

2011 Census Accessibility

Summary

- 1 Further to the Advisory Group Paper (08)15, ONS wishes to briefly update members on actions taken and progress made to ensure the 2011 Census is accessible to all audiences in England and Wales.
- 2 Advisory Group members are invited to note progress on these accessibility strategies and activities and to comment as necessary.

Accessibility Strategies and Consultation

- 3 Consultation on accessibility has taken place (and will continue) with the following key national representative groups :
 - Royal National Institute of Blind people (RNIB)
 - Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)
 - British Deaf Association (BDA)
 - Age Concern and Help the Aged
 - National Literacy Trust
 - SCOPE
- 4 There have been supplementary meetings with Equality 2025 (The UK Advisory Network for Disability Equality), People First and other national representative groups. This will assist us in making the best provisions possible with regard to accessibility within the limits of resources available.
- 5 Many Census Advisory Group members will be aware that a new survey has been commissioned, by the Office for Disability Issues, through the ONS. The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is designed to provide more detailed specific data and information about accessibility related issues nationally and on a more frequent basis than the Census.
- 6 The accessible formats to be provided for the 2011 Census will be confirmed after piloting the Rehearsal formats in paragraph 11 (below); there will be a tendering exercise for a contract to supply them.
- 7 Work has begun with the RNIB to gain 'See it Right' accreditation' of the 2011 on-line service. On completion, the website will meet RNIB and Abilitynet guidelines to maximise accessibility for users.

- 8 Accessibility Workshops planned for Summer 2009 will now be re-scheduled for Autumn in order to maximise input through our experience gained during the Rehearsal.

2009 Rehearsal Accessibility Progress

Consultation

- 9 The development of working relationships with Local Strategic Partnerships and the Local Services Board from the Rehearsal areas is progressing well, these comprise of:
- The City of Lancaster
 - The London Borough of Newham
 - Ynys Môn - Isle of Anglesey
- 10 Engagement between ONS and organisations likely to have influence and resources in these areas has started, and will be enhanced through working in partnership with Local Authority community networks.

Accessible Formats

- 11 The following accessible formats in English and Welsh will be piloted in the Rehearsal and will be supplied by the 'RNIB' and 'Deaf Connections':
- a) Braille Guidance Booklet
 - b) Audio Guidance Cassette Tape
 - c) Audio Guidance CD
 - d) BSL Guidance CD
 - e) Audio Clips on website
 - f) BSL Clips on website
- 12 Accessibility information will be on the website and formats available to the public at request through the Contact Centre. This message will be passed to key disability groups through engagement and publicity. In addition, Community Liaison will be looking at innovative ways of targeting these formats such as through libraries and disability clubs. Through evaluation of the Rehearsal, decisions will be made on the accessible formats to be produced for the 2011 Census.

Accessibility of the Rehearsal On-Line Service

- 13 Accessibility and usability testing of the Rehearsal website is under way. The second round of usability testing has been implemented by Abilitynet and the third round will be held in May/June 09.

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