

CENSUS ADVISORY GROUP
Advisory Group Paper (09) 05a Rev

2011 Census Output Plans

Purpose

To outline the plans for user engagement and delivery of 2011 E&W Census outputs.

Recommendations

The Census Advisory Group Members are invited to:

- i. Note the progress towards developing the 2011 Census Outputs Strategy
- ii. Note the need to secure additional funding beyond 2011/12 to secure the necessary resources to deliver a full range of Census products and services.
- iii. Note the continued drive towards harmonisation across the UK

Discussion

The current portfolio

2001 Census outputs included a series of published reports, summary statistical tables at national, regional and local level, anonymised micro data for researchers and geographical products. They were disseminated using a variety of media including print, CD/DVD and on-line systems such as NOMIS and NESS, as well as other non-web packages provided by partner organisations (e.g. CASWEB for academics and SASPAC for Local Authorities). Table 1 in Annex A summarises the main products and how they are distributed. Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own web dissemination sites. The anonymised micro data samples are accessed via the Cathy Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) at Manchester University and the Virtual Microdata Lab at the ONS; both under strict licence conditions. Other methods for users to obtain aggregate Census information include through Census “resellers”, such as mapping software companies, market analysis companies and consultancies. ONS also produced a series of analytical reports in the “Focus on” series, covering ethnicity, religion, health and many other topics.

Ongoing customer usage/service

The Census Customer Services team provides an on-going service supporting customer enquiries about all previous censuses, a commissioned tables service for new analyses, and are responsible for managing of all census information assets. The team respond to over 600 e-mail and telephone queries a month and have produced 1800 commissioned tables for a wide range of customers since 2001.

Needs of different user communities

Different user communities have different needs and so we use a variety of methods to understand their needs and collect their requirements. Established methods include direct engagement, advisory groups, working groups, formal consultations and road shows. New approaches being tried for 2011 include web page blogs and wiki's and a

new role for Regional Statisticians. Table 2 in Annex A describes the type of users and the processes by which they will be engaged when gathering requirements.

The membership of Census Advisory Groups and Working Groups has been established over a long period of time and reflect not only the importance such groups place on the census and the attention given to their particular needs but in addition the significant contribution such groups make towards its success. Currently there are seven Advisory groups reflecting the diversity of interest in the census. These are:

- Central Government Advisory Group
- Diversity Advisory Group (1) Diverse Communities
- Diversity Advisory Group (2) Disabilities
- Central and Local Government Information Partnership Advisory Group
- Academics Advisory Group
- Business and Professional Interest Advisory Group
- Census Advisory Group Wales

The 2011 Census Outputs Project seeks to consult widely with all users of Census data, including the hard to reach groups. To that end, the three Census Offices have collaborated to provide an outputs consultation website (www.ukcensusoutputs.net) where users' views can be debated in an open forum

Details of the consultation mechanisms and the issues on which to consult over the coming 12 months are being planned. We expect consultation topics to include: output content, geography, delivery mechanisms, visualisation requirements, funding and charging policy, uses of microdata and disclosure control policy.

Timing of consultation

The exact timings of events relating to output consultation are still being planned. However it is estimated that consultation with all users will begin in autumn 2009. The programme will be initiated with a series of roadshows where a broad range of issues affecting 2011 outputs will be discussed. This will be followed by direct consultation on the specification of the tabular outputs, and issues relating to output geographies. Users will be given time to review the information and deliver their suggested amendments/recommendations. This will be followed by a period of assessment of user requirements by the ONS output team before a second and final round of consultations in early 2010. The agreed specification of outputs for the 2011 census will be defined in late spring 2010.

Prior to this consultation, ONS will work with key stakeholders (including the Census Advisory Groups and Census Output Working Group) over the summer 2009 to produce definitions that will characterise the content of the outputs including classifications, derived variables and table specifications.

Estimated timetable for consultation

June-August 2009	September 2009	October -December 2009	January - March 2010	April 2010
Consultation with Topic Groups, Advisory Groups, Census Output Working Group, and key stakeholders on a range of issues including: The development of classifications, derived variables, and tabular outputs.	Roadshows to include discussions on a wide range of topics including: output content, geography, delivery mechanisms, visualisation requirements, uses of microdata and disclosure control policy.	Consultation exercise with all users Round 1- Users will be invited to comment on the output content and geography for 2011.	Consultation exercise round 2- Users asked to comment on revised output content and geography for 2011.	Agreed specification for output content issued.

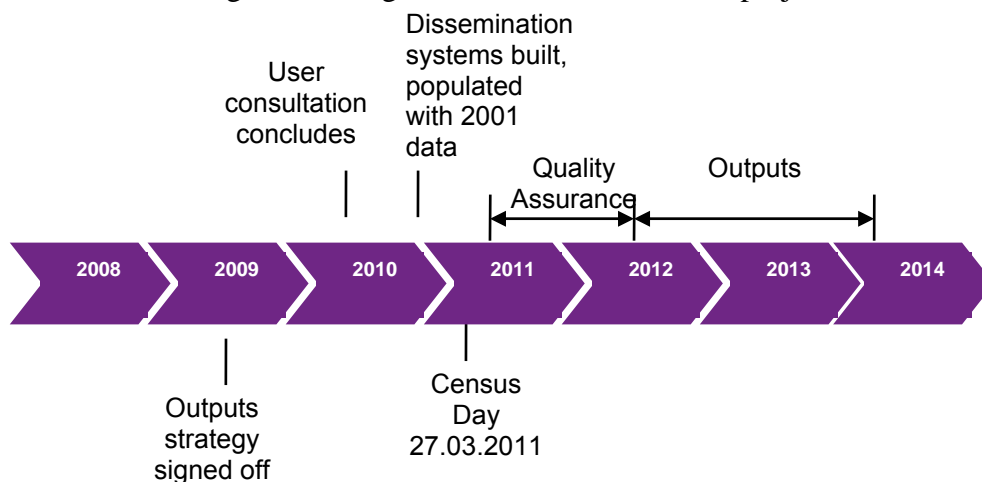
Strategic aims for Census outputs

The 2011 Census Output Project will deliver systems and services to meet the critical success factors of the Census and the aims set out in the National Statistician and Registrars General's agreement. These aims include:

- Outputs free at point of delivery
- Dissemination methods and media to keep pace with technological innovation eg on-line flexible table generation, on-line mapping and graphing of standard and user-defined output, use of Application Programming Interfaces (API) to allow other developers to incorporate our information into their own websites ("data mashing").
- More on 2001 vs 2011 comparisons, underpinned by a (now) stable geography
- Pre-release output prospectus and timetable that is adhered to
- Concurrent release of statistics across the UK
- Joined-up and comparable UK outputs
- Common UK Statistical Disclosure Control methods that minimise disclosure risk whilst maximising data utility
- Fully adjusted database so that all results reflect the coverage adjustment process
- Meeting the new EU regulation requirements
- Research access to anonymised micro data

Plan for 2011 Outputs

Key milestones have been identified along with the supporting activities. The detailed strategy and plan should be in place by the end of June 2009. This strategy will not present final solutions; rather, it will reaffirm the strategic aims of the outputs project and set out the range of pilots, options studies and further research that will be undertaken to determine the final suite of output systems, services and products that best meet those strategic aims. High Level milestones for the project are:



There are various key milestones, including:

How we will meet European commitments	Jun 2009
The dissemination mechanisms	Jun 2009
The extent of Partnership working	Jul 2009
Statistical Disclosure Control method	Jul 2009
The extent of data linkage and exploitation (Analytical Uses)	Jul 2009
The geographic hierarchies that will be supported	Sep 2009
Which Population Bases will be used	Apr 2010
The extent of Data visualisation (e.g. Mapping)	Apr 2010
The safe setting environment needed for micro data	Jun 2010
The charging model that will be applied	Jun 2010
The dissemination services that will be provided	Jul 2010

The focus is on finalising plans to address the full range of outputs issues and policies, including wider issues such as census microdata use, analytical reports, using census data as a sampling frame for other household surveys.

Governance

The Outputs project is managed by the Census Downstream Processing and Outputs Board which reports to the Census Delivery Board. The strategic Census Programme Board meets quarterly to oversee progress and the UK Census Committee steers the harmonisation across the UK. Cross directorate work within ONS will ensure that the the wider analytical uses of Census data are properly considered to realise the full benefits of the Census.

Risks to successful delivery

Key risks include linkage of the Census dissemination plans to the corporate web dissemination developments being taken forward in the i-dissemination project and

the funding beyond the current spending review period. The former will be carefully managed within ONS and the latter will be the subject of a bid to Treasury, probably in 2010, for the 2012/13 through to 2015/16 funding needed to complete the Census and publish the results. The current Census business case identifies a need for around £30m over his period, a lot of which will be associated with Census outputs.

Annex A

Table 1 2001 Census Products, Distribution Process and Media

Product		On-line Distribution					Media		
		Open Access on-line			Access by subscription				
		NS	NESS	NOMIS	ESRC	SASPAC	Printed report	CD/DVD	Online
Reports:	National report for England and Wales	√	x	x	x	X	√	√	√
	First results on population in England and Wales	√	x	x	x	X	√	x	√
	Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales	√	x	x	x	X	√	√	√
	Report for Parliamentary Constituencies	√	x	x	x	X	√	√	√
	Report on the Welsh language Census 2001 Definitions volume	√	x	x	x	X	√	x	√
Local Statistics:	Area profiles	x	√	x	x	X	x	x	√
	Postcode headcounts	x	x	x	√	√	x	√	X
	Standard Tables: Ward and above in England and Wales	x	x	√	√	√	x	√	√
	Key Statistics: Health Areas, Urban Areas, Output Areas and above, in England and Wales	x	√	x	√	√	x	√	√
	Census Area Statistics: Health Areas, Postcode Sectors, Urban Areas, Output Areas and above, in England and Wales	x	√	√	√	√	x	√	√
Origin-Destination statistics:	Origin-Destination statistics	x	x	√	√	√	x	√	√
	Origin-Destination statistics: Moving Groups	x	x	x	√	√	x	√	X
Geography products:	Ward names and codes lookup list in excel format **	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	Boundaries for all Output Areas in England and Wales	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	Boundaries for all Output Areas in each local authority in England and Wales	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	Output Area to higher areas & Postcode to Output Area lookup tables	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	Urban area and settlement boundary CD	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	2001 Output Area to 1991 ward lookup table **	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X
	2001 Output Area to 2004 ward lookup table	x	x	x	x	x	x	√	X
	Printed maps of Output Areas 2001 Output Area to Primary Care Organisation (PCO) lookup table	x	x	√	x	x	x	x	√
		x	x	x	x	x	√	X	

Table 2 Census data users and the methods of consultation exercised

USER	Primary			Secondary		
	Advisory groups	working groups	Direct consultation	Road shows	Web page blogs and wikki's	Regional Statisticians
European Union			√			
Parliament			√			
The ONS			√			
Central Government	√	√	√		√	
General Public			√	√	√	√
Local Government	√	√	√	√	√	√
Heath Service Administrators	√	√	√	√	√	√
Academics and educational community	√	√	√	√	√	√
Charities and the voluntary sector	√	√	√	√	√	√
Interested groups/ minority groups	√	√	√	√	√	√
Commercial organisations and businesses	√	√	√	√	√	√