

**Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)
Y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol (SYG) a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru (LICC)**

Census Advisory Group for Wales

AG (10) 11 CAGW Welsh Assembly Government News

Introduction

1. This paper presents the latest news regarding the 2011 census from the Welsh Assembly Government. The Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate are working closely with the ONS on plans for the 2011 census. The Welsh Assembly Government sits on a large number of boards, steering groups and working groups and contributes to the ONS work on a daily basis. This paper presents the latest news on key Wales-specific work which may not be covered within the other Advisory Group papers.

Action

2. CAGW members are invited to comment.

Census Legislation in Wales

3. The Minister for Business and Budget made the Census (Wales) Regulations 2010 on 24 April. The Regulations are not debated by Assembly Members. Instead, they "lay" before the National Assembly for Wales for 40 days, during which time any Assembly Member can attempt to have them annulled. Assuming that the Regulations pass through this period unscathed, they will come into force on 16 June 2010.
4. The census Regulations set out the procedural and practical arrangements for the census and contain copies of the final census questionnaires. The Census Regulations for Wales are very similar to the Census Regulations for England.
5. The Welsh Assembly Government's statistical directorate worked closely with WAG legal services, constitutional affairs and the ONS in producing these Regulations. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority was also consulted on the Census Regulations for Wales.
6. The Regulations and the accompanying explanatory memorandum can be accessed on the National Assembly for Wales website (under the entry for 28 April): <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm>

Engagement with users

7. A briefing/presentation on the 2011 Census was held in the Senedd in January 2010. The event was aimed towards Assembly members and their Researchers. The Minister for Business and Budget (as the Welsh Minister responsible for the Census) welcomed attendees and spoke about the importance of the Census. ONS staff gave a presentation on plans for the 2011 Census.
8. A short presentation was also given at the Local Government Distribution Sub-group in early 2010. Members of the group (mainly finance directors) were reminded of the important of local authority co-operation.
9. The Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee continues to have a standing item on the 2011 Census at each of its meetings. Topics discussed at recent meetings include the outputs and geography consultations, rehearsal feedback, caravan sites and under performing output areas. At the June 2010 meeting, ONS will give a presentation on local authority partnership plans.

Census Questionnaires and Internet Site

10. The Census questionnaires for Wales were finalised (subject to the subsequent legislative process) during early 2010.
11. Welsh Assembly Government staff were involved in the process of finalising and proofreading the paper questionnaires. We were also involved in work on testing the internet questionnaire. A separate paper/update provides further information on this.
12. We have been involved in discussions regarding improving the Census website and the internet questionnaire. This is in response to Rehearsal feedback.

Census Outputs

13. The Welsh Government responded to the recent census outputs consultation. This response incorporated views from across the Assembly Government and views expressed by census users in Wales through forums such as the Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee.

Census Newsletter

14. A 2011 Census newsletter is published by the Statistical Directorate once every two months. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform census users and stakeholders in Wales of recent news and developments regarding the census. The latest edition was published in March and can be found on the Census theme page on the Statistical Directorate's website:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/census/>
15. The next edition is due for publication in May/June. If you would like to be added to the circulation list, please contact stats.popcensus@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Staff Changes

16. Steve Marshall left the Statistical Directorate at the beginning of April to take up a temporary post as head of the WAG Social Research Department. His work is currently being covered by the rest of the team.

Other

17. We have been involved in discussions on a number of other areas across the census, to make sure that plans meet the requirements of Wales. These include involvement in discussions with ONS and the Welsh language Board on field staff recruitment, advising on suitable numbers of Welsh speaking census co-ordinators and collectors for the different census areas in Wales and working with the internet collection team to ensure that the design of the census website is appropriate for Wales.

**Welsh Assembly Government
May 2010**