



# **Scotland's Census 2022 - Outputs consultation report**

**May 2023**

# Summary of this report

## The consultation

We opened our census outputs consultation in October 2022. We asked users to provide feedback on our plans for Scotland's Census 2022 outputs. This included detail on the data we will publish and the tools we will use. These plans were built on previous stakeholder engagement held by NRS. We asked users to provide feedback on these plans, to help us to align them with users' needs.

## Feedback received through the consultation

We received 146 responses to the consultation from a range of organisations and individuals. The overall response to the consultation was positive and users were happy with our plans for publishing outputs. However, some of the feedback did highlight changes we could make or highlighted where further investigation was needed.

## NRS response to feedback

The aim of the consultation was to gather users' feedback on what data they need from Scotland's Census 2022 and why. The questionnaire asked users to provide detail on the reasons behind their response. Throughout this document we respond to some of the more detailed responses. The consultation feedback was used to determine whether changes were required to meet user needs. Where necessary we prioritised responses by considering how we maximise the value and public benefit gained from the census.

Changes we will make based on user feedback received include:

- We aim to publish additional pre-defined tables where we identified a strong user need to do so. We will review requests for additional tables and where appropriate and feasible will add these to our plans for pre-defined tables.
- We aim to publish two versions of some multivariate tables where we identified a user need and it is in line with our statistical disclosure control policy.
- We will investigate further if it is possible to publish origin destination data at more disaggregated levels.
- We will add an additional analytical report to our list covering the health topic. We will continue to work with stakeholders to determine the content of each report and any additional topics which should be covered through these reports.
- Following feedback from users we will produce three new derived variables:
  - Adult student indicator
  - Not in employment, education or training indicator
  - Key or critical worker indicator

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## Introduction

National Records of Scotland (NRS) invited views on 'Scotland's Census 2022 – Census Outputs Consultation' between October 2022 and 10 February 2023. In total, 146 consultation responses were received.

The consultation document presented NRS' proposed plans for census outputs, with the aim of encouraging user feedback which would be used to finalise outputs planning and ensure that the outputs met the needs of users of Scotland's Census data.

The consultation built on previous stakeholder engagement and is an important step in understanding who plans to use census data, the tools they use and the information they need to inform their work/research.

The consultation covered several aspects of our plans for publishing census results following the data collection phases, including:

- the order and sequencing of topics published
- the tools we use to publish data
- the geographical levels that data is published at
- how changes to census questions impact users' planned work/research
- requirements from the new census questions

This report represents our response to the consultation, highlighting key decisions that have been made as a result of user feedback.

It was important to ensure that the consultation reached a wide range of users. It was therefore published on the Scotland's Census website and users were able to respond online using the survey monkey tool or they could complete a word document version and send via email.

The consultation was widely promoted between October 2022 and February 2023 using various channels, including:

- The Scotland's Census website, where content was updated to promote the launch of the consultation. This included publishing news articles and making links to the consultation easily accessible from the front page.
- The Scotland's Census newsletter which has a distribution list of 1,155 contacts. Three newsletters were published in the duration of the consultation encouraging all interested parties to get involved.
- The Population and Migration Statistics newsletter which has a distribution list of 63 contacts.
- Updates via Scotstat. ScotStat is a network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics and has a distribution list of over 377 contacts.
- Tweets from the @Scotcensus2022 Twitter feed
- Three webinars to support the consultation, with these being held in October and November 2022 and January 2023. These were attended by approximately 110 delegates. Attendees included users from Local Authorities, Government agencies and third sector organisations. [Presentations from these events](#) are available on Scotland's Census website.

## Thank you to respondents

We would like to thank everybody who responded to the ‘Scotland’s Census Outputs Consultation’. The feedback received has helped shape our plans for the outputs and analysis we will produce using census data.

The consultation represents an important milestone in the Census programme and gives us useful feedback to continue finalising our plans. However, we will continue to engage with users to get feedback and communicate our plans for census outputs. We will continue to work closely with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research (NISRA) to learn from feedback they received while publishing their own census outputs. The three census offices are also working closely to develop UK-wide census results that best meet the needs of users where possible.

## 1. Evaluating Responses

The aim of the consultation was to gather users’ feedback on what data they need from Scotland’s Census 2022 and why. The questionnaire asked users to provide detail on the reasons behind their response. Throughout this document we respond to some of the more detailed responses the consultation feedback was used to determine whether changes were required to meet user needs. Where necessary we prioritised responses by considering how we maximise the value and public benefit gained from the census.

When reviewing feedback there are different outcomes with implications for census outputs. These include:

1. There is strong evidence of user need and it cannot be met by our planned output products, **we will action this change**.
2. There is some evidence of a user need and it cannot be met by our planned output products, **we will investigate further**. Further investigation could include stakeholder engagement or analysis of census responses.
3. There isn’t enough evidence of a strong user need or we feel the need can be met by our planned outputs, **we will not take any further action**.

User feedback which may require actionable change or investigation is considered alongside issues pertaining to Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC), data quality and the necessary resource requirement.

### Question types

The survey contained several different types of questions. These included:

- Single answer questions
- Multiple answer questions
- Open-ended questions
- Ranking questions

Single answer questions

This style was used when the question had a binary set of answers. For example, when the options were “yes” or “no”.

### Multiple answer questions

This style was used to allow users to respond to as many options as they wanted.

For example, the question on which topic users planned to use outputs from was a multiple answer question.

Topic	Number of responses	Percentage (%)
British Sign Language (BSL)	34	23
Communal establishments	36	25
Demography and migration	95	66
Education	76	53
Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion	89	61
Health, disability and unpaid care	79	55
Housing	73	51
Labour market	65	45
Sexual orientation	55	38
Trans status or history	47	32
Travel to work and/or study	59	41
UK Armed Forces veterans	25	17
Other	11	8

Users were able to select multiple topic areas. As these types of questions allow multiple answers to be chosen, the percentages do not add up to 100%. These percentages are made up of the number of votes each topic received out of the number of people that responded to this question. For example, 95/146 (66%) people responded they were interested in the demography and migration topic.

### Free text questions

This style of question allowed users to respond with their own feedback rather than pre-set answer options. This is where users were able to provide detail on their requirements for us to consider further.

### Ranking questions

This style of question allowed users to place different answers in their preferred order of importance.

## **2. Summary of NRS actions based on feedback received**

Based on the feedback to the plans we published as part of the consultation we have made some changes. This section of the report we will summarise feedback and decisions. More detailed responses to the questions asked in the consultation are provided in the relevant section of this document.

### **2.1 Flexible Table Builder**

The Flexible Table Builder will be the primary dissemination tool for 2022 census tables and will allow users to create their own tables. This tool will be launched alongside the publication of unrounded census estimates in Spring 2024.

We asked users whether they planned to use the Flexible Table Builder. We received a positive response with the majority of respondents planning to do so. We also asked users whether they would make use of support for the tool including user guides, video demonstrations and online events on how to use the tool. Responses showed interest in all these products so we will provide this support alongside the launch of the tool.

### **2.2 Pre-defined tables**

With the introduction of the Flexible Table Builder, we detailed plans to reduce the number of pre-defined tables as users will now be able to build their own tables. The majority of users were happy with this approach and had no concerns. However, some users were concerned that this could create work for them. To ensure that users are able to use this tool efficiently and effectively we will offer training on using the Flexible Table Builder and publish guides on our website. To meet all user needs we also aim to publish additional pre-defined tables where we identify strong user need to do so. We will review requests for additional tables and where appropriate and feasible will add this to our plans for pre-defined tables.

We also plan to publish one set of multivariate pre-defined tables rather than the two sets of tables published for the 2011 Census. The majority of respondents were happy with this approach and had no concerns. However, there was a user need identified for tables that prioritised detailed variable classifications and tables that prioritised the level of geography that can be published. To meet all user needs we will aim to publish two versions of a table where we identify a user need for that table and it is in line with our statistical disclosure control policy.

We also aim to publish a break down of topic variables by age and sex for Scotland and Local Authorities during the topic summary phase where appropriate. Through this consultation and previous stakeholder engagement we have identified a strong user need for this data.

### **2.3 Origin Destination**

Origin destination statistics describe the movement/flow of people; either as migration (from their address one year prior to the census) or travel to work or study (from their current address to their workplace address or place of study). We asked users whether our plans for these products met their needs. While the majority of

users were happy with this approach we did receive feedback that origin destination data at more disaggregated levels would be useful. We will investigate further if this is possible.

## **2.4 Analytical reports**

We will publish analytical reports after the release of standard census outputs. These reports will allow us to produce more detailed analysis on topics where we identify a strong user need. After reviewing feedback we will add an additional analytical report to our list covering the health topic. We will continue to work with stakeholders to determine the content of each report and any additional topics which should be covered through these products. When producing analytical reports for the 2011 Census we worked with stakeholders who were data experts in those topics. Where appropriate we will take this approach again for 2022.

## **2.5 UK census data**

Through the consultation users told us that they planned to use UK census data for their analysis. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues at the Office for National Statistics and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency who are responsible for the England & Wales and Northern Ireland censuses respectively. We aim to maximise the harmonisation and comparability of census results and products.

## **2.6 Producing new derived variables**

Following feedback from users we will produce three new derived variables:

- Adult student indicator
- Not in employment, education or training indicator
- Key or critical worker indicator

We aim to make these variables available through the Flexible Table Builder and also plan what additional commentary and analysis should be published on these topics.

## **2.7 Census output geography list**

As part of the consultation, we shared our proposed list of geographies that will be available for use with the census outputs. We will publish supporting information on the geographies used for census outputs. This will include guidance on using the geography products created. We also plan to publish an updated lookup for census geographies and any supporting information alongside the first publication of unrounded census counts.

Following a positive response from users to these plans we will continue with plans to publish census data for the following geographies.



- Scotland
- Local Authority/Council Area
- Electoral Ward
- Data Zones
- Output Area
- Civil Parish
- Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies
- Health Board Areas
- Settlement and Localities
- United Kingdom Parliamentary Constituencies
- Island groups
- Scottish Parliamentary Regions
- Integration Authorities
- National Parks
- Intermediate zones
- Travel to work areas
- Workplace zones
- Grid squares
- UK International Territorial Levels (Equivalent to NUTS)

There were some requests for geographies to be added to this list. However, in these cases, there was not a strong enough user need identified, or; concerns around statistical disclosure control meant they were not added to the list. We will produce guidance on using the flexible table builder to help users produce analysis at bespoke geographical areas while ensuring the data is safe to release.

Following feedback received we will continue with plans to remove the Local and Detailed Characteristic postcodes from census 2022 outputs. We identified limited user need and feel that this user need can be met through other products.

## **2.7 Census boundary products**

We plan to make the boundary products available to users alongside census data. Following feedback received about the format of these products we will make these available as shapefiles.

## **2.8 Trans status or history**

A voluntary question for those aged 16 and above on Trans status or history was introduced for Scotland's Census 2022. This question was added to the Census as there is currently no data on the size and location of the trans population in Scotland. Most users responded that the proposed classifications would meet their needs. However, some feedback questioned the groups assigned to different classifications. Based on this feedback we are continuing to engage with stakeholders to inform outputs on this topic.

## **2.9 Sexual orientation**

A voluntary question on sexual orientation was introduced for Scotland's Census 2022. This question was added to the census to provide data at small geographies for use in service planning and equality monitoring. Most users felt that the

proposed classifications would meet their needs. However, some feedback questioned the grouping of different classifications. It may be necessary to group classifications to allow us to safely publish this data in line with our statistical disclosure control policy. If there are enough responses to mean grouping classifications is not necessary, we will make changes to the classification following user feedback. However, it is likely that more detailed analysis of ungrouped classifications will only be made available in the analytical report.

### 3. Summary of responses

#### 3.1 Respondents industry

We received a total of 146 responses to the consultation. We asked users responding to the consultation which industry they worked in. A breakdown of the responses by sector are given in the table below:

Sector	Number of Responses	Percentage (%)
No sector, I am responding in a personal capacity	47	32
Local government	25	17
Charity and voluntary	18	12
Other public body, for example health, transport, emergency services	17	12
Other*	14	10
Academic or research	9	6
Commercial	7	5
Central government	6	4
Religion or faith	2	1
Journalist or media	1	1

\*Other responses included: Architecture/construction, advertising and engineering.

We asked users whether they or their organisations have used data or analysis produced by NRS from previous censuses. Use of data visualisations, such as maps, was considered use of analysis for this question. Out of all respondents to the consultation 64% had used data or analysis from previous censuses.

#### 3.2 Topics of interest

We asked users to indicate what topics they were interested in for data or analysis products.

Topic	Number of responses	Percentage (%)
Demography and migration	96	66
Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion	89	61
Health, disability and unpaid care	80	55
Education	77	53
Housing	74	51
Labour market	65	45
Travel to work and/or study	60	41
Sexual orientation	55	38
Trans status or history	47	32
Communal establishments	36	25
British Sign Language (BSL)	34	23
UK Armed Forces veterans	25	17
Other	11	8

There was a small number of responses (12) where the user had not identified any topic as they had no plans to use Scotland's Census 2022 data/analysis products. However, they answered questions throughout the consultation so have been included in responses captured in this report.

### 3.3 Plans for using census outputs

To understand more about the users who plan to use the census data and plan outputs to meet their needs, we asked users why they use census data. Their responses can be seen below:

	Number of responses	Percentage (%)
I use census data as part of my job or studies	40	28
I use census data to inform policy decision making within my department, organisation or company	40	28
I use the Scotland's Census website to get information on my local area	32	23
Other*	11	8
I don't use census data	9	6
I use census data as part of a product/service I offer	6	4
I visit the Scotland's Census website to see how the information collected is used	4	3

\* There were several "Other" responses, many of those users stated that they were interested in census data for "personal interest".

### 3.4 Response to consultation topics

The questionnaire was designed so that users could select which areas of the consultation they wanted to respond to. The number of users that reviewed each section are included in the table below.

Section	Number of Reviews
Output Products	117
Geography	60
New Questions for the 2022 Census	51
Changes to Questions from Scotland's Census 2011	36
Population-base Specifications	45
Scotland's Census Website	45

These numbers represent the number of people who reviewed each section. However, the individual question numbers may vary from question to question as respondents could pick which questions to respond to.

## 4. Census Outputs Products

This section of the consultation covered our plans for 2022 Census output products. We asked users about the tools we use to publish outputs, what we plan on publishing and the order of the releases.

Every section in the consultation had its own set of questions which users were given the option of answering or moving on to the next section. The majority of users answered questions on this topic.

*Do you wish to answer questions on output products?*

- Yes – 91%
- No – 9%

### 4.1 Flexible Table Builder

We asked users about our plans for a Flexible Table Builder for 2022 outputs. This will be the primary dissemination tool and will allow users to create their own tables or edit pre-defined tables published by NRS. This will allow us to make data available without manually building and checking tables. This means the multivariate data will be available quicker than in 2011.

#### 4.1.1 Plans to use the Flexible Table Builder

*Do you plan to use the flexible table builder to create your own census output tables or modify the pre-defined tables?*

- Yes – 82%
- No – 18%

The response to the question on whether users planned to use the Flexible Table Builder was encouraging with the majority of users who answered this question planning to make use of the new tool.

However, 18% of users who responded to this question indicated that they did not plan to use the Flexible Table Builder. Reasons for this varied, with some users unsure of whether they will use it as they are not familiar with the tool and others indicating they plan to use other products such as an API or analysis and commentary.

We plan to make materials available to aide users of the Flexible Table Builder to ensure that it is usable and accessible. We hope that this will encourage users who are interested in the census data to use the tool. We also plan to publish outputs in a range of formats to meet users' needs.

#### 4.1.2 Reducing the number of pre-defined tables

Due to the additional functionality that is available to users through the Flexible Table Builder, we propose to produce less pre-defined tables than we have in previous censuses. The reason for this is users will be able to create their own tables and edit existing tables to get the information they need. Details of the proposed pre-

defined tables and the variables users will be able to use are included in the [spreadsheet](#) published alongside the consultation.

We asked users if this planned approach caused them any concerns.

*As the flexible table builder will allow users to create their own census tables we will reduce the number of pre-defined tables we publish. Do you have any concerns with this approach?*

- Yes – 29%
- No – 71%

Of those who responded to this question, the majority (71%) had no concerns with this approach. This response is encouraging as we plan for the Flexible Table Builder to be the primary dissemination tool.

However, there were users who raised concerns with this approach, one concern was that the reduction of pre-defined tables could result in more work for users.

*“The more pre-defined tables there are, possibly reduced need for building own tables, reducing workload”*

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

*“I think similar to <https://statistics.gov.scot/> and DWP's Stat-Xplore a self service provision of tables can be useful however if documentation or online training is not provided then its not an asset people will use if they cannot be assured of the content they are downloading is correct”*

- Glasgow Council

To ensure that users can effectively and efficiently use the Flexible Table Builder we will provide training to users and publish documentation and demonstrations on how to use the tool.

We do acknowledge the importance of being able to access information quickly. Considering this need we determined our list of pre-defined tables by reviewing which tables were accessed most from the 2011 census and collecting feedback from users.

In addition to this we will consider adding more tables to the list of pre-defined tables where we identify a clear user need. We will also continue to offer a commissioned table service where users can request tables if they cannot be made through the Flexible Table Builder.

Another concern raised through this question was that the tool could result in a service that is less accessible to users.

*“I am concerned that a lack of pre made census tables may make the results less accessible to many people “*

- Census data user

To prepare for publishing census outputs we developed a new website to ensure that the website and the tools we use are useable and accessible. The Scotland's Census website meets the WCAG 2.1 criteria, these guidelines set the standard for ensuring

that those with disabilities have inclusive access to websites and web applications. We will continue to support users through the instructions/demonstrations described above and through statistics customer services. We believe that through this approach and by making census outputs available in a range of formats there will be no barriers to those accessing census data.

#### 4.1.3 Variable classifications for the Flexible Table Builder

The Flexible Table Builder allows users to create tables that meet their needs by adding the variables they are interested into their table. To ensure that the Flexible Table Builder meets users' needs we provided users with proposed variable classifications to be included in the Flexible Table Builder. We asked users if these proposed classifications would meet their needs.

*Do the classifications proposed for the variables to be included in the flexible table builder meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully – 74%
- Yes, partially – 19%
- No – 6%

Of those that responded to the question 74% respondents that stated that they would fully meet their needs. A further 19% stated that they would partially meet their needs. Only 6% stated that they would not meet their needs.

Of those who responded that the classifications did not fully meet or did not meet their needs at all comments were provided to clarify why this was the case.

Some users provided more detailed responses on which additional variables they would like to use with the census outputs. In many cases these needs can be met by adding multiple variables to the Flexible Table Builder. For example, one user highlighted a need for outputs on UK armed forces veterans who are disabled. To produce analysis on this we would advise that the user build a table containing the variables 1 & 2. We will provide instructions and examples on the website to help users produce the tables that meet their needs.

Other responses highlighted their requirements for classifications including the proposed collapsed classifications. These classifications were included in the spreadsheet as it may not always be possible to use the full classifications due to statistical disclosure control.

*“Gaelic Language skills: The Collapsed Option excludes ‘reads and writes but does not speak’. But this would be a useful ‘self-taught learner’ category to retain, if disclosure control permits.”*

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

This is useful feedback and we will carefully consider user needs highlighted through the consultation and other stakeholder engagement when deciding on collapsed classifications. Generally, we will aim to publish the most detailed classifications where possible, but this must be balanced with our statistical disclosure control policy.

Some of the comments referred to the geography that the data will be published at.

*“We require as much data as possible to be available at the level of individual islands, which it is not in the standard output.”*

- Orkney Islands council

We appreciate the requirement for detailed classifications to be available to users at a range of geographies, though we must ensure that the outputs we publish are not disclosive. We plan to publish analytical reports on inhabited islands to meet this user need and allow more detailed analysis to be undertaken at this geography while protecting the confidentiality of respondents.

#### 4.1.4 User account

The Flexible Table Builder will provide users with an option of signing up for a free user account. This will allow users to save the tables that they build and create bespoke geography groupings that can be used in any table they create.

*Would you be interested in creating a user account to save tables you build and custom geographies (built up from combining existing geographies)?*

- Yes – 83%
- No – 17%

The majority of users (83%) who were interested in using the Flexible Table Builder were also interested in creating account.

Of those who responded to this question 17% were not interested in creating an account for the Flexible Table Builder. Reasons for this included users preferring to download the data and use their own systems and users not requiring detailed census data.

#### 4.1.5 Support for users of the Flexible Table Builder

As the Flexible Table Builder will add new functionality to the Scotland’s Census website we plan to offer training sessions and instructions/demonstrations to ensure users can use the tool efficiently and effectively. The options proposed and the number of users interested in using the Flexible Table Builder who are interested in the options are listed below.

*Which of the following would you be interested in regarding the flexible table builder?*

*(Select all that apply)*

Written user guides published on the website	77%
Video demonstrations available on the website	75%
Online events with demonstrations on how to use the tool	48%
None of the above	7%

There was a user interest identified for all the proposed support for the Flexible Table Builder. Based on this feedback we will continue to develop plans to make content available on the website and explore options for online events as the data is published.



#### 4.1.6 Output products

While the Flexible Table builder will be the primary dissemination tool, we plan to produce census outputs in several formats to meet the needs of a range of users. We asked users about which products they plan to use to access the 2022 Census outputs.

*Which Scotland's census 2022 outputs do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

Flexible Table Builder	82%
Pre-defined tables	73%
Commentary and analysis	63%
Area Overviews	74%
Bulk data downloads	40%
Accessing data through and API	20%

The majority of users plan to access data through the Flexible Table Builder for the 2022 outputs. However, there was a user need identified for all the options listed. We will continue to work to produce census outputs in a range of formats. By doing this we can ensure that we meet the full range of census data users' needs and maximise the value of the census.

#### 4.2 Topic Summary Tables

The next set of questions in the output products section focused on the topic summary tables. The topic summary tables are univariate tables, this means we will publish tables which include data from one variable, for example age or ethnic group. The topic summary tables will be the equivalent to the Key Statistic and Quick Statistic tables from the 2011 census outputs.

##### 4.2.1 Topic order

*Do you have a preference on the ordering of the topic staggered approach to phase two?*

- Demography and migration
- Ethnic group, National identity, Language and Religion
- Health
- National identity
- labour market and travel to work
- Housing
- disability and unpaid care
- Education
- sexual orientation and trans status or history
- UK Armed Forces veterans

Of the 114 respondents that told us whether they had a preference, 54% didn't have a preference. Respondents who had a preference provided a wide range of orderings that reflected their needs. The order set out above is based on the responses received to this question. We will consider several factors when finalising our topic ordering, including the reasons users stated for their preferences and time required to quality assure and apply statistical disclosure control to the outputs.

Users provided more details on their preference for the ordering of topics. These included information of the work and analysis that they plan to carry out using census outputs.

*“prioritise topics that directly relate to the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010... we recommend priority is given to the following topics: sexual orientation and trans status or history; demography and migration; ethnic group, national identity, language and religion; and, health, disability and unpaid care. These four topics will provide data on the protected characteristics of: sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, sex, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and disability.”*

- Equality and Human Rights Commission

*“Given the pandemic, and the pressure on health and social care services, we really really need a refresh of reliable data so we can understand our communities and what need is out there. We are dealing with some of the most vulnerable people.”*

- Census data user from public body

*“Our preference would be for 'Ethnic group' data to be one of the first to be published. The census is the only comprehensive source for this information and the results are needed for research and analysis.”*

- Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

*“Ethnic group, national identity, language & religion early on please. The Census the sole data source for these”*

- The Church of Scotland

Feedback was varied and there were different priorities dependent on the industry users worked in. This feedback will be considered alongside the rest of the users' response to better understand their user needs and what products they require to best meet their needs.

While we will consider the number of users who prioritise each topic, we will also consider the nature of the work users plan to carry out with census outputs. One area which we received specific responses to the topic ordering was on questions which are new for the 2022 census.

*“Early visibility of the data on UK Armed Forces veterans and their demography, health, employment and education will be very useful. This will enable veterans' charities and local authorities to identify where resources are needed.”*

- Veterans Scotland

*“UK Armed Forces veterans first - because the last available demographic survey is very limited in scope and over 8 years old, and the organisation is seeking to expand service offering into new geographies and robust data on needs will transform this decision making process.”*

- Erskine Hospital

Many comments on why users prioritise data is because the level of detail that can be included in census outputs is greater than in other sources. For 2022 outputs we plan to publish all topic data down to output areas, the lowest level of geography we publish at, to meet this user need. We will also aim to include the most detailed classifications as part of the topic summary phase where possible in line with our statistical disclosure control policy.

Several responses indicated that if there wasn't a long period between releasing the first and last topic summary tables, they wouldn't have a preference.

*"If phase two is relatively short (a year) then no preference."*

- *The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team*

*"Not clear how much of a delay there will be between publishing the first and the last outputs though, it may not matter too much."*

- *Aberdeenshire Council*

We aim to publish topic summaries as individual releases for each topic. This will allow us to prepare commentary and analysis on each topic prior to publishing. However, we are aware that timeliness of the releases is important and are aiming for the period between each release to be short.

In response to this feedback we will investigate further what the ordering of the topic releases should be. This will be informed by feedback received from this consultation and other processes to prepare census data. Once decided we will publish an updated release schedule on the Scotland's Census website. We will communicate this to users.

#### *4.2.2 Plans for publishing univariate tables*

We then asked users about our plans for publishing one set of tables for 2022 rather than using the Key Statistic (KS) and Quick Statistic (QS) table codes used in the 2011 outputs. A list of proposed tables was provided as part of the consultation documents including a lookup to the equivalent 2011 tables.

*We are publishing one set of topic summary tables for census outputs and no longer use the Key Statistic (KS) and Quick Statistic (QS) table codes. Do you have any concerns with this approach?*

- Yes 9%
- No 91%

The majority of users were content with this decision and had no concerns. There was a small proportion of users who reported that they had concerns with this approach. Some concerns were around the possibility of the amount of data being published reduced as a result. There will be no reduction in the amount of data available to users, we are proposing to produce equivalent data from 2011 were possible. The approach is to simplify how the data is presented, having one complete set of tables for univariates. This approach is also consistent with decisions taken by the ONS and NISRA.

Other concerns were around finding comparable data with previous censuses. We will provide supporting information alongside each release to ensure users are able to find comparable data for previous census where this is available.

#### 4.2.3 Proposed list of topic summary tables

We also asked users about whether the list of proposed tables met their needs. The list of tables provided for review included information on the variable included and the equivalent 2011 table (where applicable) to help users decide if this met their needs.

*Does the proposed list of topic summary tables to be published as part of phase two meet your data user needs?*

- Yes, fully 83%
- Yes, partially 13%
- No 4%

The vast majority of users responded that the tables either partially or fully met their needs. However, there were some users who responded that the list provided did not meet their needs. Some of the feedback showed that users required more detailed information

*"I would be interested in the sub-categories of Long term health conditions - mental health, learning difficulties, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, etc - ie, specifically what people wrote in the boxes."*  
- Census data user

We appreciate that there will be a user need for more detailed responses to inform their research, though we must balance the detail provided in topic summaries against the risk of disclosure of individual and household information. Give that Topic summaries are designed to be published down to Output Area, it is therefore not appropriate to include this level of detail. We will take this feedback and look to meet this user need through other products, including the analytical report.

Other comments received asked for tables including multiple variables. This will be covered in a later phase of census outputs, the multivariate data release. The documents included alongside the consultation included details of our plans for tables during this phase. We will cover feedback on this later in this report. Finally, there were some requests for additional univariate tables to be added to our planned releases. Where the data is available as part of the census dataset, and this passes our Statistical Disclosure Control we will aim to make these tables available.

### 4.3 Multivariate Tables

The next set of questions in the outputs product section asked users about their needs regarding the multivariate tables. This refers to tables which will combine variables released in the previous phase. We will update the Flexible Table builder meaning that users will be able to create their own multivariate tables, allowing users to further explore and understand the census results.

#### 4.3.1 Plans for publishing multivariate tables

For 2022 outputs we are planning to publish a single set of multivariate tables. This is a change from the 2011 outputs where we published the Detailed characteristics (DC) and Local Characteristics (LC) tables. We propose to do this as the introduction of the Flexible Table Builder will allow users to create their own tables. This will reduce the need for as many standard tables as in 2011, though we have agreed to produce standard tables like the DC and LC tables from 2011 where we identify a user need.

*We are publishing one set of multivariate tables for census outputs and no longer using the detailed characteristics (DC) and Local Characteristics (LC) table codes. Do you have concerns with this approach?*

- Yes 14%
- No 86%

The majority of users had no concerns with this approach. Of those who responded 14% did have a concern with this approach, a few reasons for this were explained in the comments for this question. One being the need for localised characteristics. We appreciate the need for users to access the multivariate data at output area to inform their analysis. Based on this need we will aim to publish down to Output Area subject to statistical disclosure control, this is consistent with the plans set out in the consultation.

Another concern raised through the comments was the impact on comparability with 2011 outputs if this change is made. We plan to produce a set our outputs which is comparable with 2011 where possible. In the consultation documentation we provide the equivalent 2011 table for every multivariate table produced and will provide similar information alongside the 2022 outputs.

#### 4.3.2 Proposed list of multivariate tables

As mentioned above as part of the consultation we published a spreadsheet containing the full list of proposed pre-defined tables and variable classifications we will use for 2022 outputs. We asked users whether the proposed list of multivariate tables met their needs.

*Does the proposed list of multivariate tables to be published as part of phase three meet your data user needs?*

- Yes, fully 82%
- Yes, partially 14%
- No 4%

The vast majority of users were happy with the proposed list of multivariate tables. Of those who responded, 4% said that the proposed list of tables did not meet their needs. Similar to the univariate table feedback some users highlighted a need for more detailed information. Again, we must balance the detail provided in multivariate tables against the risk of disclosure of individual and household information. Given that we aim to publish the multivariate tables down to Output Area, it is not appropriate to include this level of detail. We will take this feedback and look to meet this user need through other products, including the analytical report.

Other comments requested specific tables including a table on main language by country of birth and UK Armed forces veteran status by sex. As this data is available as part of the census dataset and we have identified a user need for this information, we will aim to publish these tables as part of our multivariate table release.

#### 4.3.3 Preferred approach for multivariate tables

In our plans we highlighted that the aim for multivariate tables would be to publish them all down to Output Area where possible. We asked users what their preference would be regarding multivariate tables.

*For the predefined multivariate tables for outputs would you prefer*

<i>More detail in variable classifications, although not available at the lowest level of geography</i>	36%
<i>Tables available at all geographies down to Output Area with less detailed classifications (where necessary due to SDC concerns)</i>	57%
<i>Other</i>	7%

Most users indicated a preference for the multivariate tables to be published down to Output Area with less detailed classifications (where necessary). However, 36% of respondents to this question wanted more detailed variable classifications even if it meant tables would not be published down to Output Area.

*"We would like some local area information, e.g. ward or parliamentary constituency level, but it wouldn't need to be OA level with full detail."*

- Church of Scotland

*"Basically I would want both, for different purposes. I would want to have wider classes at datazone level, but am happy for OA to be at individual variable level"*

- NHS

As there is a user need for some tables to include more detailed variable classifications, we will work to identify an appropriate subset of the tables we plan to publish which we will create multiple versions of for users. The Flexible Table Builder will allow users to amend the pre-defined tables meaning they can change the tables to better suit their needs. We will provide information on how users can do this.

#### 4.3.4 Table design

To help us produce tables we asked users to rank factors relating to the publication of multivariate tables. We plan to publish tables that incorporate all the factors listed, though in cases where this is not possible this feedback will help us with the redesign of tables where required.

Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for undertaking analysis by age. '1' is most important, and '5' is least important. If a factor is not important at all, please choose "n/a" in the box

Data for smaller geographical areas, for example data zone information	1st
Data that is cross tabulated with other variables, for examples sociocultural or employment data	2nd
Data that is comparable with previous Censuses	3rd
Data that provides a more detailed breakdown of age, providing more smaller age bands	4th
Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses	5th

The availability of data at smaller geographies is the priority for most users who responded to this question. However many users provided comments to show that all factors were important in their use of census data.

The most prioritised factor was publishing data for smaller geographical areas. This highlights the strength of the census that it can inform users research to a more granular level than other data collections.

*"The extensive physical geography of our area relies heavily on reporting data at smallest possible geographies, allowing it to be relevant to our extra-rural communities. This is challenging where populations are small."*  
 - The Highland Council

However, there were responses given which prioritised each of the options from the question. We will aim to publish tables which meet all the factors listed and the feedback collected will only be used on a case by case basis where redesign is required due to our disclosure control methodology.

#### **4.4 Microdata and origin destination data**

Following the release of multivariate tables, the next phase of census outputs will focus on the Microdata and origin destination data.

Microdata are small samples of anonymised records for whole households and individuals, which include some associated census characteristics.

Microdata products enable researchers to look at combinations of characteristics that are not generally available from the standard census tables, and to perform diverse types of analyses not possible from standard tabulations.

##### *4.4.1 Planned use of Microdata products*

We asked users whether they planned to use microdata products from Scotland's Census 2022.



Do you plan to use any of the microdata files?  
(Select all that apply)

Yes, Public/Teaching Microdata file	12%
Yes, Safeguarded Microdata samples	7%
Yes, Secure Microdata	6%
No	87%

The majority of users did not plan to use the microdata products planned for 2022 outputs. This is in line with current usage of the census products as microdata is not always appropriate and there are requirements in place for users to access more detailed versions of these datasets.

There was a proportion of users who did plan to use microdata products and they provided some detail on how they plan to use these products.

*"For studying population data with secondary pupils. To support N5 and H assignments and AH Field Studies."*

- Census data user, education sector

*"Teaching and research"*

- Edinburgh University

From this feedback we can see that the publicly accessible microdata products will be used in education to promote the use of evidence and teach skills on data analysis. We will continue to produce the public/teaching microdata file and consider what supporting information should be made available alongside to promote its use in this sector.

Users also provided comments on how they planned to use the safeguarded and secure microdata files.

*"Build mathematical models for various health outcomes."*

- DataFakts Ltd

*"To further understand the communities that CLD profession work in or need to work in To understand need."*

- CLD Standards Council Scotland

This highlights the more detailed analysis that these products allow to be undertaken. The safeguarded and secure microdata sets are valuable resources to researchers and will help inform analysis across a range of topics. As this is the case we will continue to work on plans to develop our microdata products and will look to engage with users of this product to promote the use of these products when published.



#### 4.4.2 Do the microdata products meet users' needs

The next question asked whether the proposed list of microdata had met user needs.

*Do the proposed list of microdata files to be published as part phase four meet your data user needs?*

- Yes, fully 83%
- Yes, partially 3%
- No 14%

Of those who responded to this question, 86% had said that the proposed microdata files either met their needs fully or partially. Of those who responded no, the planned products had not met their needs there was no further information on what they required. However, some responses highlighted that this was due to them not being sure of their plans at the time of responding to the consultation or some confusion over what the files were.

Overall, this strong response shows that our plans for microdata files are aligned with our users' needs, and we will continue to develop the products outlined in the consultation.

The next set of questions asked users about their planned use of Origin Destination data. Origin destination statistics describe the movement/flow of people; either as migration (from their address one year prior to the census) or travel to work or study (from their current address to their workplace address or place of study). Similar to the 2011 Origin-destination data we are planning to publish three distinct categories of data for 2022.

- Special Migration Statistics (SMS) – showing migration patterns (both internal and international) of those who lived at a different address one year before Census Day (20 March 2022).
- Special Workplace Statistics (SWS) – showing commuting flows between usual residence and place of work or study for people aged 16 and over in employment or education in the week before the census.
- Special Student Statistics (SSS) – showing flows of people who lived at a different term time/boarding school address one year before the census.

#### 4.4.3 Planned use of Origin Destination data

The first question asked users planned to use any of these categories of Origin-destination data.

*Do you plan to use any of the Origin Destination data?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Yes, Special Migration Statistics (SMS)</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Yes, Special Workplace Statistics (SWS)</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Yes, Special Student Statistics (SSS)</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>No</i>	<i>59%</i>

Responses to this question show that there is a user need for all three categories of Origin-destination data we have planned. Users provided some more information on how this data could be used in their work/research.

*“Origin-destination data show the movement of people from one location to another. This information can help local government plan and fund infrastructure for:*

- *Education*
- *Healthcare*
- *Housing*
- *Transport*

*Origin-destination data is also used to analyse population movement trends for migration and commuting patterns. This will be especially interesting in a post-Covid world, to determine if a significant shift to homeworking has occurred.”*

*- Aberdeenshire Council*

This feedback shows the important decisions that the origin destination data can help provide evidence for. As commented on, the timing of the census means that the Origin-destination data may give some insights in to how behaviour will change post pandemic.

Another example from this question highlights the opportunity census data provides to help improve users understanding of the areas in which they live and work.

*“Most useful in providing details of how many people living on the islands work elsewhere, eg. offshore workers.”*

*- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar*

The feedback and comments received from this question clarified who the users of these products are and how the data will be used. We will continue with our plans to develop these products with these user needs in mind.

#### *4.4.4 Do the Origin Destination products meet users' needs*

Again, this question was followed by asking whether the proposed list of Origin-destination tables met users' needs.

*Does the proposed list of Origin Destination tables to be published as part of phase four meet your data user needs?*

- *Yes, fully 87%*
- *Yes, partially 6%*
- *No 7%*

The majority (93%) of those who responded indicated that the planned outputs either met their needs fully or partially. Of those who responded that the plans did not meet their needs some more information was provided on why this was not the case. The main feedback was that users would like to see this data at a more disaggregated level.

*The “Content spreadsheet” suggests this data will be available at Council area level. This data would be more useful if disaggregated down to at least the Intermediate Zone level. The website below was useful in this regard: <https://scotlandcommute.datashine.org.uk/> Aberdeenshire is so large geographically that council level data will inevitably mask significant local variation. Disaggregated local data is useful in terms of aiding local decision-making and place planning.*

- Aberdeenshire Council

At the time of the consultation, we had only published plans for Origin-destination data down to Local Authority level. As there is evidence of a user need for this data at other geographies, we will review our plans and aim to publish this data at more disaggregated geographies, subject to our Statistical Disclosure Control.

#### **4.5 Workplace and daytime data**

The information collected in the census on travel to work/study also enables statistics to be produced for two alternative population bases: workplace population and daytime population.

The workplace population outputs that we will produce are estimates of the population working in an area. People who work mainly at or from home, or who do not have a fixed place of work, will be included in the area of their usual residence. The daytime population is an estimate of the population of an area during the working day. It includes everybody who works or studies in the area, wherever they usually live, and all respondents who live in the area but do not work or study. People who work or study mainly at or from home, or who do not have a fixed place of work or study, will be included in the area containing their home address. The daytime population will include shift and night workers such as hospital staff and security guards.

##### *4.5.1 Planned use of Workplace and daytime data*

We asked users if they had any plans to use the data produced using these population bases.

*Do you plan to use workplace and/or daytime data  
(Select all that apply)*

- *Yes, Workplace 39%*
- *Yes, Daytime 31%*
- *No 59%*

Responses show that there are users who plan to use the Workplace and Daytime products. Like products other than the census tables the majority of respondents had no plans to use this data.

As this data is less widely used the consultation responses are an opportunity to fully understand our users' needs.

*"These will be used as alternative population statistics. Effectively, this is a geographic redistribution of the usually resident population who are in work, allocated to their place of work. It may highlight areas where the population 'swells' during particular periods of the day, which will assist with commercial requirements, town planning/traffic control measures, and things of that nature. "*

- Aberdeenshire Council

This feedback provides insight on how these outputs can provide evidence for planning and decisions which may not be available from other sources.

#### 4.5.2 Do the Workplace and daytime products meet users' needs

The following question asked users if the proposed list of tables for these population bases met their needs.

*Does the proposed list of workplace and daytime tables to be published as part of phase four meet your data user needs?*

- Yes, fully 81%
- Yes, partially 11%
- No 8%

The majority of users responded that the planned tables either fully or partially met their needs.

Of those who responded that their needs had not been met some information on why this was the case was provided. Similarly, to the Origin-destination data the main feedback requested that the data be published at more detailed levels of geography.

*"Again, it would be useful if some of the data tables were disaggregated down to at least Intermediate Zone level, particularly those that relate to occupation and travel to work method"*

- Aberdeenshire Council

As there is a need for this data at more detailed geography we will amend our plans, aiming to publish this data at more detailed levels of geography, subject to disclosure control.

#### 4.6 Analytical Reports

Analytical reports will enable us to give further insight into the data from the 2022 Census and help to provide evidence for policymakers across Scotland and the UK. These reports are important outputs as they allow us to provide more detail on topics where the data is potentially too disclosive for standard tables. When producing analytical reports for the 2011 Census we worked with stakeholders who were data experts in those topics. Where appropriate we will take this approach again for 2022.

We will produce analytical reports on a variety of topics where we identify a strong user need through this consultation and other stakeholder engagement.

#### 4.6.1 Planned use of analytical reports

As part of the consultation, we asked users whether they planned to use the initial list proposed list of analytical reports.

*Do you plan to use any of the following analytical reports?*

<i>Inhabited Islands</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>Gaelic language</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Trans status or history</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Equality</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>UK Armed Forces veterans</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>30%</i>

Responses to this question show a user need for each of the proposed analytical reports. We will continue with our plans to produce analytical reports for the topics listed above. When planning the content for these reports we will look at the feedback provided through the consultation

#### 4.6.2 Do the proposed analytical reports meet users' needs

The following question asked whether the proposed plans met users' needs.

*Do the plans for Census 2022 analytical reports meet your needs?*

- *Yes, fully 70%*
- *Yes, partially 23%*
- *No 7%*

The majority of users who responded indicated that the plans for analytical reports either fully or partially met their needs. Of those who responded 7% said their needs were not met. Some comments provided more information on what their required. Some asked for additional analytical reports to be produced or more detailed analysis on topics to be included in other analytical reports.

*"It would be extremely helpful to have a separate analytical report on people providing unpaid care."*

- *Census data user, central government*

*"given the impact NCS bill/Act will have, the current crisis with health and social care, the aging population and the growing number of unpaid carers, I am very surprised that analytic reports for any of these topics have not been included. I would be interested in the reasoning/justification for this decision."*

- *South Lanarkshire Council*

Multiple users indicated a requirement for more detailed information on unpaid carers. After identifying this user need, we will review our plans for analytical reports and add an additional report covering the health topic. We will consider further what needs to be included in this topic to meet user needs.

Other feedback focused on the detail to be included in the reports proposed, including the geographies which the reports cover.

*"It depends on the level of geographical output in the reports. Generally it is most helpful to have all information at the level of individual islands although we appreciate for some of these topic areas this will not be possible due to small numbers."*

- Orkney Islands council

The level of geography covered in the analytical reports may vary depending on what is required from the report and due to statistical disclosure control concerns. The aim of the reports is to provide more detailed analysis than that which is available from the tables and this includes the detail of classifications and geographies the analysis uses.

#### **4.7 Proposals for new derived variables**

As part of the consultation we shared a spreadsheet which included details on the derived variables we plan to use as part of census outputs. These will be used in the analysis we publish and will be available through the flexible table builder. We included a section on new derived variables which had been considered but not included in plans at this point.

##### *4.7.1 Adult student indicator*

The first question on proposals for new derived variables asked users about an adult student indicator.

*Would you use an adult student indicator if it were produced?*

- Yes 29%
- No 71%

The majority of users did not plan to use this variable if it was produced. However, over a quarter of respondents would use this data and examples of how this data would be used was provided through the comments.

*"Numbers, age group and breakdown by sex at Council area. This would inform the delivery of the Council's local and partnership priorities."*

- Inverclyde Council

*"We would use this to understand more about adult students reporting a disability. This would help to further understanding of barriers to education, drop-out rates amongst disabled students etc."*

- Inclusion Scotland

*"adult student comparison against other local authorities, and within different areas of our local authority."*

- West Dunbartonshire Council

These comments show that there is a clear and varied need for this data from our users. We will continue with our plans to develop this variable. We will also consider if any pre-defined tables should be published to meet the user needs identified.

#### 4.7.2 Adult student definition

The following question asked whether users required a specific definition of student required for the adult student indicator variable.

*Is there a specific definition of student you require?*

- Yes 6%
- No 94%

The majority of respondents to this question had no required definition for the adult student indicator. Of those who responded yes some provided more detail on their requirements.

*“Broad, to incorporate home self-tuition and distance learning; it would be useful to be able to distinguish data on these from those on institutional learning in geographic clusters.”*

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

The census did ask address of study, this included an option for distance learning and home-based learning. Therefore, it should be possible to produce analysis on this using the Flexible Table Builder subject to statistical disclosure control.

#### 4.7.3 Adult students analysis

We asked users to rank factors relating to the analysis we produce on adult students based on their importance to their work.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for analysis of students.*

<i>Data for smaller geographical areas, for example Data Zone information</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Data that is cross tabulated with other variables, for examples sociocultural or employment data</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with previous Scotland’s Censuses</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>



Availability of this data at smaller levels of geography ranked as the highest priority amongst respondents to this question. Users provided some comments on why this was their priority for this data.

*"Smaller geographies better GIS analysis"*

- DataFakts Ltd

*"We use datazone data on a regular basis and would be useful to have as much data at that level for locality planning"*

- East Dunbartonshire Council

Producing data on adult students at smaller levels of geography will allow users to complete important analysis that will inform decision making within their organisations.

We did receive feedback from users to highlight the usefulness of each of these factors. We aim to publish data that meets all these user needs, we will only use this ordering of factor where necessary due to statistical disclosure control.

#### 4.7.4 Not in employment, education or training indicator

Another variable that is under consideration for 2022 outputs is the Not in employment, education or training variable (NEETS). We asked users if they would use this variable if it were produced.

*Would you use a Not in employment, education, or training (NEETS) indicator if it were produced?*

- Yes 56%
- No 44%

The majority of users who responded indicated that they would use this variable if it were produced. Users also gave some detail on how this information how this data would be used.

*"NEET is a core indicator in our Measurement Framework (alongside evidence of school exclusions and bullying) of the ability of children and young people to fulfil their right to an education and to have the skills and opportunity to participate in the labour market. Analysis of Census 2022 NEET evidence would be used in the production of our statutory report (including by corroborating existing sources of NEET data and evidence) and in wider work in six priority areas that we outlined in our Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, particularly the priority area to ensure equality for children and young people."*

- Equality and Human Rights Commission

*"We would use this to understand more about NEET disabled people. We know that a greater proportion of disabled young people are NEET and we would like to have detailed age and geographical breakdowns."*

- Inclusion Scotland



The feedback received from respondents shows a strong user need for this data and highlights its usefulness for analysis and informing policy and decision making. Based on this feedback we will continue with plans to develop a NEET indicator. We will also consider the feedback received when planning what pre-defined tables and analysis/commentary will be produced.

#### 4.7.5 Not in employment, education or training analysis

We asked users to rank factors relating to the outputs for the NEETS derived variable.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for analysis of NEETs.*

<i>Data for smaller geographical areas, for example Data Zone information</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Data that is cross tabulated with other variables, for examples sociocultural or employment data</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with previous Scotland's Censuses</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

Similar to user requirements for the adult student indicator, the most important factor identified was for NEETs data for smaller geographical areas. Examples of why this was important was provided through the comments.

*"Localised data is becoming increasingly important given the importance attached to 'place' and '20-minute neighbourhoods' as espoused by the Scottish Government over recent years."*

- *Aberdeenshire Council*

*"Data at datazone level is used for locality planning which are often small areas."*

- *East Dunbartonshire Council*

Similar to responses to other questions users have identified data at smaller geographies as being important. The census can be used to produce analysis at this level which otherwise wouldn't be possible. However, examples of the importance of other factors were also given in response to this question.

*"Data that is cross-tabulated with other variables is most important to the Commission's needs, as this facilitates intersectional analysis of NEET with protected characteristic(s) data as well as other indicators, such as socioeconomic disadvantage. This data is of paramount importance in monitoring the children and young people most likely to be NEET and assessing whether there are inequalities in their access to an education, skills development, and the labour market."*

- *Equity and Human Rights Commission*

Again, we aim to publish data that meets all these user needs, and this ordering of factors will only be used where necessary due to statistical disclosure control.

#### 4.7.6 Key or critical worker

The next question asked whether users would use a key or critical worker variable.

*Would you use a key or critical worker variable if it was produced?*

- Yes 39%
- No 61%

Of those who responded 39% said that they would use a key or critical worker variable if it were produced for census outputs. Some examples of how this data could be used.

*"We would use this data to inform our CPP's work on sustainable development. It is very relevant to consideration of in-migration and demographic balance."*  
- Orkney Islands Council

*"We would use this to understand more about disabled people who are key or critical workers. This issue was highlighted during the pandemic when many disabled key workers had to go to work despite being 'at risk'. Breakdowns for sex would also provide much needed intersectional data about the nature of disabled women's employment."*  
- Inclusion Scotland

*"These data would potentially be used to develop a whole-area crisis management plan in the event of another Covid-type eventuality. We would need to know the type of Key Worker, their usual place of work, and their residence down to Intermediate Zone level. This would allow us to determine potential need for Key Workers in certain areas as well the type of provision for their children (schooling needs, etc.)."*  
- Aberdeenshire Council

Based on the feedback received and the user needs that can be met by producing this variable, we will continue to develop our plans for this variable and will include it as part of our census outputs.

#### 4.7.7 Key or critical worker definition

We asked whether users required a specific definition for this variable.

*Is there a specific definition of key or critical worker you require?*

- Yes, UK government definition 32%
- Yes, other definition 2%
- No 66%

The majority of users did not have a specific definition required, however 32% of respondents responded that they wanted the UK government definition to be used. Based on this feedback, we will use this definition when producing this derived variable.

#### 4.7.8 Key or critical worker analysis

As with other proposed new derived variables we asked users to rank factors relating to the outputs we will produce using the key or critical worker derived variable.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for analysis of key or critical workers.*

<i>Data for smaller geographical areas, for example Data Zone information</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Data that is cross tabulated with other variables, for examples sociocultural or employment data</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with previous Scotland's Censuses</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

The order given by users was the same as that given for other proposed new derived variables. Again, users provided some feedback on why this order was preferred.

*"Datazone level data is useful for building a picture of smaller localities and useful for locality planning to target resources."*  
- East Dunbartonshire

While data at smaller geographies has been identified as the main priority, we will aim to publish data that meets all the factors listed. This ordering of factors will only be used where necessary due to statistical disclosure control.

#### 4.8 Additional data needs

We requested feedback from users on any additional data needs that were not covered in the consultation. We asked users to respond to the survey if there are any unmet needs with details on what these needs are and how the data will be used.

##### 4.8.1 Additional derived variables

*Are there any new derived variables you require that have not been discussed in this consultation?*

- Yes 5%
- No 95%

The majority of users did not have any additional data needs that were not already covered in the plans presented as part of the consultation. However, a small proportion of users did highlight some additional needs.

*"Would be interested in Community Learning and Development Worker details (CLD) (Which incorporate Youth Worker, Adult Learning and Family Learning as well as ESOL) Would be interested in Volunteering data: who, where, why, what This data would inform policy and project planning regards CLD workforce development across Scotland. This information would feed into need, development and understanding to support requirements as in Scottish*

*Government Policies such as Adult Learning Strategy and their Youth Work Strategy, Community Empowerment, Education Reform etc”*  
- CLD Standards Council Scotland

Other users asked for information that we will aim to publish but this will be dependent on Statistical Disclosure Control.

*“Gaelic as 'main language', by which actual use (beyond Gaelic ability) can be defined and mapped, to the lowest geography feasible. This would provide guidance on level of language services and community support required locally.”*  
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

The census question on language will capture respondents who recorded Gaelic as their main language. The level of geography that this can be published to will be dependent on the number of responses and will ultimately be decided by our statistical disclosure control methodology.

#### **4.9 Emerging data needs**

Scotland's Census 2022 will provide insights into the population of Scotland on 20 March 2022. This will provide detailed statistics after periods of change including the EU Exit and the coronavirus pandemic. This will provide an opportunity for users to produce analysis on these changes.

##### *4.9.1 New analysis on current period of economic and societal change*

We asked users about emerging needs and an opportunity for users to provide details on any impacts on plans caused by these changes.

*Is there any new analysis of 2022 Census 2022 data that you are planning due to the current period of economic and societal change?*

- Yes 18%
- No 82%

Those who responded provided more detail on their plans to use census data to inform their work following a period of economic and societal change. Examples include Local Authorities who will use the census data to inform policy.

*“We will be looking closely at housing data to inform work on fuel poverty, e.g. houses with or without central heating. It would be helpful if this could be made available at individual island level or at least datazone level.”*  
- Orkney Islands Council

*“Understanding how the workforce and service demand has changed especially in relation to public services. Geography at datazone level would be required to assist community planning in specific areas.”*  
- The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team

Other examples focused on certain subsets of the population of Scotland. With users planning to use data to support them.

*"We have directly seen the impact of COVID on our members and the wider veterans community and the ongoing financial crisis so we would be keen to have as much insight as possible going forward to help shape support and strategies in areas of greatest need across Scotland."*

- Royal British Legion Scotland

Responses to this question help our understanding of user needs. We will publish census data in a range of formats alongside supporting information to help users complete their analysis using census data.

#### **4.10 Data user need for UK data**

NRS works closely with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who are responsible for the England & Wales and Northern Ireland census respectively.

##### *4.10.1 UK data plans*

We asked users about their plans for using UK level data.

*Do you plan to use UK level data or comparable data for small areas across the UK?*

- Yes 41%
- No 59%

Of those who responded 41% indicated that they did have plans to use UK level data. There was a comment box available for users to provide more details on their plans for using UK level data.

Some users work covers more than Scotland so they have a need to use data from multiple census offices.

*"The remit of the Commission is Great Britain so we would require all topics outlined for all protected characteristics at a minimum comparably for Scotland, Wales and England separately and possibility to aggregate to Great Britain (i.e., not including Northern Ireland)."*

- North Ayrshire Council

Others plan to use the data from the other UK censuses to make comparisons to areas in Scotland.

*"Ethnicity data, mainly at a national or local authority level. We sometimes compare data between Scotland and the UK to make observations about the presence of racial inequality in Scotland measured against the UK as a whole; this helps determine if a problem is Scottish-specific or UK-wide. If we are not comparing the same data, this analysis becomes less precise."*

- Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

*"To enable us to make comparisons between Scotland and rest of the UK; thus giving an opportunity to influence policy across topics such as Health, Housing, Social Care, Education and Employment etc."*

- Veterans Scotland

The information provided will be used when deciding if and how to present data for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland together.

## 5. Geography

This section of the consultation covered our plans for 2022 Census output geographies. We asked users about the geographies we plan to publish census data for.

The plans included in the consultation were built on previous stakeholder engagement. You can view the [presentation materials for these events here](#) and read a [summary of the feedback we received from this stakeholder event here](#).

Before answering each section, users were asked if they want to answer questions on that topic.

*Do you wish to answer questions on geography?*

- Yes 61%
- No 39%

Of those who responded to this question 61% responded that they did want to answer questions on this topic.

### 5.1 Geography products

The first question in the geography section asked users to identify from a list which geography products they planned to use. These were referred to as the 'standard geographies' this is because they are available for use with census pre-defined tables and will be made available through the Flexible Table Builder.

*Which of the standard geographies do you plan to use with 2022 Census data?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Scotland</i>	<i>91%</i>
<i>Local Authority/Council Area</i>	<i>83%</i>
<i>Electoral Ward</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>Data Zones<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Output Area</i>	<i>51%</i>
<i>Civil Parish</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Health Board Areas</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Settlement and Localities</i>	<i>37%</i>
<i>United Kingdom Parliamentary Constituencies</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Island groups</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Scottish Parliamentary Regions</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>Integration Authorities</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>National Parks</i>	<i>8%</i>

<sup>1</sup> When first publishing census results at data zone level we will initially publish the 2011 Data Zones using are best-fit allocations to 2022 Output Areas. Once 2022 Data Zones are published 2022 outputs which will be exact-fit allocation will be made available.

Responses to this question show that there is a requirement for all geographies listed, though there are some that are more widely used than others. The areas users planned to use most were Scotland (91%), Local Authority (83%), Data Zones (54%) and Output Areas (52%).

Comments to this question provided some examples of how users planned to use this data and highlights the importance of providing a range of geographies to meet the needs of different users.

*“Scotland data use for comparison to local authority level data at all standard variables. Settlements and Localities / Electoral Ward used to provide overview of these areas, population, employment, housing, ethnicity, Health, disabilities. Datazones data is used for locality planning to target resources where they are needed and also to provide an overview of small areas, require as much data at this level as possible.”*

- East Dunbartonshire council

*“Assist with all analysis as well as producing briefings for elected members at the appropriate geography.”*

- The city of Edinburgh Council Data team

*“All Scottish public bodies are either implementing or preparing a statutory Gaelic Language plan or are liable to a requirement to produce one. As such, data are regularly presented at authority level, and in divisions thereof. Local and other sub-authority geographies are of great value in determining for policy decisions geographical patterns and analysing the impact of past policies. Electoral areas are of value in conversations with elected members at all levels and geography as to the state and strength of Gaelic in their areas. Though largely superseded for current administrative purposes, parish-level data are of immense value in mapping historical trends in Gaelic speaking since 1891 (and with caveats, 1881) and other Gaelic abilities more recently.”*

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

These comments highlight the value the census data provides by allowing users to breakdown overall trends to local areas and use this to influence decision making. We plan to make unrounded data available for all the geographies in the standard geographies list when first published. There may be instances where newer versions of the geographies aren't available in the first release of data. Where this occurs, we will publish census data at the latest version of boundaries available and update when further releases are published.

## 5.2 Standard geographies

In addition to asking users which of these geographies they plan to use we also asked whether the list met their needs.

*Does the list of proposed Standard geographies meet your needs?*

- Yes 90%
- No 10%

For the majority of users who responded to this question the proposed list of geographies did meet their needs. However, there was a small number where their



needs were not met by the proposed list. Users were asked to provide more information on why this was the case.

*"Would like to have Health and Social Care Partnership localities as a standard geography."*

- The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team

*"Public authority areas not covered above, in total or by aggregation; this is typically required in terms of statutory Gaelic Language Plans. For instance, the three regional enterprise companies."*

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

*"Integration Partnership localities"*

- NHS

Some of the geographies requested are already included in our plans under different names. Following the introduction of the Integration Authority geography NRS plan to remove the Community Health Partnerships and Sub Areas geographies

Other feedback centred on the challenge of producing analysis for smaller boundaries not included in the list above.

*"Not always, there is often a requirement for data on villages, data zones usually cover more than one. It would be ideal if there was an ability to select a village to get a profile, although appreciating there would be disclosure issues, but the ability to get basic data e.g. population would be great. There is also the issue of villages in a data zone falling into different Trust areas in the islands."*

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

We appreciate the requirement for detailed analysis but must balance this need against the disclosure control methodology. We would encourage users with this requirement to use the flexible table builder to group Output Areas to create bespoke groupings of Output Areas as a proxy for this requirement.

### *5.3 Detailed and Local characteristic postcode sectors*

The next question focused on a change from the 2011 census outputs. During stakeholder engagement for the 2022 census, we asked users for feedback on our plans for census geographies. We asked about the use of the Detailed Characteristic and Local Characteristic postcode sectors. Feedback showed that they were not widely used, and users weren't aware of them. Based on this feedback we proposed that they are not produced for 2022 outputs. We asked users for their views on this decision.

*The Detailed Characteristics (DC) and Local Characteristics (LC) postcode sector geographies previously used in the 2011 census will not be created for 2022 outputs. Do you have concerns with this approach?*

- Yes 17%
- No 83%

The majority of users had no concerns with removing the Detailed Characteristics (DC) and Local Characteristics (LC) postcode sector geographies.

*“Very few datasets are available at postcode sector level. Therefore, cross geographical analysis is more or less redundant. On the other hand, a wide array of socio-economic data is available at both Intermediate Zone and Data Zone level, which allows for local as well as national benchmarking. And given that these areas tend to contain households with similar socio-economic characteristics, the comparisons tend to be more meaningful.”*

- Aberdeenshire Council

However, some users did have concerns and provided more detail. This included questions over the impact of comparability of census data over time. Users will still be able to compare data across a range of geographies including ones more detailed than the postcode sector geographies. With these options and the ability for users to create their own boundaries using Output Areas within the flexible table builder we are confident that comparability over time will not be impacted.

Other responses showed that there could be some confusion over these geographies mistaking them for individual postcodes rather than postcode sectors. This is consistent with feedback we received during earlier stakeholder engagement. Based on this feedback we are content that the proposed list of standard geographies will meet user needs and the DC and LC postcode sectors do not need to be replicated for 2022 outputs.

#### 5.4 Non-standard geographies

We asked users about the proposed list of non-standard geographies and which of these they planned to use. These geographies are referred to as non-standard geographies as they were not included in standard outputs for 2011.

*Which of the proposed non-standard geographies do you plan to use with 2022 Census data?*

*(Select all that apply)*

<i>Intermediate zones<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Travel to work areas<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Workplace zones<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Grid squares</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>UK International Territorial Levels (Replacement for NUTS)</i>	<i>15%</i>

<sup>2</sup>When first publishing census results at Intermediate Zone, Travel to work areas and Workplace zones we will initially publish the 2011 versions using best-fit allocations to 2022 Output Areas. Once 2022 versions of these geographies are published 2022 outputs which will be exact-fit allocation will be made available.

Like the response to standard geographies every geography listed would be used by at least some users of census data. Some examples of how these geographies could be used were provided by users.

*“Intermediate geography used for locality planning as much data at this level as possible”*

- East Dunbartonshire council

Based on this feedback we will continue with plans to produce census data for the geographies listed above. Where appropriate we will also look to add these to the flexible table builder.

### 5.5 Do the list of Non-standard geographies meet users' needs

Users were asked whether this list of proposed non-standard geographies met their needs. The majority of users confirmed that it did meet their needs.

*Does the list of proposed non-standard geographies meet your needs?*

- Yes 87%
- No 13%

There was a small proportion of users who identified other non-standard geographies that would be useful to have available with census data.

*"Ideally we would want all data available by individual island, subject to small number limits. We could reproduce this for data available at output area level, but it would be cumbersome."*

- Orkney Islands Council

Due to our disclosure control strategy, we cannot make these geographies available as part of census outputs. However, we will support users in finding appropriate alternatives and provide documentation on using the flexible table builder to group output areas to get areas as close to these geographies as possible.

### 5.6 Boundary products

The last question on the census geographies covered the boundary products.

*Do you plan to use the boundary products produced by NRS and if so, are there any particular formats you require?*

- Yes 39%
- No 61%

There were some users who had planned to use boundary products. To ensure that these users can complete the work planned we plan to make these available as part of the census outputs. The majority of users who requested these products wanted them as shapefiles which we will prioritise as the format for boundary products.

## 6. New Questions for the 2022 Census

The next section of the consultation asked users about the new questions which we asked as part of Scotland's Census 2022. This section covers the responses from users when asked about what outputs/data they require from the new questions. You can read more information on [question development for Scotland's Census 2022 here](#).

Users were only asked about the new questions if they opted to complete this section of the survey. Responses to the question below shows that 50% of respondents chose to respond to this section.

*Do you wish to answer questions on new questions for the 2022 census?*

- Yes 52%
- No 48%

Just over half of those who responded to this question wanted to respond to our plans for outputs on the new Census questions.

### 6.1 Trans Status or History

A question on Trans status or history was introduced for Scotland's Census 2022. This question was added to the Census as there is currently no data on the size and location of the trans population in Scotland.

*Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?*

- No
- Yes, please describe your trans status (for example, non-binary, trans man, trans woman)

*This question was voluntary and only asked to those who were aged 16 or over. Users were given a definition of 'Trans' and instructed to only tick one box.*

#### 6.1.1 Trans status or history output classifications

The first question on each topic asked whether the proposed classifications for the variable met the user's data needs. Details on the variable classifications were available through the consultation spreadsheet.

In the consultation document we explained to users that some variables, including the trans status or history variable, would likely cover a small proportion of the population. As this is the case, we may be restricted in the level of detail we can provide in the standard outputs, but we will aim to meet user needs for analysis in our analytical reports.

The majority of users who responded to this question were happy that the proposed classifications met their needs.

*Do the plans for the output classifications for the Trans Status or history derived variable meet your data needs?*

- Yes, fully 81%
- Yes, partially 5%
- No 14%

Of those that responded 'No' many commented that they were not planning to use the data. However, there was some feedback received requesting more detail in the classification.

*"TRANS\_CAT\_P / TRANS\_IND\_P either needs more options or a sub-group added. I understand that quite a lot of less common gender identities technically fall under non-binary but it would be nice to see numbers for any others that people wrote in (Agender, Bigender, Genderfluid, etc)."*

- Census data user

We aim to publish as much detail as possible whilst ensuring that no individual's information is disclosed through the census outputs. The proposed classifications reflect this requirement. However, we do acknowledge that more detailed information on this topic would be valuable to users so will consider whether this can be addressed through the analytical reports on this topic, subject to our disclosure control process.

*"The descriptors, 'trans masculine' and 'trans feminine' are currently categorised in the 'non-binary person' category. There is evidence that the descriptor, 'trans masculine' is used synonymously with 'trans man' in Scotland. A 2022 health needs assessment of LGBT people commissioned by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian and Public Health Scotland found during a stakeholder event that guidance from the trans community was use the term, 'trans masculine' instead of 'trans men' as this was a common term used by the trans community themselves and included those who identified as male and trans."*

- Equality and Human Rights Commission

The proposed classifications were drafted following stakeholder engagement and reflect the user needs identified. Stakeholders told us that trans masculine and trans feminine should be grouped with non-binary responses. An initial review of census responses showed that the majority of respondents who used the term 'trans masculine' or 'trans feminine' also included 'non-binary' in their response e.g. 'non-binary, trans masculine'.

We understand that there may be different opinions on how responses should be grouped and that this can evolve over time. Based on this and the feedback received we will investigate further. This will involve further stakeholder engagement and analysis of census responses.

### *6.1.2 Planned Outputs for trans status or history data*

We also asked users about which of the planned outputs on the trans status or history question they planned on using. The responses to this question showed that there is a need for outputs on this topic in a range of formats, with the Flexible Table Builder receiving the most responses.

*Which of the planned outputs on the trans status or history question do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Pre-defined tables</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Trans status or history variable within the Flexible Table Builder</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Analytical report</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Commentary and analysis on the website</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>29%</i>

Responses to this question highlight the need for trans status or history outputs across different formats. NRS will use the Scotland’s Census website and the Flexible Table Builder to meet this user need. However, the number of individuals with a trans status or history is likely to be very low, so providing detailed breakdowns of responses, or cross-tabulating with other variables, could provide too great a risk of disclosing information about individuals. In order to avoid this disclosure risk, we may need to restrict the level of detail or geography that this data is available at within the pre-defined tables and Flexible Table Builder.

### *6.1.3 Output Factors for trans status or history*

To help us better understand what this analysis should cover we asked users to rank the following factors in terms of importance to their analysis of the trans status or history data.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for Trans status or history data.*

<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>More detailed categorisation of people who consider themselves to be trans, or have a trans history</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales census</i>	<i>5th</i>

The order given above is the order which has been prioritised after reviewing responses from users. Users indicated that cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers being the most important with regards to their plans for using the trans status or history data.

*“Given that trans people are such a small minority within the population I don't believe detailed geographic data would provide much insight however I think it would be important to see how trans status correlates with other outcome markers as this could provide indication of the progress of equality for trans people in Scotland.”*

*- Census data user*

*“Trans status or history data that is cross-tabulated with other variables is most important to the Commission’s needs, as this facilitates intersectional analysis of trans status or history with other protected characteristics or indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. This data is of paramount importance in monitoring the distinct forms of harm, abuse, discrimination and disadvantage experienced by trans people who may experience multiple forms of discrimination”*

- *Equality and Human Rights Commission*

*We would use this data for EDI monitoring purposes but probably only at LA level (plus Scotland for benchmarking).*

- *Orkney Islands Council*

Through the Flexible Table Builder users will be able to create their own tables producing cross-tabulations they need. However, the number of individuals with a trans status or history is likely to be very low, so cross-tabulating with other variables might be restricted to reduce the risk of disclosing information about individuals. We will produce an analytical report on this topic to help address the user need for more detailed analysis.

## **6.2 Sexual Orientation**

The sexual orientation question was introduced for the Scotland’s Census 2022. This question was added to the census to provide data at small geographies for use in service planning and equality monitoring.

*Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?*

- Straight / Heterosexual*
- Gay or Lesbian*
- Bisexual*
- Other sexual orientation, please write in*

*This question was voluntary and only asked to those responding who were 16 and over.*

### **6.2.1 Sexual orientation output classifications**

We asked users if the proposed classification for the sexual orientation variable met their needs. Details of the proposed classification were published in the consultation spreadsheet.

*Do the plans for the output classifications for the sexual orientation derived variable meet your data needs?*

- *Yes, fully 85%*
- *Yes, partially 8%*
- *No 8%*

The majority of users who responded ‘No’ to this question, indicated that they had no plans to use the data or no further requests at the time of responding to the consultation.

We did receive some feedback on the proposed classifications for the sexual orientation variable. This focused on the grouping of classifications as well as comparability with the ONS census.



*“There are potential issues with the lower-level classifications of sexual orientation outputs, particularly the decision to group the sexual orientation descriptors, ‘bisexual’ and ‘pansexual’ together. The Commission’s remit covers Britain and, as a minimum, we require comparable data for Scotland, England and Wales.”*

- *Equality and Human Rights Commission*

Based on this and the feedback received we will investigate further, including completing more stakeholder engagement on this variable before finalising plans.

We work closely with the ONS and NISRA when considering classifications and we aim to ensure that the data is harmonised at the UK level as much as possible. However, we need to ensure that appropriate disclosure controls are applied to reduce the risk of identification through census outputs. Where differences are necessary to meet these goals, we will work with the other UK census offices to provide the appropriate guidance and supporting information for users looking to use UK wide data.

### 6.2.2 Planned outputs for sexual orientation data

We also asked users about which of the planned outputs on the sexual orientation question they planned on using. The responses to this question were similar to the trans status or history question in that there is a need for outputs on this topic in a range of formats, with the Flexible Table Builder again receiving the most responses.

*Which of the planned outputs on the sexual orientation question do you plan to use?*

*(Select all that apply)*

<i>Pre-defined tables</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Sexual orientation or history variable within the Flexible Table Builder</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Analytical report</i>	<i>52%</i>
<i>Commentary and analysis on the website</i>	<i>48%</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>18%</i>

There was user need identified for each of the proposed outputs. Based on this feedback we will continue to develop our plans for a range of outputs on the sexual orientation data.

### 6.2.3 Output factors for sexual orientation

In addition to asking users on what products they plan to use for the sexual orientation question we asked users for their views on what this analysis should include.



*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for sexual orientation information.*

<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>More detailed categorisation of sexual orientation</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>5th</i>

The order given above is the order which has been prioritised after reviewing responses from users. For sexual orientation the user feedback received prioritised access to counts at more detailed geographies.

The sexual orientation question was added to the census to provide data at small geographies for use in service planning and equality monitoring so this feedback matches the user need identified during the question development.

We will aim to publish information on sexual orientation down to our more detailed geographies. The level of geography this is possible for and the detail included in the classification will be determined through our statistical disclosure control work. Other factors were also mentioned as being important to users in the comments received from this question.

*“Sexual orientation data that is cross-tabulated with other variables is most important to the Commission’s needs, as this facilitates intersectional analysis of sexual orientation with other protected characteristics or indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. This data is of paramount importance in monitoring the distinct forms of harm, abuse, discrimination and disadvantage experienced by LGB people who may experience multiple forms of discrimination.”*

*- Equality and Human Rights Commission*

We intend to add the sexual orientation question to the flexible table builder to allow users to produce their own tables allowing them to meet this need. The level of geography may be restricted due to disclosure control and we will let users know of any limitations as we get ready to publish the data. However, we are confident we can meet this need through our pre-defined tables, flexible table builder and analytical report products.

*“More detailed categorisation of sexual orientation is important. Data of the size and location of different sexual orientation populations in Scotland will be of importance in revealing inequalities, forming policy, planning services and distributing resources in a way that matches needs. 3. The Commission’s remit covers Great Britain and, as a minimum, we require comparable data for Scotland, England and Wales. Comparability of nationally-representative data at a national level is one of the reasons for using Census data.”*

- Equality and Human Rights Commission

The proposed classifications included in the consultation spreadsheet reflects our plans for publishing data in the Flexible Table Builder. Due to statistical disclosure control concerns we may not be able to meet this need through that route. However, we intend to meet this user need through the analytical report where we will be able to provide more detail.

We will aim to meet all these user needs through our outputs and only prioritise where necessary.

### **6.3 UK Armed Forces veterans**

A question on UK Armed Forces Veterans was included in the Scotland’s 2022 Census, information about the Armed Forces community hasn’t previously been collected in the census except in relation to the occupation of those currently serving.

*Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?*

- No
- Yes, previously served in Regular Armed Forces
- Yes, previously served in Reserve Armed Forces

*Current serving members were instructed to only tick 'No'.*

#### **6.3.1 Proposed variables for UK Armed Forces data**

As part of our plans, we proposed that the following variables to be included as part of the census outputs, users were asked which ones they planned to use.

*Which of the following proposed variables on UK Armed Forces veterans do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>UK Armed Forces veterans</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Indicator for whether a household contains any UK Armed Forces veterans</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>None of these meet my analysis needs</i>	<i>47%</i>

The indicator variables met a number of users needs for this topic, though there was a large proportion of respondents where the proposed variables did not meet their needs. This was mainly due to users responding that they had to plans/requirements for this data. However, there was some responses requesting additional detail be provided through these variables such as sub groups.

Additional information will not be possible through standard census outputs as the question did not ask any detail on the type of service the respondent served in.

### 6.3.2 Planned outputs for UK Armed Forces data

In addition to asking whether the proposed variables and classifications met users' needs we also asked about the type of outputs users planned to use.

*Which of the planned outputs on the UK Armed Forces veterans question do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Pre-defined tables</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>UK Armed Forces veterans variable within the Flexible Table Builder</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Analytical report</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Commentary and analysis on the website</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>40%</i>

Responses to this were similar to other topics in the new questions with every response having some level of user need identified. However, for the armed forces veterans question the variables being used in the Flexible Table Builder was the most popular response. This may reflect the need for analysis on a number of different factors for this topic. Where this product is not able to meet any of this user need due to statistical disclosure control applied through the flexible table builder, we will aim to meet this through the analytical report.

Based on this feedback we will continue to plan a range of outputs on this topic to meet users' needs.

### 6.3.3 Output factors for UK Armed Forces data

In addition to asking users on what products they plan to use for the armed forces veterans question we asked users for their views on what this analysis should include.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for UK Armed Forces veterans information.*

<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

The order given above is the order which has been prioritised after reviewing responses from users. Users indicated a preference for counts of armed forces veterans at more detailed levels of geographies.

*“Detailed level of geographies is most important to be able to use data to support local communities and provide activities/support for veterans in their localities.”*

- Aberdeenshire Council

User feedback has shown that this level of detail would help users identify and support local communities. We will aim to meet this user need through our pre-defined tables. However, the level of geography we can publish this at, and other variables included will be determined by our statistical disclosure control process.

While more users identified counts at more detailed levels of geography as the priority, we did receive feedback from users highlighting the need for other factors for this topic.

*“Cross-tabulation by age would also enable more specifically directed support, age appropriate. Using other variables such as protected characteristics will allow local charities and third sector organisations as well as Local Authorities to build services to cater for more specific needs e.g., housing and equipment provision for those with physical disabilities.”*

- Aberdeenshire Council

*“Useful for service planning and comparisons with other areas across Scotland and the UK”*

- The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team

*“Cross-tabulation with sex, sexual orientation, mental health, ethnic group (at Health Board level if possible) would help better understand mental health needs of the diverse veteran population and design services more effectively.”*

- Census data user

Given this feedback we will aim to meet the needs for all factors listed in this question through our outputs. We will only consider prioritising if this is deemed necessary through our statistical disclosure control process.

## **6.4 Passports**

The passports question was introduced for Scotland’s Census 2022. Consultation on the topic showed that while country of birth and national identity data from the census have previously been used as a proxy for citizenship. Data on passports held is more relevant for migration policy discussions where individuals’ rights and entitlements are conferred by citizenship. A passports held question performed well in testing and was found to meet most user needs.

*What passports do you hold?*

*United Kingdom*

*Ireland*

*Other, please write in*

*None*

*Users were instructed to select every option that applied.*

#### 6.4.1 Proposed variables for passports data

As part of the consultation, we provided detail on the variables we plan to produce that will be derived from the passports question. Users were asked if they met their needs.

*Do the proposed passports variables meet your needs?  
(Select all that apply)*

Yes, indicator for whether respondent holds a passport	50%
Yes, variable combining country of birth with UK passport	68%
Yes, indicator for whether respondent holds a UK passport	57%
Yes, indicator for whether someone holds multiple passports	57%
Yes, detailed multiple passports breakdown	54%
Yes, variable indicating whether respondent holds a UK, EU, other Europe or non-European passport	57%
Yes, variable with detailed breakdown of non-UK/non-European passports	50%
Yes, indicator for households which contains individuals with different passports	50%
No, none of these meet my analysis needs	21%

In general, the proposed variables met the users' needs for this topic, although 20% that stated that none of the variable met their analysis needs. A few of these responses were because those users weren't interested in this topic. No comments were provided on which additional variables users required to meet their needs.

#### 6.4.2 Output products for passports data

We asked users about the type of outputs they planned to use.

*Which of the planned outputs on the passports question do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

Pre-defined tables	59%
Passports variable within the Flexible Table Builder	52%
Commentary and analysis on the website	44%
None of the above	26%

The responses provided identifies that all the planned output methods have some level of user need, with the pre-defined table output being the most popular. Again, similar to other topics there was a user need identified for each of the output products, and we will continue with plans to produce a range of outputs on this topic.

#### 6.4.3 Output factors for passports data

In addition to asking users which products they plan to use for the passports question we asked users for their views on what this analysis should include.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for passport information.*

<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

The order given above is the order which has been prioritised after reviewing responses from users. Users indicated a preference for the data being available at more detailed levels of geography.

*“Higher proportion of foreign residents now living in UK so it would help us identify areas where they live and where to focus necessary resources”*  
- *South Ayrshire Council*

We will aim to meet this need both through our pre-defined tables and flexible table builder products. However, we aim to meet all user needs listed above through our outputs and will only prioritise where necessary.

## **6.5 British Sign Language**

The British Sign Language question was added to Scotland’s Census 2022 after a strong user need was identified for data on whether or not an individual could use BSL beyond “use at home”. Stakeholders indicated that information on BSL use is widely used for policy development, equality monitoring and legislative work.

*Can you use British Sign Language (BSL)?*

- Yes*
- No*

*The following variables were proposed as part of our plans for census outputs. Users were asked if they met their needs.*

### *6.5.1 Proposed variables for British Sign Language data*

We shared details of the derived variables we plan to create from the British Sign Language question. We asked users whether this proposed list met their user needs.

*Do the proposed British Sign Language variables meet your needs?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Yes, indicator for whether respondent is a BSL user</i>	<i>72%</i>
<i>Yes, indicator on whether or not a BSL user's main language is BSL or another language</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>Yes, indicator for whether household contains any BSL users</i>	<i>63%</i>
<i>Yes, count of the number of BSL users in the household</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>Yes, variable indicating whether or not BSL users are hearing impaired</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>No, none of these meet my analysis needs</i>	<i>28%</i>

The variables met several users' needs for this topic, although 28% of respondents indicated that the proposed variables did not meet their needs. This was mainly due to users responding that they had no plans/requirements for this data. However, there was some responses requesting additional detail be provided through these variables.

*"Level of proficiency in BSL; dialect of BSL"*  
- *Census data user*

Additional information will not be possible through standard census outputs as the question did not ask any detail on proficiency or dialect of BSL.

### *6.5.2 Planned outputs for British Sign Language data*

In addition to asking whether the proposed variables and classifications met users' needs we also asked about the type of outputs users planned to use.

*Which of the planned outputs on the British Sign Language question do you plan to use?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Pre-defined tables</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>British Sign Language variables within the Flexible Table Builder</i>	<i>63%</i>
<i>Commentary and analysis on the website</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>20%</i>

The responses provided identifies that all the planned output methods have some level of user need, with the British Sign Language variables within the Flexible Table Builder being the most popular.

### *6.5.3 Output factors for British Sign Language data*

In addition to asking users on what products they plan to use for the British Sign Language question we asked users for their views on what this analysis should include.



*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for British Sign Language information.*

<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

The order given above is the order which has been prioritised after reviewing responses from users. Users indicated a preference for cross-tabulations with other variables.

*“British Sign Language data and information that is cross-tabulated with other variables is most important to the Commission’s needs, as this facilitates intersectional analysis of BSL users with other protected characteristics or indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. This is particularly relevant for variables indicating that the BSL users are hearing impaired, as hearing impairment can constitute a disability under the Equality Act 2010. As with other data indicating disability, this data is of paramount importance in monitoring the distinct forms of harm, abuse, discrimination and disadvantage experienced by disabled people in Scotland when multiple categories of social identity interact with each other.”*

- *Equality and Human Rights Commission*

*“Looking at the numbers of people with sensory loss and number of people who can use BSL and if it is their first language.”*

- *Census data user, Central Government*

We aim to meet this need through our pre-defined tables and flexible table builder products.

There was a user need identified for other factors listed in the question such as the need for data at more detailed levels of geography.

*“We need to know the numbers/data to allow us to develop a local BSL plan that will meet the requirements of those that use our services.”*

- *Aberdeenshire Council*

Similar to other topics we will only prioritise the factors listed in the question where necessary. We will aim to meet all the user needs identified through the consultation through our range of output products.

## **6.6 Bedrooms**

The bedrooms question is new for the 2022 Census and replaces the question on how many rooms were available for use by a household in the previous census. During question development for Scotland’s Census 2022, a strong user need was



identified for data on bedrooms to enable calculations of overcrowding/under-occupancy, estimating property size and informing housing property and strategy.

*How many bedrooms are available for use only by this household?*

*Number of bedrooms (write in box)*

*Users were instructed to include all rooms built or converted for use as bedrooms*

### 6.6.1 Proposed variables for bedrooms data

Several variables derived from the bedrooms question were proposed as part of the consultation. Users were asked if they met their needs.

*Do the proposed bedrooms variables meet your needs?*

*(Select all that apply)*

<i>Yes, count of the number of bedrooms in a household</i>	<i>66%</i>
<i>Yes, variable which calculates the number of persons per bedroom in the household</i>	<i>69%</i>
<i>Yes, variable estimating the number of bedrooms required in a household based on the number and type of residents within the household</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Yes, occupancy rating variable which calculates the difference between the actual number of bedrooms in the household and the required number of bedrooms for the household</i>	<i>69%</i>
<i>No, none of these meet my analysis needs</i>	<i>21%</i>

The majority of users who responded to this question noted that their needs had been met by one or more of the variables proposed for census outputs. Around a quarter of users stated that none of the variables had met their needs. However, no further information was provided on what these user needs were similar to other questions, it is likely that most of these responses were from users who did not plan to use data on the number of bedrooms.

### 6.6.2 Output factors for bedrooms data

Users were then asked to rank factors in terms of importance for the census outputs on the number of bedrooms.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for bedrooms information.*

<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>4th</i>

The order above shows that the order with information at more detailed being the most important factor.

*"Always useful to have information down to small areas for more accurate targeting of resources."*

*- Aberdeenshire Council*

This information will help us prioritise when producing outputs for number of bedrooms outputs, but we plan to make all the above available.

## 7. Changes to questions from the 2011 Census

The outputs consultation asked users about the changes to ethnic group question from the 2011 census. This section covers the responses from users when asked about what outputs/data they require with regards to Ethnic Group

You can read more information on [question development for Scotland's Census 2022 here](#).

Users were only asked about the question changes if they opted to complete this section of the survey.

*Do you wish to answer questions on changes to questions from the 2011 census?*

- Yes 39%
- No 61%

### 7.1 Ethnic Group

The ethnic group question has been updated for the 2022 census with new response option: 'Roma' and 'Showman/Showwoman'. User need was expressed for information on health status, qualification levels, employment, overcrowding, tenure, and housing, to improve education and housing services for the Roma population and to contribute to policy development and monitoring.

#### 7.1.1 Planned analysis for ethnic group data

The first question asked users if the planned analysis products on ethnic group met their needs.

*Do our plans for producing census analysis products on ethnic group meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 93%
- Yes, partially 7%
- No

All users who responded to this question said that the plans for producing census analysis products on ethnic group either met their needs fully or partially. Feedback received from this question focused on the detail of classifications available from the ethnic group question.

*"We request that where possible the full classification on table builder for ethnicity are used instead of collapsed options. Where collapsed options are used it must be clear where each group sits. Any ethnic groups identified through write-in responses (for example under 'other') with sufficiently large populations to be reliable for cross-tabulation should be included alongside the set categories."*

- Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

We will aim to publish the most detailed classifications where possible. We will provide supporting information for users when building tables to ensure they can build the tables that meet their needs, this may include reducing detail in geographies or other variables where necessary due to statistical disclosure control.

We have previously committed to publish write ins where the number of responses is large enough for this to be published safely. This is still part of our plans for census outputs.

### 7.1.2 Ethnic group factors

In addition to asking users if their needs were met with the planned analysis products, we asked users for their view on what type of analysis was most important.

*Please rank the following factors in order of importance in relation to your needs for ethnic group information.*

<i>Counts at more detailed levels of geographies</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Cross-tabulations with other variables such as protected characteristics and equality outcome markers (At Scotland level, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cross-tabulation with age by location (Local Authority and above, lower geographic levels if possible)</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>More detailed categorisation of Ethnic Group</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Data that is comparable with the England and Wales and Northern Ireland censuses</i>	<i>5th</i>

The order given above is the preferred order received from the users' responses. Users prioritised ethnic group data being available at more detailed levels of geography.

The feedback from this question will help us plan our outputs on ethnic group. We aim to publish outputs that meet all the factors listed in the question above.

### 7.1.3 Ethnic groups of interest

The last question in the ethnic group section asked users which groups, they were interested in for their analysis.

*Are there any specific ethnic groups you are most interested in?  
(Select all that apply)*

<i>Jewish</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Roma</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Showman/Showwoman</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>Sikh</i>	<i>14%</i>
<i>Other ethnic group</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>I am interested in all ethnic groups</i>	<i>86%</i>

Responses under the other group included Polish, Irish and Ukranian. This feedback will be used when planning our commentary and analysis on the ethnic group topic for Scotland's Census 2022.

## 8. Population-base specifications

The population bases that we plan to use for the Scotland's Census 2022 will remain largely the same as those we used in the 2011 Census. We asked users about the specifications for these population bases to ensure they still met users' needs.

*Do you wish to answer questions on population-base specifications*

- Yes 48%
- No 52%

### 8.1 Main population bases

The first section asked users about the main population bases. These cover the majority of census tables. Users were asked which of these bases they planned to use for their analysis.

*Which population bases do you plan to use for your analysis?*

Usual residents	91%
Households	88%
Usual residents in households	63%
Communal establishments	47%
Usual residents in communal establishments	42%
Household reference persons (HRP)	35%
None of the above	5%

There was a need identified for all the population bases proposed. This response shows that the proposed population bases from 2011 continue to be relevant and meet the needs of our users. As this is the case we will continue with our plans to use these as the main population bases and make them available through the flexible table builder.

There was a small proportion of users who did not plan to use any population base. After reviewing responses, it appears that there aren't any additional population bases required the users will either use other existing population bases or aren't sure which population bases they will use at this time.

### 8.2 Secondary population bases

The following question asked about secondary population bases. Secondary population bases will not be available through the Flexible Table Builder. NRS will produce tables using these population bases and they will be available through the Scotland's Census website.

*Which secondary population bases do you plan to use for your analysis?  
(Select all that apply)*

Dwellings	76%
Families	73%
Dependent children	73%
None of the above	11%

Like the main population bases there was a user need identified for all the proposed secondary population bases. As this is the case, we will continue with our plans to use the above list as part of the census outputs. There may be scope for developing flexible datasets based on these populations as the outputs develop over time.

### **8.3 Alternative population bases**

The last questions in this section covered the proposed alternative population bases. The information collected in the census on travel to work/study also enables statistics to be produced for two alternative population bases: workplace population and daytime population.

*Which alternative population bases do you need for your analysis?  
(Select all that apply)*

- *Workplace 73%*
- *Workday 60%*
- *None of the above 17%*

From this question we identified a strong user need for both population bases proposed, and we will continue with our plans to publish census outputs for these population bases.

While some users do not plan to use these, we attribute this to those users not having any needs around this type of output rather than the proposed list not meeting their needs. The next question confirms this.

*Do the plans for Census 2022 analysis on alternative population bases meet your data user needs?*

- *Yes, fully 97%*
- *Yes, partially 3%*
- *No*

## 9. Scotland's Census website

The final section of the consultation report focused on the Scotland's Census website. In preparation for the 2022 Census we have developed a new website for the 2022 Census outputs. This will allow us to make use of the latest technology to provide users with Census results that best meets their needs and is accessible and useable.

This section asked users whether they have used the website so far and if they planned to use different sections of the website once the 2022 data has been published.

*Do you wish to answer questions on Scotland's Census website?*

- Yes 47%
- No 53%

### 9.1 Census results – Search census data

The first questions were on the Search census data section of the website. The search Census results section of the website is where users can currently access the 2001 and 2011 Standard Census tables. This is also where users will access pre-defined 2022 census tables.

We asked users if they have used this yet and whether it had met their needs.

*Have you used the 'Search Census data' section of the website to access 2001 and/or 2011 Census output tables and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 38%
- Yes, partially 29%
- No 13%
- I haven't used it 20%

Over half of those who responded had used the search census data section of the website and it had either fully or partially met their needs.

*"I have found the website user friendly and able to access the data I require."*

- East Dunbartonshire Council

*"I have found it pretty easy to use, being able to select areas on the map is neat and searching for topics."*

- Census data user

Some users responded that they had used the search census data and it had not met their needs.

*"Hard to navigate and extract data. Default csv rather than xls/xlsx added complexity when saving later if we forgot to change file type."*

- The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team

*"Couldn't find small area statistics."*

- Glasgow City Council

-

We appreciate this feedback and will consider what can be done to make the website more usable for users. We are regularly reviewing user feedback to inform changes and development to the website. In February 2023 we made changes to make the user journey easier particularly when looking for data for smaller areas. We will review this alongside feedback collected through the website and consider if any further changes are required or if this can be addressed through instructions and demos added to the website

## **9.2 Census results – Area overviews**

The next question asked about the area overviews section of the website. Area overviews allows users to compare summary statistics for a range of areas in Scotland against previous censuses or other areas.

*Have you used the 'Area overviews' section of the website to access 2001 and/or 2011 Census output tables and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 17%
- Yes, partially 17%
- No 22%
- I haven't used it 46%

Most users who responded to this question have not used this section of the website. Of those who responded 34% had said that they had used it and it had either partially or fully met their needs.

*"These are very useful as quick and user friendly. Only thing missing that would be useful is an option to download in a pdf format."*

- Aberdeenshire Council

A further 22% of respondents noted that their needs were not met through the area overviews.

*"I glance at it occasionally then skip through to look for the precise data I'm interested in."*

- Census data user

Some feedback has shown this may be the case as the area overviews did not include the more detailed data users require. Area overviews was designed to give summary statistics for areas rather than providing the same level of detail as the census tables. We will ensure that different sections of the website are clearly explained so users can get to the right section for the data they need.



### 9.3 Download data

We asked users about the use of the bulk download data section of the website. The download data section of the website allows users to download all standard outputs from the 2011 and 2001 censuses as CSV files.

#### 9.3.1 Bulk download data files

*Have you used the 'Download data' section of the website to access 2001 and/or 2011 Census bulk files and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 35%
- Yes, partially 3%
- No 18%
- I haven't used it 45%

Of those who responded 35% had used this section of the website and it met their needs either partially or fully.

*"This was very useful and helped me get the data I needed."*

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

A further 18% had used it and responded that it had not met their needs. Some feedback show that this was because they did not need all the information at once.

*"The Census Bulk files are just too much stuff I don't need."*

- Census data user

As with other sections of the website the bulk downloads provide access to data in a specific format. We will review the content on the website to ensure that users are able to find the area and the product that meets their needs for 2022 outputs.

#### 9.3.2 API

We asked users whether they would be interested in accessing data through an API. APIs are an accessible way to extract and share data within and across organizations.

*Would you be interested in accessing 2022 Census data through an API?*

- Yes 38%
- No 63%

There was some interest in accessing the 2022 outputs through this method. We will continue to plan for this as an option for the 2022 census outputs.

The last question in the download data section of the questionnaire asked about the commissioned tables service NRS offers. This service is currently available for the 2001 and 2011 census data and if users are looking for information that is not already published then, I we can create tables that include variables and data you need so long as, the data is available, and we can release it under our statistical disclosure policy.

### 9.3.3 Commissioned tables

We plan to offer this service for the 2022 data if a user is unable to produce the information they need from the flexible table builder, and it meets the conditions listed above.

*Have you requested any commissioned tables from the 2001 and/or 2011 Censuses and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 3%
- Yes, partially 3%
- No 39%
- I haven't used it 56%

The majority of users who responded to this question had not used the commissioned tables service. Of those who had used it 6% found that it had either fully or partially met their needs. A further 39% responded no it did not meet their needs. No comments were provided on why this was the case, this may be due to people meaning they had not used the service. However, we will review the content on the website to ensure that users can access the information on commissioned tables, how the service works and what can be produced using this to improve the user experience.

### 9.4 Case Studies

We have collected case studies from users of Census data and added them to our website. This is to promote the use of Census data and help users different sectors identify ways they could make use of Census data. We asked users if they have used these and if they met their needs.

*Have you used the Case studies section of the website to access metadata on the 2001 and/or 2011 census data and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully
- Yes, partially 3%
- No 34%
- I haven't used it 63%

The majority of users had not used the case studies section. While this area of the website does not contain outputs, these case studies can be useful for those not familiar with the data. We will continue to look to add to this section of the website.

### 9.5 Metadata

The metadata that we will publish alongside Census data will help users when using Census data. This will include definitions, information on comparability with previous and other UK Censuses. For the 2022 outputs we have developed a new system to ensure that this information is easy to access.

We asked users if they have used the system on the website and whether it met their needs.

*Have you used the metadata section of the website to access metadata on the 2001 and/or 2011 census data and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 18%
- Yes, partially 11%
- No 16%
- I haven't used it 55%

The majority of users who responded to this question had not used the metadata available on the website. However, 29% of those who did use it found that it had either partially or fully met their needs.

*"Gives a clear understanding of the data."*

- *The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team*

A further 16% said that it did not meet their needs, though no further information was provided through the comments. We will continue to monitor feedback received through the Scotland's Census website to improve the functionality and content of the website in preparation for publishing 2022 outputs.

## **9.6 About the census**

The last question on the website asked users about the 'About the census' section of the website. This is where we provide information on the background of the Census. Users can find information on the history of the census, the design of the census and detailed methodology papers on the 2022 Census.

*Have you used the 'About the census' section of the website to access supporting information on the design and method of the Census and if so, did it meet your needs?*

- Yes, fully 33%
- Yes, partially 14%
- No 17%
- I haven't used it 36%

Of those who responded 47% had used this section of the website and found that it had either partially or fully met their needs. A further 36% had not used the 'About the census' section of the website.

The remaining 17% had used it and found that it did not meet their needs. Some of the feedback received showed that users had trouble navigating this section of the website.

*"It's difficult to understand where to find the information I am looking for. Section names like "Design" and "key decisions" are too vague."*

- *Census data user*

When designing the website NRS completed user research to ensure that the website was as usable and accessible as possible. We continue to review the content on the website with a view to improving the experience for users of census data. We will consider if any changes can be made to the content on the website following this feedback.

## 10. Any other requirements

To ensure that users had an opportunity to provide any feedback they had after reviewing our plans for publishing outputs we included questions on any other requirements.

This was left as a free text box with users able to select a tick box to indicate which part of our plans their feedback related to.

*Do you have any data or analysis requirements related to any of the areas listed below, that will not be met and that you have not been able to comment on in this consultation?*

*(Select all that apply)*

<i>Output products</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Geography</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>New questions for the 2022 Census</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Changes to questions from 2011 Census</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Population-base specifications</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Scotland's Census website</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Proposals for feasibility work to derive new variables</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>Emerging data needs</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Paradata</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>20%</i>

*Which topics areas do your additional requirements relate to?*

*(Select all that apply)*

<i>Demography and migration</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>British Sign Language (BSL)</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Sexual orientation</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Trans status or history</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Health, disability and unpaid care</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Housing</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Communal establishments</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Labour market</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Travel to work and/or study</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>UK Armed Forces veterans</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>13%</i>

The comments to these questions provided useful feedback which users may have not felt fit in to previous questions or they did not answer a specific question (all sections were optional).

The feedback in this section included requirements on the data that will be made available through census outputs. For example, Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights stated:

*"We need the flexible table builder to allow us to look at different variables by ethnicity in combination with other protected characteristics (i.e employment status by both ethnicity and gender). We need to be able to look at more than just ethnicity intersections for the population, we need to be able to look at the non-equality variables intersectionally. This is needed for our own research and analysis, which feeds into policy areas all over Scottish Government."*

- Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

Our plans for the Flexible Table builder will allow this type of analysis to be undertaken by users. We will provide instructions and supporting information to help users create census tables that will inform their analysis. Some cross tabulations may need to be restricted to meet our disclosure control policy where this is the case we will provide guidance on redesigning tables. We will also aim to meet needs for more detailed information/analysis through our commissioned table service.

Other responses to this question focused on comparability of the 2022 outputs with previous censuses, focusing on the geographies that users plan to use.

*"The ability to compare with the previous census is crucial to monitor the effects of policy and strategy since the previous Census also given changes in migration over that period. Look up tables to allow any changes in geography to be easily applied - OA2011/OA2022"*

- Dundee City Council

*"Any future impact on changes to geographies such as datazones and how this will feed into outputs."*

- The City of Edinburgh Council Data Team

We understand that ease of comparison against previous censuses is an important user need. We plan to provide supporting information to allow users to identify comparable tables across previous censuses, metadata which will give users information at variable level whether the data is comparable and the area overviews will allow for easy comparison of summary statistics. For the geography information we will provide similar supporting information and lookups will be made available to help users when using datasets from different periods. Through this work we are confident that we will meet this need.

Other feedback included users reinforcing feedback provided throughout the consultation. Where we think the feedback received in this section can be applied to questions in the consultation, we have considered it alongside that feedback. Finally, we received feedback on the consultation itself. We will consider this feedback when planning any future engagement around our plans for census outputs.

## 11. Next steps

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback on our plans for producing outputs from Scotland's Census 2022. The feedback provided will ensure that outputs meet the user needs identified.

If you would like more information on the consultation or anything included in this report, please email the [census outputs consultation mailbox](#).

We will continue to work on our plans and action the responses to the feedback received. Where we have indicated that we will investigate further we will provide updates to users before outputs are published.

To keep users informed we will publish updates on the Scotland's Census website. This will include any changes to plans shared as part of this consultation.

As well as our work on the Scotland's Census outputs, we will also continue to work closely with our colleagues at the Office for National Statistics and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Together we aim to maximise the harmonisation and comparability of census results and products.

First outputs will be published in autumn 2023. We will publish an update in June on the methods that have been developed to ensure census outputs are high quality. This will be followed by further stakeholder engagement including a webinar for data users later in June.