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**John Pullinger CB CStat | National Statistician**Kevin Hollinrake MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

1 June 2016

Dear Mr. Hollinrake,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in the UK hold a non-British passport and previously held a non-EU country passport **(37800)**.

The 2011 Census provides the most comprehensive information available on passports held. The Office for National Statistics is responsible for the census in England and Wales and information has been provided for this part of the United Kingdom.

The summary statistics set out in Table 1 are complemented by more comprehensive breakdowns in Tables 2 and 3. The estimates in Tables 1 and 2 are based on responses to the question 'what passports do you hold' completed by all those usually resident in England and Wales on 27 March 2011. The numbers holding non-British passports has been derived by aggregating the figures for all countries other than the United Kingdom. Although the Census did not ask for information on previous passports Table 3 sets out summary statistics on passports held by country of birth as the latter may offer some insight about this. A copy of these tables will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The question on passports was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2011 and classifies a person according to the passport or passports that they held at the time of the 2011 Census. People were asked to indicate whether or not they held a passport and, if so, to indicate whether they held a United Kingdom passport, an Irish passport, or a passport from another country and to write in the name of the other country if applicable. In addition, the Census asked 'what is your country of birth'? This question included six tick box responses - one for each of the four parts of the UK, one for the Republic of Ireland and one for 'Elsewhere'. Where a person ticked 'Elsewhere', they were asked to write in the current name of the country in which they were born. Responses are analysed in accordance with the National Statistics Country Classification. Further explanation of the scope and content of the questions used in the Census is available from the 2011 Census Glossary of Terms which may be accessed from the attached link

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/2011censususerguide/glossary>

Supplementary statistics on passports held for Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census.html>).

A question on passports held was not included in the census for Scotland but information on country of birth is available. Further information may be obtained from National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pullinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**John Pullinger**