

OUTPUT CONSULTATION

Summary

- 1 Fourteen output Roadshow meetings were held across the UK in September and October. Nine meetings were held at various locations in England, one in Wales, one in Northern Ireland and three in Scotland. The meetings were attended by around 600 people in total across the UK, representing organisations from central and local government, and from the health, academic, business and voluntary sectors.
- 2 The Census organisations would like to thank all those who helped in organising the events, particularly those who hosted meetings.
- 3 This paper reports on the main issues raised at the meetings and actions which have followed, and reminds users that the final opportunity to comment on the proposals set out in the latest consultation documentation closes on 16 November.
- 4 **Advisory Group Members are invited to note the issues raised at the Roadshow meetings, the actions which have followed, and the specific topics on which users' comments have been invited.**

Roadshow content

- 5 The meetings introduced the documentation covering the revised proposals for the 2001 Census standard area statistics, and explained the decision process behind the latest versions of the tables. This included a description of major changes since the last round of consultation, and presentations on output geography and on the metadata that will support the statistics. Software for viewing and manipulating tables was also demonstrated.
- 6 The meetings also included an update on the 2001 Census operation, plans for topic reports and commissioned tables, and on the Census Access project (and the relationship with Neighbourhood Statistics) and the SCROL project in Scotland.
- 7 A full set of the slides shown at the England and Wales Roadshow meetings is available for downloading from the National Statistics website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/outputroadshows.asp> . Corresponding slides from the Roadshow meetings in Scotland are available for downloading from the GROS Website at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>

Main issues raised at the meetings

- 8 The meetings provided opportunities for questions and feedback, all of which was recorded by the Census organisations. Questions were answered as fully as possible, but there were a number of significant points for further action by the Census organisations.

Clarifications provided

- 9 Some of the more frequently raised points that were clarified at the meetings included:

Charges for standard output

- 10 There will be no charge for output on Census organisations websites. Material costs of supplying standard output in other media, including the printed reports to Parliament, will be recovered through charges. The marginal additional costs of producing specially commissioned output will be recovered through charges.

Inclusion of Origin-Destination statistics within standard output

- 11 The concurrent release of output means that total counts of migrants and workers into and out of an area are included within the standard area statistics. It is anticipated that the migration and travel to workplace area to area flow matrices will be included within the standard output and will hence be available 'free in effect' to users. The access to the statistics may be through a separate means of entry, given their complexity.

What are 'click-use' licences and when do users of census output need them?

- 12 Census output is supplied to users under the terms and conditions of the Census organisations. However, re-use and publication of the material now requires a licence from HMSO as controller of the Crown copyright.
- 13 The new 'click-use' licensing scheme for Government information means, for example, that standard output in the form of the 1991 Census reports, 1991 Local Base Statistics (LBS), and 1991 Small Area Statistics (SAS) can now be re-used and published without further payment. The same terms will apply to equivalent 2001 Census output. The scheme reflects Government policy to encourage use of Government funded information in the knowledge economy.
- 14 In practical terms the new scheme means that any organisation which holds information such as the 1991 LBS or SAS may apply for a 'click-use' licence for re-use and publication, for example on a website, without further payment. This updates the conditions of supply for the 1991 output, although all clauses in the agreement still apply. An organisation that does not already hold the information and wishes to re-use and publish it may apply to HMSO for a free 'click-use' licence before obtaining supply of the information from the Census organisations, for which the material costs of supply will be charged. More information on the scheme is available from the HMSO website (<http://www.hmso.gov.uk>) and also in *Census News 45*.

Changes to Health Administration geography in England

- 15 Current Health Authorities are to be replaced by a revised geography of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). Census output will reflect this change.

Action by Census organisations

- 16 Key areas where action has followed from issues raised at Roadshow meetings are:

Post Census Ward boundary changes

- 17 Users stated a strong requirement for the standard output to be available on revised ward boundaries, introduced between Census day and the date released (early 2003) or subsequently. The Census organisations are currently reviewing the feasibility of creating Output Areas to fit post census boundaries where ward boundary changes are known. This process would be reliant on the availability of digitised ward boundaries of good provenance.

Request for further information on coverage and quality

- 18 Users at all meetings requested more information than has already been given, on indications of coverage and quality, and on the plans for the release of such information. There was a requirement for sub-national response rates and also for particular areas (such as those affected by foot and mouth and inner city areas) and sub groups of the population (such as students, babies and young adult males). A note on a Review and Evaluation of the Census 2001 has been placed on the website and Paper AG (01) 09 gives some information on plans for release of this type of information.

Flexible output and disclosure control in England and Wales

- 19 We have in the 2001 Census a uniquely rich source of information which we intend to make widely, freely and flexibly available in a range of formats. This will include detailed counts, inter-relationships of variables and information for a large number of geographies including neighbourhoods. The protection of the confidentiality of personal census information to meet assurances given when it was collected remains, however, paramount.
- 20 On the basis of the extensive evidence about users needs and after a thorough review of the measures necessary to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of information about identifiable individuals through statistical output from the Census in England and Wales, the National Statistician has decided to introduce an additional measure of disclosure protection for all tables. This will allow us to offer greater flexibility in output especially to provide information for overlapping areas, for example where this results from change in administrative boundaries. It will also allow us to protect against perceptions of disclosure that may arise in cells containing counts of one. Once formed, such perceptions may be difficult to dislodge.

- 21 All counts in all tables issued for England and Wales will be rounded either to zero or to numbers divisible by three. This measure will be in addition to the swapping of records in the output database, and in addition to the broad limitations on details in tables to be produced for small populations. There will also continue to be minimum thresholds of numbers of person and households for the release of output. These will be raised to 100 resident persons and 40 resident households for the release of Census Area Statistics.
- 22 Work is continuing to ensure that confidentiality is protected in all cases of overlapping geographies, but the assumption is that Standard Tables will be issued for new wards and health areas introduced at any time after Census Day as well as for the wards and health areas existing at Census day, and for Parliamentary Constituencies, National Parks and postal sectors as at Census day which may overlap other areas for which results are issued.
- 23 These arrangements for greater flexibility and for disclosure control in output apply to England and Wales. The full scope for flexible output, including the possibility of an interactive service for customised output will be covered in a further paper. There will also be more information on the implementation of the disclosure control measures.
- 24 *Other points for action*
- to investigate opportunities for those directly and indirectly involved with the Census field operations to feed into the evaluation process;
 - to provide more detailed information on edit and imputation rates at lower geographical levels;
 - to provide an evaluation of the differences between AddressPoint and enumerated addresses, highlighting any apparent deficiencies in AddressPoint and the effect on the quality of enumeration and geographical referencing in the Census;
 - to provide more information on what the Census Access/Neighbourhood Statistics Service will provide in terms of content and functionality; and
 - to provide more information on how the software demonstrated for viewing and manipulating the tables (SuperTABLE) will work on networks and link to GIS systems.
25. These issues, together with others raised at the meetings, are currently being taken forward by the Census organisations. Progress and decisions made will be reported through the Census Advisory groups, websites and Census News.

Further issues for comment

26 The main focus of the current round of consultation is the Census Area Statistics. The Census organisations have invited comment on any issues covered in the documentation, but have emphasised that requests for changes or for additional output should be supported by cases justifying the requirement.

27 There were also a number of issues raised in the England, Wales and Northern Ireland ‘Standard Area Statistics discussion paper’ where ONS and NISRA particularly requested comment. These include:

Phasing of output

28 Preparing and issuing Census outputs is a major undertaking and takes a substantial amount of time. In order to release information as soon as possible, output will be issued in batches as they are produced, and the Census organisations will be issuing a Prospectus including a pre-announced timetable for release.

29 The first output using Census results will be the 2001 mid-year population estimates published in August 2002, which will be based on One Number Census results. This will be followed by *Key Statistics* reports which are to be laid before relevant legislatures in the period commencing December 2002.

30 The *Key Statistics*, *Standard Tables* and *Census Area Statistics* at all geographical levels will be released in concurrent tranches in the first half of 2003. There is some flexibility over this release. Initial trials of the fast tabulation package used in the Output Production System have indicated that it will be most cost effective to produce a table for all areas rather than all tables for an area, so groups of tables could be prioritised for a series of tranches. There was a widespread preference expressed at Roadshow meetings for a priority release of Key Statistics for all geographical levels to provide an overview of Census results. Beyond this, a tranche of Standard Tables or Census Area Statistics may consist of a number of sections of the tables (for example, demographic, cultural and labour market), and these would be released shortly in advance of a second tranche containing other sections of the tables (for example, household accommodation, health and communal establishments). It may therefore be possible to prioritise topics for which there is a particular need for early results.

31 Alternatively, the *Standard Tables* could be released in tranches by table number order accompanied by the corresponding *Census Area Statistics* tables. A further option is that, assuming the overall time period for the release of these statistics is considered suitably short, then users may be content to wait until the full set can be released together.

32 Users have been asked to express any preferences for the release of tranches, or for any other suggestions regarding the plans for the release of output.

Alternative types of output

- 33 The inclusion of indicators of comparability has been made possible by concurrent release of data. They could be simple measures, for example, Output Areas in the top decile of a key indicator. Others could include multi-variate indicators, multi-variate classifications of households or areas, or other typologies such as urban/rural indicators. Users have been asked for views on the inclusion of such indicators and for suggestions of specific indicators.

Information about edit and imputation

- 34 Consideration is being given to the scope of information to be provided on missing or inconsistent data and imputation, and to the plans for release. Current proposals are that:
- data on imputation should form part of the Census metadata rather than part of the standard area statistics;
 - imputation levels should be quoted as percentages, not as actual numbers of people or households;
 - data to be available for Local Authority districts and above;
 - the extent of imputation should be shown for each Census variable; and
 - data on the application of edit rules should be published for each part of the UK
- 35 ONS and NISRA would be interested in any views or comments on these proposals. In Scotland there were three specific points for user comment listed in the Scottish Final Proposals Paper, relating to age groupings, full-time students and household classifications.

Final specifications

- 36 As previously stated and re-iterated at the Roadshow meetings, the specifications for the *Key Statistics*, *Standard Tables* and *Origin-Destination Statistics*, are now considered to be near final. The Census organisations are prepared to consider cases for substantive requirements that have not yet been met. All specifications, including the *Census Area Statistics*, have to be signed off by the end of January 2002 for output production to commence on time.

Action

- 37 **Advisory Group Members are invited to note the main issues raised at the Roadshow meetings, the actions subsequently taken, and the specific topics on which users' comments have been invited.**
- 38 **In order to maximise the opportunity users have to make comments on this important set of statistics, users Advisory Group members should note that ONS has extended the final date for comments to be received to the 23rd November 2001.**
- 39 **Comments on any aspect of the documentation will be gratefully received. This will be the final opportunity to provide comments on this dataset.**

**ONS
12 November 2001**