

FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

ASSESSMENT NOT REQUIRED DECLARATION

Policy title	Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill
Directorate: Division: team	National Records of Scotland: Statistical and Registration Services: Scotland's Census 2021 programme
Policy lead responsible for taking the decision	Amy Wilson, Director of NRS Statistical and Registration Services

Rationale for decision
<p>The principal purpose of the Bill is to make answering census questions about prescribed aspects of gender identity, and about sexual orientation, voluntary. The Bill will allow these questions to be placed on a voluntary basis by amending the penalty provisions of the Census Act 1920.</p> <p>Whilst the Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill process is legislative, and therefore constitutes a strategic decision, we do not believe its provisions to have specific relevance to socio-economic inequalities. We therefore conclude that no Fairer Scotland Duty assessment is required for this purpose.</p> <p>However, noting that the scope of the Bill provisions is restricted to making specific question topics voluntary for inclusion in the 2021 Census, consideration of the full scope of the programme presents a slightly different context. The 2021 Census will be predominantly online and therefore the issue of digital exclusion comes into sharp focus. Research has shown socio-economic factors as having a significant impact on digital exclusion and so this has been and continues to be an important focus for the programme going forward. Paper questionnaires will be available to help mitigate the associated risks of non-participation amongst the affected groups.</p> <p>Such considerations will be a key factor in considering how the programme discharges its Fairer Scotland Duty. We would propose to address this topic through the programme's equality impact assessment process.</p>

I confirm that the decision to not carry out a Fairer Scotland Duty assessment has been authorised by:

Name and job title of Deputy Director (or equivalent)	Date authorisation given
Amy Wilson, Director of NRS Statistical and Registration Services	2 nd October 2018