

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

Welsh Assembly Government News CAGW (09) 01

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 the 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 Wales specific work which may not be covered within the other Advisory Group papers.

Action

2. CAGW members are invited to comment.

Census White Paper in Wales

3. The Census White Paper was published on 11 December 2008 and is available bilingually for the first time. Welsh Ministers were consulted on the White Paper and it was discussed at a meeting of the Welsh Assembly Government Cabinet. The White Paper was laid before the National Assembly for Wales and is available from their website:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm>
4. The Welsh Assembly Government issued a press release welcoming the proposals, in particular the proposal for a question on national identity.
5. The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery issued a written Cabinet statement on the White Paper and wrote to all Assembly Members, Committee Chairs and party business managers to ensure that the White Paper proposals were fully considered by the Assembly. The Minister's written statement is available here:
<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2008/census/?lang=en>

Questionnaire Testing

6. At the end of 2008, the Welsh Assembly Government undertook a mini-wave of cognitive testing. One of the priorities for this wave of testing was the religion question. The tested question included a list of specific denominations alongside

the Christian tick box. Respondents were also shown the question without the list of denominations.

7. It was felt that asking respondents to choose a denomination changed the question from one of religious belief to religious practice. Some respondents also commented that if Christian denominations were included, the same should apply for other religions with specific denominations.
8. The testing concluded that the religion question should not include a specific list of Christian denominations and should simply say “all denominations” in brackets, after the word ‘Christian’. The religion question from the finalised rehearsal questionnaires for Wales can be seen below.

20 What is your religion?

➤ This question is voluntary

- No religion
- Christian (all denominations)
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion, write in

20 Beth yw'ch crefydd?

➤ Mae'r cwestiwn hwn yn wirfoddol

- Dim crefydd
- Cristnogaeth (pob enwad)
- Bwdhaeth
- Hindwaeth
- Iddewiaeth
- Islam
- Siciaeth
- Unrhyw grefydd arall, nodwch

9. Staff from the Welsh Assembly Government have also been assisting the ONS with the cognitive testing of the Welsh Language Census Coverage Survey. Further information on this is available in the paper on the Welsh language questionnaire development.

Internet Data Capture Testing

10. In 2011 it will be possible to complete the Census questionnaire online. The Welsh Assembly Government has been involved in testing both the English and Welsh language online forms for Wales.
11. The system will be fully bilingual. It will be possible to toggle between the English and Welsh pages by pressing a button, meaning that household members can complete the form in whichever language they prefer.
12. The system development is ongoing and aims to be ready for use in the Census Rehearsal in October 2009.

Address Register Development

13. In April, representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government, the Data Unit and the NLPG in Wales met with the Head of Address Register Development from the ONS to discuss the address register pilot and issues relevant to Wales.
14. Bilingual addresses have, in the past, led to a number of duplicate entries in the address register. The ONS has begun to use "alias" data in its matching which has helped to identify when an English and Welsh address refer to the same property. This has, in turn, reduced the number of duplicates produced.
15. The group discussed exploring the feasibility of a running a workshop to assist local authorities with the address register exercise, which they will be involved with later this year.
16. Another meeting is planned to further discuss the address register in Wales during May.

Local Authority Liaison

17. The Welsh Assembly Government and the ONS gave a joint presentation at a meeting of WLGA/SOLACE in December 2008. The purpose of the presentation was to update members on the 2011 Census planning, and to emphasise the importance of local authority involvement in Census work. The presentation generated a positive discussion with many local authority chief executives supporting the importance of working with ONS in their areas. The Census Regional Champion for Wales (Bryn Parry Jones) was at the meeting, and explained to colleagues his role within Wales.
18. The Welsh Assembly Government is keen to contribute to any other Wales meetings. If you are aware of any meetings where it would be useful to include an item on the Census, please let us know.

Recruitment of Field Staff

19. A meeting was held in early May between the ONS, Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Language Board to discuss ways of recruiting field staff in Wales, in particular, the recruitment of bilingual field staff.

Census Outputs

20. Representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government and local government in Wales attended the first meeting of the Census Outputs Working Group in April. The purpose of this meeting was to identify the group's main issues for outputs in 2011 and look at prioritising these.
21. Census outputs are due to be discussed at the June meeting of the Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee.

Census Legislation in Wales

22. Following the Transfer of Functions Order, Welsh Ministers have the legal right to be consulted on the Census Order and to produce the Census Regulations for Wales.
23. The Assembly Government has worked with the ONS to agree a broad timetable for the delivery of the Census Order and Regulations. Work is currently ongoing in Wales to produce a more detailed timetable. It is expected that the Census Order will be made in December 2009. Although the Census Regulations are produced separately for England and Wales, both will be made in March 2010.

Staff Changes

24. Martin Parry left the Welsh Assembly Government's 2011 Census team in January. He has been replaced by Stephanie Howarth, who joined the team at the start of March.

Census Newsletter

25. 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 April and can be found on the Census theme page on the Statistical Directorate's website:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/census/census-2011/?lang=en>
26. 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 2009