

Census Advisory Group for Wales

Welsh Assembly Government News CAGW (08) 01

Introduction

1. This paper presents the latest news regarding the 2011 Census from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Action

2. **CAGW members are invited to comment.**

Questionnaires in Wales

3. The decision has been made to have two separate Welsh and English questionnaires for the 2011 Census, as opposed to one single bilingual questionnaire. All households in Wales will receive both a separate Welsh and English questionnaire.
4. The Decision Report can be found at:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/publications/accessinfo/decisionreport/lifedrs/Lifedrs2008/2011censusquestionnaire/?lang=en>

Census White Paper in Wales

5. Ministers have confirmed that they are content to proceed with a single White Paper for the 2011 Census in England and Wales. The White Paper will be available bilingually for the first time. As part of an administrative agreement with ONS, the Welsh Ministers will be consulted on the draft White Paper during summer 2008. The White Paper will be published in late 2008.

Census Date and 2009 Census Rehearsal

6. Sunday 27 March 2011 has been revealed as the planned date of the next Census in England and Wales. This date was selected by the UK Census Committee following consultations with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The 2011 Census date will be confirmed following approval by Parliament.
7. The ONS has also announced that the Isle of Anglesey local authority will be one of the three areas chosen to rehearse for the next Census in England and Wales (along with the London Borough of Newham and Lancaster). The Rehearsal will take place on Sunday 11 October 2009, and is designed to test processes and operational systems for the Census in 2011. The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery wrote to the relevant Assembly Ministers (AMs) that part of their

constituency/region had been selected for inclusion in the Rehearsal prior to ONS's public announcement.

Cognitive testing of the Welsh language questionnaire

8. The Welsh language questionnaire is currently undergoing a second wave of cognitive testing. The questionnaire was amended and revised as a result of the recommendations of the first wave of testing (conducted in autumn 2007). Officials from the Statistical Directorate are supporting the cognitive interviewing. For further information about the cognitive testing see paper CAGW (08) 02.

Local Authority Liaison

9. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) recently met with Dr Brian Gibbons AM, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. An item on the 2011 Census was discussed, specifically on how to engage Welsh local government. It was noted that local authority liaison would be crucial to the success of the 2011 Census, and that chief executive and senior leader buy-in is essential. It was agreed to have an agenda item on the 2011 Census for the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) meeting in June, and that colleagues from ONS or the Statistical Directorate should attend.

Focus groups with “White Welsh/British” in Wales

10. The Office for the Chief Social Research Officer (OCSRO), along with colleagues from the Statistical Directorate, conducted six focus groups with individuals who would define themselves as white Welsh/British. Focus groups were conducted in English and Welsh in three different locations in Wales – Cardiff, Carmarthen and Wrexham.
11. The overall aim of the research was to make an informed judgement about whether there could be confusion or objections to the national identity and ethnicity questions contained within the proposed 2011 Census. Specifically, the research explored the views of people who describe themselves as white Welsh/British.
12. The key findings from the six focus groups were:
 - When asked “What is your national identity?”, virtually all Welsh speaking respondents described themselves as Welsh. Non-Welsh speakers however described their national identity in different ways, including British, British/Welsh and Welsh/British.
 - Respondents held different views on whether place of birth was linked to an individual's national identity. Some argued that it was. Others stated that national identity was more about whether a person “feels they belong”.
 - Many respondents found it difficult to define the term ethnicity. In general ethnicity was linked to concepts such as culture, religion, heritage, language and identity. There was debate amongst respondents over the extent to which colour, language and religion was linked to ethnicity. Some respondents (most notably Welsh speakers) stated that their national identity and ethnicity was Welsh.

- The majority of respondents preferred having two separate questions – one on national identity and one on ethnicity. The presence of a Welsh tick box on national identity question in the 2007 Census Test was particularly well received.
- Respondents were concerned that Black or Asian ethnic groups living in Wales were unable to describe themselves as Welsh in the ethnicity question developed for the Census Test (i.e. there was no separate tick box in the ethnicity question for Black Welsh/Asian Welsh etc.). Respondents also had concerns with including Gypsy and Traveller in the same response option, stating that this may cause offence to some individuals.
- Regarding the current version of the ethnicity question, some respondents (Welsh speaking in particular) commented on the lack of a separate Welsh tick box. Most notably, respondents observed that it would not be possible for those analysing the Census to determine whether an individual who had ticked the White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British was actually Welsh or English or Scottish etc. (i.e. it was not possible to disaggregate the groups). In general, however, respondents stated that this response option did not present them with any major problems.

Census Newsletter

13. 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 newsletters can be found on the Census theme page on the Statistical Directorate's website:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/census/census-2011/?lang=en>
14. The next edition is due for publication in June. If you would like to be added to the circulation list, please contact stats.popcensus@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Welsh Assembly Government
May 2008