

Sexual identity/orientation and Gender identity: Update on research and testing

5 September 2017

UK Census Committee

Context

- These slides update on latest position in relation to requests for information on sexual identity/orientation and gender identity
- ONS would welcome the UKCC's advice on how to reach harmonised positions on and approaches to these topics

Outline

1. Legislative context
 - Legal advice
 - Risk of Judicial review
2. Sexual identity/orientation
 - Question terminology
 - Recommendation
3. Gender identity
 - Proposed approaches

GENDER IDENTITY

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Gender identity: Background for E&W

User need:

- Baseline population count for policy development
- Equality Act 2010 protected characteristic of gender reassignment

ONS's current assessment of concept to be measured is "All those who do not identify with the sex assigned at birth" (inc. those who do not identify with M/F)

Respondent need:

- Some people do not identify as either male or female, so feel excluded by current sex question

What population is needed for policy development still being developed – data user focus group being planned for September.

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Gender Identity: Proposed approaches

1. Directly meet respondent need – Amend the sex question to allow responses other than male and female.
 1. Cognitive testing in progress
 2. Qualitative test for impact on sex question and overall response being analysed (see below)
2. Indirectly meet respondent need – As per the Australian 2016 approach, initially provide traditional sex question, but provide means of accessing an amended question.
3. Meet user need – Develop and ask a question that collects information on the population of interest.

UKCC are invited to provide their views on whether the Australian approach would be viable in a UK context

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Gender Identity: Testing planned/in progress

Meeting respondent need:

- UK-wide quantitative survey with amended sex question (with and without the write in box) in the field
- ONS [redacted] conducting cognitive tests and behavioural research on amending the sex question
- ONS planning cognitive tests of Australian style approach whereby initially faced with traditional question, but can request the amended question / write-in on paper.

Meeting user need:

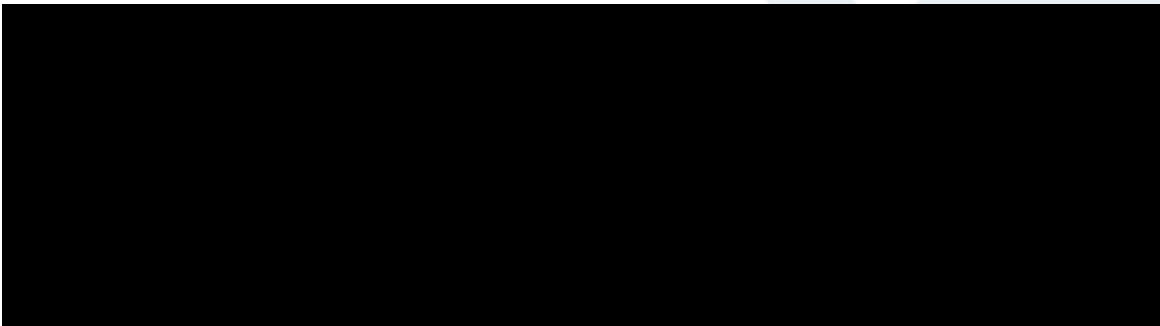
- [redacted] ONS [redacted] engaging with stakeholders to finalise concept to be measured.
- NRS and ONS planning cognitive testing and behavioural research
- Assess relative strength of user need against other proposed new topics in light of space constraints

UKCC are invited to endorse the planned direction of research

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Gender Identity: Planned publications

ONS planned publications:

- Cognitive testing of sex question (Sept 2017)
 - Equality Impact Assessment Pre-screening
 - ONS Trans Position - Update Paper (Nov 2017)
 - Gender Identity Census Topic Report (Dec 2017)
 - White Paper (April 2018)
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Gender Identity: Recommended position

Based on the need for additional testing, ONS's view is that the position in the White paper should be:

- The topic is complex
- There are issues to resolve around potential impact on outputs by sex
- Further work is required to confirm if the topic should be included

Scotland and Northern Ireland are not in a position to formalise their recommendation



UKCC is asked to agree the position in the England and Wales White Paper should be as set out above