

# Scotland's Census 2021 Demographics and Household Composition Topic Report



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# 1. Main Points

- Strong user need was identified for data on basic demographics and household composition. They are vital inputs to population estimates and household projections which are used by central and local government to inform resource allocation, target investment, and carry out service planning and delivery.
- In 2011 the census included questions on name, sex, date of birth, marital or same-sex civil partnership status, student status and term-time address indicators and household and family relationships.
- In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF) National Records of Scotland (NRS) proposed to continue to collect some of the information on this topic in 2021.
- Research and analysis supports taking the following questions on this subject further at this stage:
  - o Name,
  - o Sex,
  - o Date of birth (age),
  - o Martial or same-sex civil partnership status,
  - o Student status and term time address indicator, and
  - Household and family relationships.
- Research and analysis to date supports the continued collection of basic demographic information about visitors to ensure a robust population count.
- Research and analysis does not support taking forward a question on second address at this stage. User need is low and the requirement for this data for operational purposes is not considered to outweigh the additional respondent burden of including these questions in 2021.
- The digital first approach for 2021 requires further development and user testing to fully understand the best way to present the questions online to maximise response, minimise respondent burden and ensure good quality data which meets user needs. An on-going programme of question development, focusing on sensitive or complex questions will further inform the specific question wording.

# 2. Introduction

This topic review sets out the evidence gathered in developing a set of questions about basic demographics and household composition for Scotland's Census 2021.

Question development for the 2021 Census began in 2015. An iterative and comprehensive process of user consultation, evaluation and prioritisation of user requirements, and qualitative and quantitative question testing has been carried out to inform decisions on the questions to be recommended for inclusion in the 2021 Census. More information about research and preparation and <u>question</u> development for Scotland's Census 2021 can be found online.

The 2021 Census will be digital first. The Census 2021 questionnaire must gather high quality data that meets user needs. More information about <u>key elements of the design</u> for 2021 can be found online.

Two frameworks have been published by National Records of Scotland (NRS) to evaluate the effectiveness of <u>question design for existing</u>, <u>alternative and new</u> <u>questions</u> (PDF) and to evaluate the effectiveness of <u>question design of tick box</u> <u>response options</u> (PDF).

Questions and their response options are evaluated against five main themes:

#### Strength of user need

 Data collected by the census must meet a user need for equality monitoring, policy development, resource allocation and/or service planning and delivery.

#### Suitability of alternative sources

 Data collected by the census must meet a user need that cannot be met elsewhere.

#### Acceptability, clarity and data quality

 Questions asked in the census must be acceptable to the majority of the public, clear and be designed with minimal respondent burden in order to obtain good data quality that meets user needs.

#### Comparability

 Data collected by the census should be comparable over time where possible, and harmonised across the UK where reasonable.

#### **Operational considerations**

Census questions must be considered as part of the census as a whole, where effective digital and paper design, space and financial constraints must be considered. Additionally, some questions may be required for operational purposes in the process of conducting the census.

The final decision on the content of Scotland's Census 2021 questionnaire will ultimately be made by the Scottish Parliament.

As in previous years, there will be separate censuses conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in England and Wales, and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in Northern Ireland. The three census offices work together to develop a set of questions that, wherever possible and necessary, will deliver harmonised outputs across the UK.

# 3. Background

Demographic variables provide fundamental information about the population. This information is used extensively by all census data users.

Different questions capture information about different aspects of basic demographic characteristics of the population and household composition. The 2011 Census asked questions on:

- Name;
- Sex;
- Date of birth (age);
- Marital or same-sex civil partnership status;
- Student status and term time address indicator; and
- Household and family relationships.

In the 2011 Census, basic demographic information was collected about 'visitors' for the first time. Visitors are people who are not usually resident at that address but are staying there on census night. In 2011, basic visitor information was recorded on the back page of the questionnaire; name, sex, date of birth and usual UK address or usual country of residence were collected for visitors.

Demographic variables allow age and sex-specific rates from morbidity, mortality, fertility, marriage and divorce to be calculated. These are vital inputs to population estimates and household projections which are used by central and local government to inform resource allocation, target investment, and carry out service planning and delivery. The information provides a basis for actuarial tables, which allow trends and life expectancy to be monitored and which are used for a variety of purposes such as planning state pensions and life assurance.

Many demographic variables are protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010, and the data are widely used to inform equality impact assessments.

Together with other census information, basic demographic information provides a powerful analytic tool.

# 4. Understanding user need for 2021

NRS invited views on <u>Scotland's Census 2021 – Topic Consultation</u> (PDF) between 08 October 2015 and 15 January 2016. The consultation was a key step towards understanding what information users will need from the census in 2021, and helped to build strong cases to justify the inclusion of topics. The focus of the consultation was on information required at topic-level, not the detail of the questions that should be asked on the questionnaire.

There were 47 responses received through the Topic Consultation on the subject of demographics and household composition. A summary of these responses can be found in the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF).

In the Topic Consultation, NRS proposed to review the Marital or Same-Sex Civil Partnership Status Question as a result of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 and revise, if appropriate, to reflect these changes.

As part of this review a survey was conducted to assess the user need for estimates of the population who are married to be presented separately for same-sex couples and for opposite-sex couples.

Results and further information about this survey are discussed in Section 5.

#### 4.1 2011 Census topics

#### 4.1.1 Name

Name is collected for operational purposes and is needed to ensure the requirement to respond to the census is met. As such, this question was not included in the Topic Consultation. More information about this question is included in Annex A.

#### 4.1.2 Sex and date of birth (age)

There is a strong and well established user need for the key demographic variables age and sex. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect information on age (via a question on date of birth) and sex in 2021.

Information about the development of the sex question for the 2021 Census can be found in the <u>Sex and Gender Identity Topic Report</u> (PDF).

No question development has been considered necessary for the date of birth question at this stage. More information about the date of birth question is included in Annex B.

#### 4.1.3 Marital or same-sex civil partnership status

Strong support was expressed by users for continued collection of legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021.

NRS noted that as a result of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, the question would be reviewed and revised if appropriate, to reflect these changes.

Further information and the development of this question for 2021 is discussed in Section 5.

#### 4.1.4 Student status

Strong support was expressed by users for continued collection of student status. There was support for a review of the information that is collected on students, to ensure that the questions can be answered easily and accurately to ensure good data quality. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue collecting information on students in 2021, to undertake this review.

Further information and the development of this question for 2021 is discussed in Section 6.

#### 4.1.5 Term time address indicator

The filter question about term time address ensures that students have their personal information collected at the appropriate address (that being either their home address or their term-time address, if they have one).

Term time address indicator is collected for operational purposes. As such, this question was not included in the Topic Consultation. No question development has been considered necessary for this question at this stage. More information is included in Annex C.

#### 4.1.6 Household and family relationships

Strong support was expressed by users for continued collection of information on household and family relationships. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect information this information but to review the household relationship matrix question with a view to making it easier for respondents to understand how they should answer.

Further information and the development of this question for 2021 is discussed in Section 7.

#### 4.1.7 Visitors

The most important task of the census is to give an accurate and authoritative count of the number of people in Scotland and where they usually live. Information about visitors is collected for operational purposes to ensure a robust population count. As such, these questions were not included in the Topic Consultation.

As in 2011, basic demographic information will be collected about visitors. This will include name, sex, date of birth and usual UK address or usual country of residence. The visitor questions about name, sex and date of birth will be the same as the questions asked of individual usual residents in the census questionnaire, but the layout may vary due to space constraints. More information about these questions is included in Annex D.

#### 4.2 Additional demographic topics – second address

The Topic Consultation identified requirements for additional information about second addresses. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS agreed to give further consideration to collecting information on second address in 2021. This question is discussed in Section 7.

#### 5. Marital or same-sex civil partnership status

5.1 Background and user need

Information on marital status has been collected in the census since 1851. Marital or same-sex civil partnership status information is used by a wide range of users. It is also a protected characteristic as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the data are widely used by central government and other public authorities in equality impact assessments, which in turn inform policies and practices.

The 2011 Census question on legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status is shown in Figure 1. In 2011, the online version of this question was identical to the paper question, and listed response options over two columns.



Figure 1: 2011 Census marital or same-sex civil partnership paper question

This question was changed in 2011, following the Civil Partnership Act 2004. The question was expanded to allow people to indicate their civil partnership status. However, the data this question provides is broadly comparable over time.

The same marital or same-sex civil partnership status question was asked in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in 2011 (Annex E) and included as a core survey question in Scottish Government Surveys (Annex F), providing highly comparable data across the UK censuses and social surveys. The Labour Force Survey asks a similar question on marital or same-sex civil partnership (Annex F).

Strong support was expressed by users for continued collection of legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status. In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021 and noted that as a result of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, the question would be reviewed and revised if appropriate, to reflect these changes.

As part of this review a survey was conducted to assess the user need for estimates of the population who are married to be presented separately for same-sex couples and for opposite-sex couples.

The survey ran between 12 March 2018 and 06 April 2018.

No user need was presented for data on same-sex and opposite-sex marriages to be presented separately.

This survey and its results are discussed in Annex G.

#### 5.2 Findings from 2011

In the 2011 Census the marital or same-sex civil partnership status question was the only question response options across two columns. The 2011 marital or same-sex civil partnership status question was organised in this way to create visual parity between the marriage and civil partnership response options (in addition to space considerations).

<u>Findings from 2011</u> show there is evidence the data was not accurate for same-sex civil partnership categories. The main effect was an over count of same-sex civil partnership relationships in older age groups.

This was discovered when examining the age distribution of the categories of marital status. The issue was confirmed by comparing the responses with other details on the census form, including relationship information and the gender of the household members. In addition, a sample of records were matched at an individual level to registration data held by NRS and this also suggested an over count in the older age groups.

Due to this issue, the published tables combined marital status and corresponding same-sex civil partnership categories to avoid user misunderstanding.

Following the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, it may be more publically acceptable for the response options in the marital or same-sex civil partnership status to be listed in order of population size.

#### 5.3 Question testing

In 2017 NRS commissioned ScotCen Social Research to conduct quantitative testing of selected questions for potential inclusion in Scotland's Census 2021. Information about this testing can be found in the <u>2017 Cognitive and Quantitative Testing</u> <u>Report</u> (PDF).

Quantitative testing is undertaken primarily to identify data quality concerns. NRS included feedback questions in the quantitative testing in order to gather further information on public acceptability and to identify specific difficulties respondents faced if they were unable to answer a question easily.

A marital or same-sex civil partnership status question was included for quantitative testing in 2017 as an analysis variable for other possible census questions and to determine whether changes to this question could improve data quality and are publically acceptable. This question is shown in Figure 2, and was the same on paper and online.

Testing did not find evidence of any data quality issues with this question. Low item non-response and small numbers reporting that the question was difficult to answer indicate that this question is acceptable to the majority of the public. Full details of the results of the 2017 Quantitative Testing are available in Annex H.

Figure 2: 2017 Quantitative test marital status question



#### 5.4 Conclusion

Research and analysis supports taking forward a question on martial and same-sex civil partnership at this stage.

No user needs were identified for census data on same-sex and opposite-sex marriages in Scotland to be presented separately. Changes to the question to separate same sex and opposite sex legal marital status are not being taken forward.

The digital first approach for 2021 requires further development and user testing to fully understand the best way to present the questions online to maximise response, minimise respondent burden and ensure good quality data which meets user needs. An on-going programme of question development, focusing on sensitive or complex questions will further inform the specific question wording.

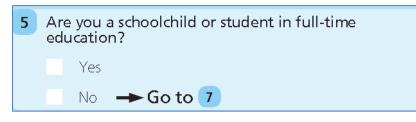
#### 6. Student status

#### 6.1 Background and user need

Student status has been collected in the census since 1851, excluding 1931 and between 1961 and 1991. Student status was collected again in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.

Information on student status is widely used by individuals and organisations across all sectors. The data are particularly useful in local development plans for areas with large student populations for planning accommodation, and are also used in the context of labour force and travel statistics, where student behaviour differs compared to the general population. The 2011 Census question on student status is shown in Figure 3. Minor changes to the routing of this question were made between 2001 and 2011, but this indicator provides comparable data.

Figure 3: 2011 Census student status paper question



The same student status question was asked in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in 2011 (Annex E), providing highly comparable data across the UK.

The Scottish Household Survey provides some additional information on students in Scotland. It asks a variety of questions about students, including residence, household make up and economic activity/student loans. The Labour Force Survey captures information about students through questions on labour market. If an individual was not working, whether this is because they are a student is captured.

In the Topic Consultation there was support for a review of the information that is collected on students, to ensure that the questions can be answered easily and accurately to ensure good data quality. NRS agreed to consider collection of additional information on level of education and whether the student is full-time or part-time.

#### 6.1.1 Level of education

Low user need has been identified for the collection of this additional information.

Information about age is considered to provide a good enough proxy for determining whether the individual is a schoolchild at primary or secondary school, or likely to be a student undertaking further or higher education. Information about qualifications held can also provide proxy information.

#### 6.1.2 Part-time or full-time study

Low user need has been identified for the collection of this additional information.

There are difficulties in defining what these terms mean in relation to students. An additional question or additional guidance would be required to capture this information reliably.

# 6.2 Conclusion

Research and analysis does not support taking forward questions about level of education and full-time or part-time study alongside the student status question at this stage.

# 7. Household and family relationships

#### 7.1 Background and user need

Information on household and family relationships has been collected in the census since 1851. This information is derived from the household relationship matrix question.

Information on household and family relationships is widely used for resource allocation, service planning and research and analysis for policy development and monitoring. The data are key inputs for NRS household projections which are used by councils and planning authorities to determine future housing requirements and service provision, and are also used to identify overcrowding, which is required for the derivation of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect information on household and family relationships but to review the question with a view to making it easier for respondents to understand how they should answer.

The 2011 relationship matrix was displayed over two pages of the paper questionnaire, as shown in Annex I. The online version of this question was dynamically built based on the number of people in the household, using the names provided for these individuals. The layout of this question online was essentially identical to the paper layout.

Amendments were made to the relationship matrix for 2011. The instructions and overall design were improved to make it easier for respondents to see how the matrix should be completed. Response options were also added for 'Same-sex civil partner' and 'Step brother or step sister'. However, this question provides comparable data over time.

Data collected from the relationship matrices across the 2011 UK Censuses was broadly comparable. Relationships were recorded in the same way, although there were some tick-box and instruction wording differences across countries. The relationship matrices asked elsewhere in the UK in 2011 are included in Annex J.

A question on household relationships is included as a core survey question in Scottish Government Surveys (Annex F). The core question offers an extended range of relationships, including 'adopted' and 'fostered'. A similar question is asked in the Labour Force Survey.

#### 7.2 Conclusion

Research and analysis supports taking forward a relationship matrix at this stage. The digital first approach for 2021 requires further development and user testing to fully understand the best way to present the questions online to maximise response, minimise respondent burden and ensure good quality data which meets user needs. An on-going programme of question development, focusing on sensitive or complex questions will further inform the specific question wording

#### 8. Second address

#### 8.1 Background and user need

The Topic Consultation identified some user requirements for data on second addresses. Stakeholders reported that having this data would be useful to inform local housing strategies and development plans, and would also allow better understanding of housing markets and related needs. The ability to produce additional output bases by virtue of having second address information was also noted as an advantage by some users. The majority of respondents also told us that the topic was not a priority for them. Low user need for this information has been identified in Scotland.

Information on second addresses could also be used for operational purposes: to improve estimation of the usually resident population at their correct addresses.

Information on second addresses was not collected in the census in Scotland in 2011 due to higher user demand for other information. Information on second address was collected in England and Wales, as shown in Figure 4.

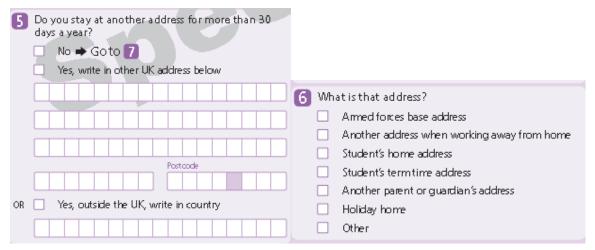


Figure 4: 2011 Census questions, England and Wales

In England and Wales information from this question contributed to origin-destination data and calculation of the out-of-term population.

Information on second addresses is not widely captured in social surveys. However, the Scottish Household Survey does collect some information about second addresses in Scotland. It asks if another home is owned or rented by respondents, but does not capture address information or address type. In addition, administrative data sources, such as council tax registers, contain information that can identify second homes.

# 8.2 Conclusion

Research and analysis does not support taking forward questions on this subject at this stage.

The requirement for this data for operational purposes is not considered to outweigh the additional respondent burden of including these questions in 2021.

# 9. Next Steps

The final decision on the content of Scotland's Census 2021 questionnaire will ultimately be made by the Scottish Parliament.

The digital first approach for 2021 requires further development and user testing to fully understand the best way to present the questions online to maximise response, minimise respondent burden and ensure good quality data which meets user needs. An on-going programme of question development, focusing on sensitive or complex questions will further inform the specific question wording.

More information about preparation for Scotland's Census 2021 and details about upcoming events can be found on the <u>Scotland's Census website</u>, by subscribing to the <u>Scotland's Census newsletter</u> and following us on Twitter <u>@NatRecordsScot</u>.

### Annex A: Name

Name is collected for operational purposes and is needed to ensure the requirement to respond to the census is met. As such, this question was not included in the Topic Consultation.

The 2011 Census paper question is shown in Figure A1. Online, this question did not contain an entry field. Instead, the name of an individual entered earlier in the questionnaire was displayed.

Figure A1: 2011 Census name paper question

1 What is your name? (Person 1 at H3 on page 4)			
	Last name		

Collecting middle name(s) can improve the quality of data linkage. A small change will be introduced to this question for 2021 to indicate that middle names can also be included. The prompt for "First name" will be altered to "First name(s)".

## Annex B: Date of birth (age)

There is a strong and well-established user need for the key demographic variables age and sex. By combining sex and age information, the census provides a basis for calculating rates of morbidity, mortality, fertility, marriage and divorce. These are vital inputs to population estimates and household projections which are used by central and local government to inform resource allocation, target investment, and carry out service planning and delivery. Age and sex are protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the data are widely used to inform equality impact assessments.

The 2011 Census paper question is shown in Figure B1. The online version of this question was essentially identical.

#### Figure B1: 2011 Census name paper question

3	What	is your da	te of bi	th?
	Day	Month	Year	

The same question was asked in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in 2011 (<u>Annex E</u>). Social Surveys generally collect information about age, either by asking for age or age bands, date of birth, or a combination.

In the <u>Topic Consultation Report</u> (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect information on age (via a question on date of birth) in 2021. No question development has been considered necessary for the date of birth question for at this stage.

#### Annex C: Term time address indicator

The filter question about term time address ensures that students identified by the student status question have their personal information collected at the appropriate address (that being either their home address or their term-time address, if they have one).

In the 2011 Census, additional guidance on how to provide information for students and schoolchildren who live away from home during term-time was included elsewhere on the questionnaire and available online.

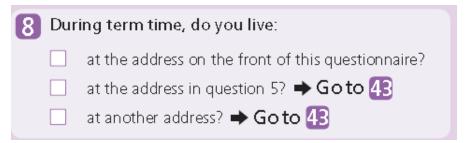
The 2011 Census question is shown in Figure C1. The online version of this question was essentially identical.

Figure C1: 2011 Census term time address indicator paper question

6	During term-time, do you live:
	at the address on the front of this question naire?
	at another address? 🔶 Go to 3

The 2011 Census in England and Wales included questions about second address that were not included elsewhere in the UK. As such, the 2011 Census in England and Wales included an additional response option to refer to this second address, as shown in Figure C2.

Figure C2: 2011 Census term time address indicator paper question, England and Wales



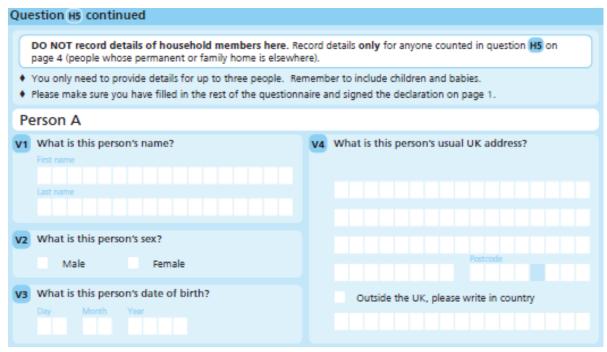
The Scottish Household survey asks about students who live away from home during term-time, and also provides dome information on this population at local authority and national level.

Term-time address indicator is collected for operational purposes alongside the student status question. As such, this question was not included in the Topic Consultation. No question development has been considered necessary for this question at this stage.

# Annex D: Demographic information about visitors

The most important task of the census is to give an accurate and authoritative count of the number of people in Scotland and where they usually live. Information about visitors is collected for operational purposes to ensure a robust population count. As such, these questions were not included in the Topic Consultation.

The 2011 Census questions were included on the back page of the census questionnaire. Guidance was included elsewhere on the form to indicate who should be included as a visitor and to remind respondents to enter visitor information in the questions on the back page. In 2011, space for including basic demographic information about up to three visitors was included, an example of this page, showing only the first set of visitors questions is included in Figure D1.



#### Figure D1: 2011 Census visitor questions

Research and analysis to date supports the continued collection of basic demographic information about visitors to ensure a robust population count. This will include name, sex, date of birth and usual UK address or usual country of residence. The visitor questions about name, sex and date of birth will be the same as the questions asked of individual usual residents in the census questionnaire, but the layout may vary due to space constraints.

# Annex E: 2011 Census questions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Figure E1: 2011 Census demographic questions, England and Wales

			-	
0	What is your name? (Per First name	rson 1 on page 3)		e you a schoolchild or student in full-time ucation?
				Yes 🔲 No 🔿 Goto ᠑
			8 Du	ring term time, do you live:
2	What is your sex?			at the address on the front of this questionnaire?
6		emale		at the address in question 5? $\rightarrow$ Go to 43
				at another address? 🜩 Go to 🚯
3	What is your date of bird Day Month Year	th?		
4	On 27 March 2011, what same-sex civil partnershi			
	<ul> <li>Never married and ne civil partnership</li> </ul>	ever registered a same-sex		
	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership		
	Separated, but still legally married	<ul> <li>Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership</li> </ul>		
	Divorced	Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved		
	Widowed	Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership		
5	Do you stay at another a days a year?	address for more than 30		
	□ No ➡ Goto 7			
	Yes, write in other UK	K address below		
		Postcode		
OR	Yes, outside the UK, v	write in country		
6	What is that address?	1. de		
	Armed forces base ac     Another address who	ooress en working away from home		
	Student's home address			
	Student's term time a			
	<ul> <li>Another parent or gu</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Holiday home</li> </ul>			
	Other			

-					
	at Is your name? (I	Person	1 on page 3)		
First	name				
Last	name				
2 Wh	at Is your sex?				
	Male 🗌	Fema	le		
-					
	at is your date of I				
Day	Month Year	r			
			our legal marital or		
sam	e-sex civil partner	ship st	atus?		
	Never married and	never r	egistered a same-sex		
	dvil partnership		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Married		in a registered came car		
	Married		in a registered same-sex dvil partnership		
	Constrated but				
	Separated, but still legally		Separated, but still legally in a same-sex		
	married		civil partnership		
_					
	Divorced		Formerly in a same-sex		
			civil partnership which is		
_			now legally dissolved		
	Widowed		Surviving partner from a		
			same-sex civil partnership		
	you a schoolchild	or stu	dent in full-time		
	5 Are you a schoolchild or student in full-time education?				
	Yes				
	No 🔿 Goto 🚺				
	ing term time, de	Voit			
U Du	6 During term time, do you live:				
	at the address on the front of this questionnaire?				
	at another address		Go to 🕼		

Figure E2: 2011 Census demographic questions, Northern Ireland

# Annex F: Alternative sources

Since 2012, a set of core questions has been used to provide information on the composition, characteristics and attitudes of Scottish households and adults across a number of topic areas through the three largest surveys in Scotland:

- the <u>Scottish Household Survey</u> (SHS)
- the <u>Scottish Health Survey</u> (SHeS)
- the <u>Scottish Crime and Justice Survey</u> (SCJS)

A set of core and harmonised questions is recommended in order to provide comparable estimates across Scotland. More information can be found on the Scottish Government website (<u>Core Survey Questions</u>). The Scottish Government also produce guidance for <u>collecting equality information</u>, including disability.

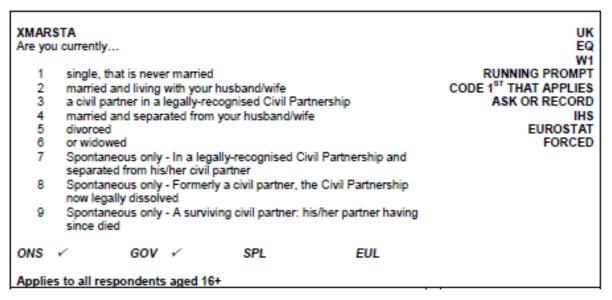
The <u>Labour Force Survey</u> (LFS)<sup>1</sup> is a quarterly survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The Annual Population Survey (APS) includes the LFS and also includes a further sample boost. The APS is the largest household survey in the UK.

1. Marital or same-sex civil partnership status

Marital or same-sex civil partnership status is a core question. The core survey question is the Scotland's Census 2011 question. However, the population from which this data is collected varies by survey. The SHS collects marital or same-sex civil partnership status of the householder with the highest income. The SHeS and SCJS collect this information for all respondents aged 16 and over.

The LFS asks a similar question on marital or same-sex civil partnership status, as shown in Figure F1.

Figure F1: Labour Force Survey marital status question 2015



2. Household and family relationships

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/</u> methodologies/labourforcesurveyuserguidance

A question on household relationships is included as a core survey question in Scottish Government Surveys. The core question offers an extended range of relationships, including 'adopted' and 'fostered', as shown in Figure F2.

*Figure F2: Scottish Government surveys core question 2017* 

Question:	Could you tell me how {person1} is related to {person2}?
Question: Answer	Could you tell me how {person1} is related to {person2}?  1. Husband or wife 2. Cohabiting partner 3. Legally recognised civil partner 4. Son or daughter (including adopted) 5. Step son or step daughter 6. Foster child 7. Son-in-law or daughter-in-law 8. Parent (including adopted) 9. Step parent 10. Foster parent 11. Parent-in-law 12. Brother or sister (including adopted) 13. Half brother or sister 14. Foster brother or sister 15. Step brother or sister 16. Brother-in-law or sister-in-law 17. Grand parent 18. Grand child
	19. Other relative 20. Unrelated

A similar question is asked in the Labour Force Survey, as shown in Figure F3.

Figure F3: Labour Force Survey relationship matrix 2015	
---	--

R I would	now like to ask how all the people in your household are related to each	UK
other.		W1
Code re	lationship of [Name] to [Name]	EUROSTAT
Treat re treat rek	latives of Civil Partners as though the Civil Partners were married. Also, atives of cohabiting members of the household as though the cohabiting were married, unless the couple are a same sex couple but not in a Civil	
Partners		
1	Soouse	
2	Cohabiting partner	
3	Son/daughter (incl. adopted)	
ă	Step-son/daughter	
4 5	Foster child	
ĕ	Son-in-law/daughter-in-law	
7	Parent/guardian	
8	Step-parent	
10		
11		
12	Brother/sister (incl. adopted)	
13		
14	Foster brother/sister	
15	Brother/sister-in-law	
16	Grand-child	
17	Grand-parent	
18	Other relative	
19	Other non-relative	
20	Civil Partner	

# Annex G: Marital status user need survey 2017

#### 1. Background

Marital or same sex civil partnership status information is used by a wide range of users. It is also a protected characteristic as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the data are widely used by central government and other public authorities in equality impact assessments, which in turn inform policies and practices.

Changes to the question on Marital and Civil Partnership Status are being considered for Scotland's Census 2021 due to:

- Legislative Changes; and
- Indication of potential new data needs identified in the Topic Consultation.

#### 1.1. Legislative changes

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 12 March 2014. This act allows same-sex couples to marry in Scotland.

#### 1.2. Topic Consultation responses

Topic Consultation responses indicated that there may be user need for data on same-sex and opposite-sex marriages to be presented separately:

"The categories in the question need to be updated to reflect the introduction of same-sex marriage." – Population and Migration Statistics Local Authorities

"Being able to distinguish between mixed sex married couples and same sex married couples is important." – Scottish Government Equalities Unit

As these responses indicate potential need for data that has not been collected before, NRS conducted a survey to investigate this user need.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) also consulted its users about their need for estimates of the population who are married to be presented separately for same-sex couples and for opposite-sex couples, in October 2017.

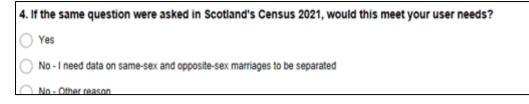
The results of the ONS survey showed that 99.4% of respondents require estimates of the population who are married to be presented separately for same-sex couples and for opposite-sex couples in England and Wales.

#### 2. User Needs Survey

A survey was available between 12 March 2018 and 06 April 2018, to investigate the potential need identified in the Topic Consultation and whether or not the needs relating to this data are the same in Scotland as they are in England and Wales. Topic Consultation respondents who indicated that they were happy to be contacted by NRS about the marital or same sex civil partnership status topic were invited to complete the survey. The survey was also widely promoted through the <u>Scotland's Census newsletter</u> which has a distribution list of around 2,000 contacts.

All respondents were shown an image of the question asked in Scotland's Census 2011 and were asked about whether the same question would meet their needs in 2021, as shown in Figure G1.

Figure G1: User Needs Survey – Question 4



There were only four responses to the survey: three from individuals and one on behalf of an organisation.

Only one respondent said that the same question would not meet their needs if asked in 2021. This respondent said that this was for reasons other than needing data on same-sex and opposite-sex marriage to be presented separately and suggested that there should be an option for those co-habiting to select. However, co-habiting is not a legal marital or civil partnership status.<sup>2</sup>

One respondent noted a concern about the wording "same-sex civil partnership" which is used in the question stem and some response options. They suggested "registered civil partnership" as an alternative. This respondent said that, apart from this concern, a question the same as the 2011 one would meet their needs in 2021.

#### 3. Conclusion

No respondents to the NRS User Needs Survey indicated a need for separate presentation of data on same-sex and opposite-sex marriages in Scotland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In 2011, guidance instructed co-habiting individuals to select the 'Never married and never registered a civil partnership' response option, similar guidance will be provided for in 2021.

# Annex H: 2017 Quantitative Testing – marital status

In 2017 NRS commissioned ScotCen Social Research to conduct quantitative testing of selected questions for potential inclusion in Scotland's Census 2021. Information about this testing can be found in the <u>2017 Cognitive and Quantitative Testing</u> <u>Report</u> (PDF).

#### 1. Question tested and aims of testing

A question on marital or same-sex civil partnership status was included in the individual section of the questionnaire.

Marital or same-sex civil partnership 2017 test (paper)			
12 What is your legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status?			
<ul> <li>Never married and never registered in a same-sex civil partnership</li> </ul>			
Married			
Separated, but still legally married			
Divorced			
Widowed			
In a registered same-sex civil partnership			
Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership			
<ul> <li>Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</li> </ul>			
	-		
Marital or same-sex civil partnership 2017	test (online)		
Q12. What is your legal marital or same-sex civ	li partnersnip status?		
<ul> <li>Never married and never registered in a s</li> </ul>	ame-sex civil partnership		
<ul> <li>Married</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Separated, but still legally married</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Divorced</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Widowed</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>In a registered same-sex civil partnership</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Separated, but still legally in a same-sex of</li> </ul>	civil partnership		
<ul> <li>Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership w</li> </ul>	hich is now legally dissolved		
<ul> <li>Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</li> </ul>			
◄ Previous Stop ■ Next question ►			

The aims of testing this question were to analyse:

- the distribution of responses to highlight any potential data quality issues;
- item non-response rates as a measure of data quality and acceptability; and
- invalid responses as a measure of data quality.

# **3.** Marital Status Distribution<sup>3</sup>

In total, around 97% of respondents provided a valid response to the question on marital status. An invalid response was given by around 3% of respondents, almost all of which were attributable to item non-response.

The distribution of responses to the marital or same-sex civil partnership question in the 2017 test was similar to the distribution of responses in the 2011 Census, as shown in Table G1. In this comparison, some responses are grouped, due to known issues with the individual categories in 2011 Census data. Comparability between the census and 2017 test results, groupings indicate that this alternative layout of the question collects comparable data.

There was no evidence of any issues with response mapping across age, sexual orientation and marital status, as shown in Table G2, indicating that this layout of the question may improve data quality compared to the two-column layout of the 2011 Census.

Table G1: Distribution of responses to the marital status question (all valid	
responses, weighted)	

	<b>2017 Test</b> (weighted responses, aged 16 and over %)	<b>2011 Census</b> (all people aged 16 and over %)
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	35	35
Married	46	45
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	<1	<1
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2	3
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	9	8
Widowed or surviving partner from a same- sex civil partnership	7	8
Total valid responses	100	100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> All figures in this report have been rounded to zero decimal places.

Table G2: Distribution of responses to the marital status question by age and sexual orientation (all valid responses, weighted)<sup>4</sup>

		Sexual Orientation by Age			
		Heterosexual or straight		Total valid responses	
		Aged 16-34	Aged 35-64	Aged 65+	All people
	Never married and never registered in a same-sex civil partnership	72	24	7	36
	Married	25	59	54	46
	Separated, but still legally married	0	4	2	2
atus	Divorced	3	11	11	9
	Widowed	0	2	26	7
I St	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	0	0	0	0
Marital Status	Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership	0	0	<1	<1
	Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0	0	0	<1
	Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	0	0	0	0
	Total valid responses	100	100	100	100

# 4. Invalid responses to marital status

Around 3% of total responses to the question on marital status were invalid, with item non-response being the primary reason for respondents not providing a valid answer.

Less than 1% of invalid responses were the result of multi-ticking on paper (this was not possible online).

There were no evidence of a mode effect in invalid responses.

Numbers of invalid responses were too small to draw associations by age.

#### Item non-response only

Item non-response accounted for almost all of the invalid responses (3% of total responses). This compares with an item non-response of 2.3% in the 2011 Census.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sexual orientation categories with small numbers of respondents have not been included individually, but are included in the total of valid responses by sexual orientation and age.

# 5. Feedback

The questionnaire was split into four sections and, at the end of each of the four sections. respondents were asked if they had found any questions in the section difficult to answer. Respondents were asked to select which questions they had found difficult to answer, and to provide verbatim feedback on these in an open text box.

A feedback question asked "Did you find any of the following questions difficult to answer?"

Around 1% of respondents selected that they found the marital status question difficult to answer.

	Name of Person 1	Name of Person 2	Name of Person 3
ш	ROBERT	MARY	ALISON
-	SMITH	SMITH 🗞	SMITH 🗞
۵.		Relationship of Person 2, to	Rebtionship of Person 3/
Σ		Person: Q 1	to Peso ns:
۷.	NAME OF PERSON 1	Husband or wife 🗸	Hus band or w Fe
	PLEASE USE THE SAME	Same-sex dvil partner	Same-sex divil partmer
×	ORDER AS QUESTION H3	Partmer	Partner
ш		San ardeughter	San ar daughter 🗸 🗸
		Step-child	Step-child
		Brother arsister	Brother ar sister
Nam	e of Person 1	Name of Person 2	Name of Person 3
		Relationship of Person 2	Relationship of Person 3
		to Person:	to Persons:
		Unit and an usify	
	NAME OF PERSON 1	Husband or wife	Husband or wife
PLEASE USE THE SAME ORDER AS QUESTION 14		Same-sex civil partner	Same-sex dvil partner
		Partner	Partner
		Son or daughter	Son or daughter
		Step-child	Step-child
		Brother or sister	Brother or sister
		Step-brother or step-sister	Step-brother or step-sister
		Mother or father	Mother or father
		Step-mother or step-father	Step-mother or step-father
		Grandchild	Grandchild
		Grandparent	Grandparent
		Other relation	Other relation
		Unrelated (including faster child)	Unnelated (including faster child)

# Annex I: 2011 Census Relationship Matrix

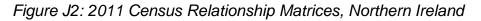
Name of Peson 4	Name of Peson 5
STEVEN Smith 😞	JAMES SMITH 🛷
Relationship of Peson 4 to Persons:	Relationship of Person 5 to Persons: 1 2 3 4
Husbandiorwife	Husbandiorwife
Same-sex civil partner	Same-sex civil partner
Partner	Partner
San ardaughter 🗸 🗸	Son ordäughter 🗸 🗸
Step-child Brotherorsister 🗸	Step-child
	Brotheroursister 🗸 🗸
Name of Person 4	Name of Person 5
Pulainachia of Roman A	
Relationship of Person 4 to Persons:	Relationship of Person 5 to Persons:
123	1234
Husband or wife	Husband or wife
Same-sexcivil partner	Same-sex civil partner
Partner	Partner
Son or daughter	Son or daughter
Step-child	Step-child
Brother or sister	Brother or sister
Step-brother or step-sister	Step-brother or step-sister
Mother or father	Mother or father
Step-mother or step-father	Step-mother or step-father
Grandchild	Grandchild
Grandparent	Grandparent
Other relation	Other relation
Unnelated (including faster child)	Unrelated (including foster child)

# Annex J: 2011 Census Relationship Matrices, England and Wales, and Northern Ireland

Figure J1: 2011 Census Relationship Matrices, England and Wales

- Using the same order you used in question H3 (page 3), write the name of everyone who usually lives here at the top of each column. Remember to include children, babies and people who have requested an Individual Questionnaire
- Tick a box to show the relationship of each person to each of the other members of this household

Name of Person 1 First name	Name of Person 2 First name		Name of Person B First name	
ast name	Last name		Last name	
J-J-K	How is Person 2 related to Person:	1	How is Person 3 relate to Persons:	ad 1 2
ENTER NAME OF	Husband or wife		Husband or wife	
PERSON 1 HERE AS	Same-sex civil partner		Same-sexicivil partner	
	Partner		Partner	
	Son or daughter		Son or daughter	
	Step-c hild		Step-child	
	Brother or sister		Brother or sister	
	Step-brother or step-sister		Step-brother or step-sister	
	Mother or father		Mother or father	
	Step-mother or step-father		Step-mother or step-father	
	Grandchild		Grandchild	
	Grandparent		Grandparent	
	Relation - other		Relation - other	
	Unrelated (including foster child)		Unrelated (including foster child)	



- Using the same order you used in question H3 (page 3), write the name of everyone who usually lives here at the top of each column. Remember to include children, babies and people who have requested an Individual Questionnaire. Do not include visitors.
- $\supset$  Tick a box to show the relationship of each person to each of the other members of this household.

ame of Person 1 st name First name			Name of Person 3 First name	
st name	Last name		Last name	
	How is Person 2 relate to Person:	1	How is Person 3 related to Persons:	ted
ENTER NAME OF	Husband or wife		Husband or wife	
PERSON 1 HERE AS	Same-sex civil partner		Same-sex civil partner	
	Partner		Partner	
	Son or daughter		Son or daughter	
	Stepchild		Stepchild	
	Brother or sister		Brother or sister	
	Stepbrother or stepsister		Stepbrother or stepsister	
	Motherorfather		Motherorfather	
	Stepmother or stepfather		Stepmother or stepfather	
	Grandchild		Grandchild	
	Grandparent		Grandparent	
	Relation - other		Relation - other	
	Unrelated (including foster child)		Unrelated (including foster child)	