.

9. Address checking in November will precede the main enumeration in April and May and provide an updated Postal Address File. Forms will be pre-printed with an address and either posted out or delivered by the enumerator.

10. Enumerators will be encouraged to help completion of the census form where they make contact with the householder. They will be asked to go back to a household if they can identify that an 'incomplete' form has been returned.

Other new developments

11. We will use in-house pay.

12. We will pay enumerators on a weekly fixed fee basis above the minimum wage level.

13. We have in-house questionnaire development.

14. Census Team Leaders will recheck every empty property.

15. We have web-based recruitment.

16. We will pre-address all forms except for those new properties enumerators find.

17. We have an FMIS system through which field staff from Census District Manager level upwards can report and share information.

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October 2005