

SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2011: RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTENT

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1. Summary

This paper:

- provides details of the work undertaken to develop the 2011 Census questionnaire for Scotland
- sets out the recommended content of the 2011 Census questionnaire for Scotland

1.1 Questionnaire development for Scotland's 2011 Census

The questionnaire which has been developed for Scotland's 2011 Census is the result of an extensive programme of consultation, research and testing spanning the last five years. This programme has included:

1. Consultation
 - Formal consultation – including related consultation events
 - Questionnaire-specific consultation
 - Consultation papers
 - Topic-specific consultation
 - Meetings with key users
2. Question testing
 - Cognitive question testing
 - The 2005 Postal Test
 - The 2006 Census Test and 2006 Census Test evaluation
 - Focus groups
3. Work to harmonise with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

1.2 Recommended content for Scotland's 2011 Census

Tables 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 show the household and individual level questions recommended for inclusion in Scotland's 2011 Census, in comparison to 2001. Tables 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 show the household and individual level questions which were included in 2001 but are not proposed for inclusion in 2011, and Table 1.2.5 shows new questions which are not proposed for inclusion in 2011.

The final decision on the content of Scotland's Census will ultimately be for the Scottish Parliament to make through the legislative process. This process will begin in late 2008 when the topics to be included in the 2011 Census will be announced in a policy statement by the Scottish Government.

The questionnaire for the Scotland's 2011 Census will be 28 pages long and will include four pages of questions for each of five respondents (the questionnaire for the 2001 Census in Scotland was 20 pages long and included 3 pages of questions for five respondents).

Table 1.2.1: Content of household pages in 2001 and proposed for 2011 in Scotland

Topic/question	2001	2011
Usual residence	✓	✓
Visitor information (new)	x	✓
Household and family relationships	✓	✓
Accommodation type	✓	✓
Dwellings and self-contained accommodation	✓	✓
Number of rooms	✓	✓
Central heating – type of (amended)	x	✓
Household tenure	✓	✓
Type of landlord	✓	✓
Number of vehicles	✓	✓
Household income (new)	x	✓

Table 1.2.2: Content of individual pages in 2001 and proposed for 2011 in Scotland

Topic/Question	2001	2011
Name	✓	✓
Sex	✓	✓
Date of birth	✓	✓
Marital or civil partnership (new) status	✓	✓
Students in full-time education and term-time address	✓	✓
Country of birth	✓	✓
Month/year of entry into UK (new)	x	✓
Carer information	✓	✓
Address one year ago	✓	✓
Workplace/place of study address	✓	✓
Transport to place of work/study	✓	✓
Religion	✓	✓
National identity (new)	x	✓
Ethnicity	✓	✓
Language (extra questions)	✓	✓
Health status	✓	✓
Long-term health conditions (new)	x	✓
Long-term health problem or disability	✓	✓
Qualifications	✓	✓
Economic activity status	✓	✓
NS-SEC (self-employed, occupation, supervisor status, ever worked)	✓	✓
Industry/name of employer	✓	✓
Hours worked	✓	✓

Table 1.2.3: Content of household pages in 2001 not proposed for inclusion in 2011 in Scotland

Topic/question	2001	2011
Bath/shower and toilet access	✓	x
Lowest floor level	✓	x

Table 1.2.4: Content of individual pages in 2001 not proposed for inclusion in 2011 in Scotland

Topic/question	2001	2011
Size of organisation worked for	✓	x
Rented accommodation – furnished or unfurnished	✓	x

Table 1.2.5 Suggested new questions not proposed for inclusion in 2011 in Scotland

Topic/question	2011
Citizenship	x
Intended length of stay	x
Size of organisation worked for	x
Negative discrimination	x
Number of children given birth to	x
Feeling of safety going out in the evening in local area	x
State of repairs	x
Crofting	x
Access to garden	x
Number of bedrooms	x
Energy efficiency	x

2. Introduction

The key objective of the 2011 Census is to provide a robust estimate of the population count, and a benchmark for key population statistics, on a consistent and comparable basis for small areas and small population groups.

2.1 Criteria for topic/question inclusion

There are many factors that GROS considered and used to help prioritise topics and questions when developing the questionnaire for Scotland's 2011 Census. These factors applied when deciding how many pages to include in the questionnaire, which questions to ask and how many tick-box response options to include for each question. The various factors are outlined below:

✓ **User Need**

Consideration was given to whether there was a strong and clearly identified user need for the topic and/or specific question. This might include for the allocation of significant resources, improving service provision and development and/or monitoring of policies. Hence, the views of key users, including government departments, local authorities, the health service and other main users of census statistics were particularly relevant.

✓ **Levels of geography**

Consideration was given to whether the information was required at all levels of geography – one particular advantage of the census is that it collects detailed information for a large number of small geographic areas and small population subgroups that cannot be identified by other means.

✓ **Multivariate analysis**

Consideration was given to whether there was a need to be able to analyse particular variables in the context of others (for example, long-term health conditions cross-tabulated with employment status).

✓ **Continuity**

Consideration was given to whether there was a requirement to compare data on a topic and/or question with data from previous censuses, both in Scotland and across the UK.

✓ **Co-ordination and UK comparability**

Consideration was given to whether there was a requirement to obtain UK-wide outputs on a topic and/or question.

✓ **Lack of alternative sources**

Consideration was given to whether the data required was available elsewhere. If so, a question would not be given priority for inclusion in the census unless there was particular value in the small-area cross-tabulated analysis available from the census.

✓ **Quality and accuracy**

Census questions should yield accurate, reliable and high quality data. Therefore to preserve the statistical quality of its results, the census should generally not:

- Ask sensitive or potentially intrusive questions
- Ask questions that require a long explanation to obtain an accurate answer

- Enquire about opinions or attitudes

✓ **Acceptability**

If a question is unacceptable to the public (due to the nature of the question or due to heavy respondent burden) and may reduce response rates, it would not be deemed suitable for the census.

✓ **Financial costs**

The collection of the information on a topic and/or question should not significantly increase the length of questionnaire or costs of processing the resultant data.

✓ **International comparison**

The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and Eurostat make recommendations about census topics required for international comparison.

✓ **Space/design constraints**

New questions have to compete for space with old questions, and shorter questions generally have a better chance of inclusion than long questions. There are also a number of methodological design constraints placed on the questionnaire in the interests of data quality and to make it as easy as possible for respondents to complete. Hence a 2 column layout and single banking¹ of questions is recommended for 2011.

✓ **Operational requirements**

The data collected in a given question may assist other aspects of the census operation – for example, coverage adjustment.

2.2 Alternative sources to census

There will be some user requirements that GROS is unable to meet through the census, either because of the constraints on the size of the questionnaire or because it is not possible to collect information of sufficient quality through a self-completion exercise such as the census.

Annex A of this paper gives a summary of the major surveys in Scotland which represent the main alternative sources for data in Scotland, other than the census. The largest Scottish survey which could be used as a source of information on a number of topics is the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) –

¹ Single banking of response options is where the response options are presented in a single column, one beneath the other.

further details about this and other major Scottish surveys are contained in Annex A.

Detailed papers looking at available alternative sources on a topic-by-topic basis will be published in 2009.

2.3 The GROS Census Rehearsal

GROS will conduct a Census Rehearsal on 29 March 2009, involving residents in the Western Isles and West Edinburgh, to test the arrangements for Scotland's 2011 Census. Around 50,000 households will receive a rehearsal questionnaire and the responses will help the assessment of whether the census questions, delivery and processing arrangements are suitable for the Scotland-wide census in 2011.

The opportunity to evaluate the performance of the questions themselves will be invaluable for GROS to ensure that the questionnaire for 2011 is as robust as possible. The questions which are in the rehearsal questionnaire therefore may be subject to amendment, in the light of lessons learned from the rehearsal. Additionally, as noted above, the final decision on the content of the questionnaire for 2011 is ultimately for Parliament to make through the legislative process.

3. Questionnaire development for Scotland's 2011 Census

The questionnaire which has been developed for Scotland's 2011 Census is the result of an extensive programme of consultation, research and testing spanning the last five years. This programme has included:

1. Consultation
 - Formal consultation – including related consultation events
 - Questionnaire-specific consultation
 - Consultation papers
 - Topic-specific consultation
 - Meetings with key users
2. Question testing
 - Cognitive question testing
 - The 2005 Postal test
 - The 2006 Census Test and 2006 Census Test evaluation
 - Focus groups
3. Work to harmonise with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

3.1 Consultation

GROS consultation on the next census is an ongoing process which commenced in 2004. There are four elements to this:

- Formal consultation
- Questionnaire-specific consultation
- Consultation papers
- Topic-specific consultation

3.1.1 Formal consultation

To date, there have been two 12-week formal consultations on all aspects of the census. Formal consultation documents were published by GROS as part of the process.

The first formal consultation was held in Autumn 2004 and was intended to initiate discussions around requirements for 2011 as well as informing the questionnaire design for the 2006 Test. The process consisted of seminars in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness as well as the submission of formal responses to the consultation document:

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/consultation_document_final_version.pdf

A report outlining the responses to the consultation was subsequently published on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/autumn2004consultationreport.pdf>

In Spring 2007, the second formal consultation was held to collect views on a number of key topics including questionnaire content, methodology and outputs. In addition to publication of a consultation document, four meetings were held with census data users - these allowed GROS to give users updated information on thinking and planning for the census. The consultation document, the presentation given at the meetings and notes of the points raised can be found on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/stats/spring-07-census-consult.pdf>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/the-census/presentations09-08-07.pdf>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/the-census/aberdeen-consultation-07.pdf>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/the-census/glasgow-consultations-07.pdf>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/the-census/inverness-consultation-07.pdf>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/the-census/edinburgh-consultation-07.pdf>

The last of the formal consultations is planned for 2009 and will focus on the outputs that will be required from the next census.

3.1.2 Questionnaire-specific consultation

An online questionnaire asking for individual and organisational views on the 2001 Census questions was available on the GROS website from Autumn 2004 to January 2006. Responses to that questionnaire helped identify the changing data needs of Census users.

A report is available on the GROS website which summarises the views and comments made by respondents:

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/final_summary_of_questionnaire_responses.pdf

3.1.3 Consultation papers

In addition to the papers that were part of the formal consultations, other consultative papers have been published inviting users to give their views on various aspects of the census:

- Blind and Partially Sighted Consultation (February 2006)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/blind-and-partially-sighted-consultation.pdf>

This paper invited views from blind and partially sighted people as to how they would like to complete the Census Form in 2011.

- GROS view on questions for the 2006 Census Test and 2011 Census (September 2005)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/current-view-for-questions-for-2006-and-2011.pdf>

This paper outlined GROS proposals for questions to be included in the 2006 Census Test and 2011 Census.

- New and Modified Scottish Census Questions (July 2005)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/new-and-modified-scottish-census-questions.pdf>

This paper outlined proposals for new Census questions and how the questions had changed since 2001.

3.1.4 Topic-specific consultation

Specific links have been established with groups which can help ensure that the Census is accessible to the whole community. Those groups include the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, minority ethnic groups, representatives of gypsy travellers and other communities. As an ongoing part of the consultation, GROS meet with such individuals and organisations. These meetings help GROS understand the needs of both Census users and hard to count groups. Consultation with these groups will continue until census day.

3.1.5 Meetings with key users

In the consultation process, particular attention has been paid to establishing the views and priorities of key users - government departments, local authorities, the health service and other main users of census statistics. An important role was played by the Population and Migration Statistics Committee of the Scotstat network of users and providers of Scottish official statistics.

There has also been close liaison with the Scottish Government itself and, through the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with Whitehall departments. To ensure that the needs of local authorities were thoroughly established, the Registrar General wrote to the chief executives of Scotland's 32 councils and local authority representatives played an important part in the formal consultation process. The Demographic User Group acted as a useful focus for the views of commercial users of census information.

3.2 Question testing

The development of questions for Scotland's 2011 Census has involved a combination of qualitative and quantitative testing, as follows:

3.2.1 Cognitive question testing

New questions must be thoroughly tested before they can be deemed suitable for a Census. GROS have worked with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to gather as much evidence as possible to ensure the questions for census are robust and function as intended. An extensive programme of cognitive testing of question wording and questionnaire design, led by the ONS, has been carried out, to check people's understanding and comprehension of the content of the questionnaire.

A testing programme was undertaken by the Data Collection Methodology team in ONS which began in February 2005 and continued until July 2008. The aim of this testing was to devise questions that collected accurate and meaningful information that met user requirements, minimised the burden on respondents and were designed to conform as closely as possible to best practice in questionnaire design.

Cognitive question testing was undertaken in Scotland specifically to test questions on household income, language, qualifications, ethnic group and national identity. An individual income question was tested by the ONS in their 2007 Postal test. The strength of user need identified for a question on income, balanced against the pressure on space for individual questions, led to GROS' decision to test a question on household income. Similarly, the ONS also carried out testing on language questions. Problems in finding suitable wording, and specific requirements and user needs in Scotland, meant that additional testing of language questions was needed. Differences in terminology between Scottish and other countries' qualifications

necessitated separate testing of a qualifications question in Scotland. The Review of the Ethnicity Classification in Scotland - conducted in partnership between the Scottish Government and GROS - meant that there was specific focus on the cognitive question testing of the ethnic group and national identity questions in Scotland (see sections 4.9.1 and 4.9.2 for further details of these two questions).

3.2.2 The 2005 Postal test

In September 2005 GROS conducted a small scale postal survey to evaluate a draft questionnaire design for the 2006 Census Test. This survey included a new question on sexual orientation. An evaluation report on the results of the survey, including the question on sexual orientation, is available on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/sexual-orientation-in-the-census.pdf>

The ONS have also carried out postal tests, the first in April 2007 and the second in July 2008. There has also been testing of specific questions in the ONS Opinions (Omnibus) Survey and NISRA Omnibus Survey. The results from these tests have additionally been utilised by GROS to inform decisions for the Scottish Census questionnaire.

3.2.3 The 2006 Census Test and 2006 Census Test Evaluation

The 2006 Census Test took place on the 23 April 2006. It was designed to evaluate possible improvements in the way the questionnaires are distributed and returned and to test new or modified questions. Parts of Scotland which had been difficult to enumerate in 2001 were deliberately chosen as being likely to give the best test for new procedures. Half of the questionnaires were posted to the households and half were hand-delivered by enumerators. Half of the questionnaires included a question about household income and half did not. The census test was followed by a small survey in the south Glasgow test area. This looked specifically at new questions on the state of housing repair and on income, and at the modified ethnicity question.

The results of the Test were carefully evaluated and the report is available on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/2006-census-test/2006-census-test-evaluation.html>

GROS will use evidence gathered from the test to improve the processing of the information on the forms, quality checks and the production of the Census results, in 2011.

3.2.4 Focus groups

GROS have conducted focus groups throughout Scotland to determine the quality and acceptability of new questions which are proposed for census.

To date GROS have met with groups arranged by:

- Age Concern Scotland;
- Fife Arabic Society;
- Crofters Commission; and
- Y sort it.

3.3 Work to harmonise with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

In 2005 the Registrars General of each of the UK countries signed an agreement to work together and to reach mutual agreement wherever possible, on various aspects of the census which would facilitate harmonisation, where that was in the interest of Census users. This included working to achieve a harmonised set of questions where possible. The Statement of Agreement can be found on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/stats/rgsagreementupdate0808.pdf>

3.3.1 UK Census Questionnaire Design Working Group

The Census offices meet regularly to discuss progress through monthly meetings of the UK Census Questionnaire Design Working Group (UKCQDWG). This group is responsible for managing the development of the UK Census questionnaires. This includes the selection of topics for consideration for inclusion on the 2011 questionnaires and importantly, minimising differences between the questionnaires of the respective countries.

3.3.2 UK topic groups

Eight UK-wide topic groups were set up, led by representatives from the ONS, and normally met on a monthly basis. These topic groups were responsible for establishing and prioritising user requirements for information, researching alternative sources of data, and commissioning small-scale question testing. Each topic group included people with a range of skills and expertise from relevant areas as well as representation from GROS and NISRA.

The work of these topic groups culminated in the production of question recommendations which were then considered by UKCQDWG.

4. Recommended content for Scotland's 2011 Census

4.1 Additions to the questionnaire for 2011

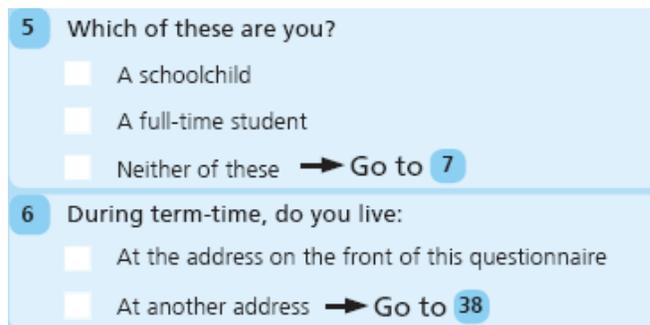
For the first time ever in 2011, the facility will be provided to allow completion of the Census household questionnaire online². All households will still receive a hand-delivered paper questionnaire but the front page of that questionnaire will display a unique reference number that can be used to access and complete the questionnaire online, instead of on paper.

The questionnaire for 2011 also contains extra guidance on how to complete the form, including guidance on who should complete the questionnaire and who should be included in which sections of the questionnaire.

4.2 Usual Residents

The Census questionnaire will, as in 2001, collect detailed information on usual residents at a given address. For the first time in 2011 it will also collect basic information on other people who are 'visitors' at that address (people who are not usually resident there but are staying the night on Census night). Basic 'visitor' information will be recorded on the back page of the questionnaire.

As in 2001, filter questions are also included to ensure that students have their personal information collected at the appropriate address (that being either their home address or their term-time address, if they have one). The filter questions proposed for 2011 are shown below. These have been reworded and reformatted for 2011 to help with completion.



5 Which of these are you?

A schoolchild

A full-time student

Neither of these → Go to 7

6 During term-time, do you live:

At the address on the front of this questionnaire

At another address → Go to 38

4.3 TOPIC: HOUSEHOLD

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **Type of accommodation**
- **Self-contained**
- **Number of rooms**

² For security reasons households which do not receive a pre-addressed household questionnaire will not be able to complete their questionnaire online.

- **Tenure**
- **Landlord**
- **Type of central heating**
- **Number of cars/vans**
- **Income**

Questions on housing provide information about the accommodation occupied by each household, as well as giving an accurate count of dwellings (including those which are vacant and those shared by two or more households). This shows the way that the housing stock is being used and provides a firm basis for assessing current and future demands, as the number and type of households change. No other data source gives such comprehensive information on housing stock at both national and local level. At local level, the census is the only source of nationally-comparable information on housing and is used widely in calculations of grant entitlements to local authorities. Measures of inadequate housing and overcrowding are used in deciding on levels of housing and investment, and in targeting programmes which address social and economic needs in urban and rural areas.

Local and central government users make most use of the data from the household questions. Other users include business and commercial organisations, local service providers, community groups and individuals.

4.3.1 Type of accommodation

<div data-bbox="230 1247 808 1713" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px;"> <p>H6 What type of accommodation is this?</p> <p>A whole house or bungalow that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Detached <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached <input type="checkbox"/> Terraced (including end-terrace) <p>A flat, maisonette, or apartment that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In a tenement or purpose-built block of flats (including '4-in-a-block') <input type="checkbox"/> Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits) <input type="checkbox"/> In a commercial building (for example, in an office building, hotel or over a shop) <p>A mobile or temporary structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure </div>	<div data-bbox="829 1094 1218 1713" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffe6e6; padding: 10px;"> <p>H1 What type of accommodation does your household occupy?</p> <p>A <i>whole</i> house or bungalow that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Detached <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached <input type="checkbox"/> Terraced (including end-terrace) <p>A flat, maisonette, or apartment that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement <input type="checkbox"/> Part of a converted or shared house (includes bed-sits) <input type="checkbox"/> In a commercial building (for example, in an office building, or hotel, or over a shop) <p>Mobile or temporary structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure </div>
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2011 question proposed

2001 question

This question has undergone minimal change since 2001. The wording of the question has been amended to clarify that the information requested relates to the accommodation at the address to which the questionnaire was

delivered. The clarification “(including ‘4-in-a-block’)” has also been added as this is a specific type of accommodation in Scotland.

Information from this question enables the identification of the main types of accommodation occupied by those in private households as well as general analysis of the housing market. It also provides information regarding the supply and demand of the housing stock – what the implications are for availability of, and need for, different accommodation types. Households accommodated in caravans and other temporary structures can also be identified.

4.3.2 Self-contained

<p>H7 Is this household's accommodation self-contained?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only this household can use. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only this household can use <input type="checkbox"/> No 	<p>H2 Is your household's accommodation self-contained?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This means that <i>all</i> the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet are behind a door that only your household can use. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only our household can use <input type="checkbox"/> No
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2011 question proposed

2001 question

The question on whether the household accommodation is self-contained was asked in 2001 – only a slight amendment to the wording for 2011 has been made, again to clarify that the information requested relates to the accommodation at the address to which the questionnaire was delivered.

Information on self-contained accommodation is used to derive a count of dwellings and to identify the characteristics of the accommodation in dwellings shared by two or more households.

4.3.3 Number of rooms

<p>H8 How many rooms are available for use only by this household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do not count bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards. ◆ Count all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, utility rooms, bedrooms, studies and conservatories. ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room. <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of rooms</p>	<p>H3 How many rooms do you have for use only by your household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Do not count</i> bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards. ◆ <i>Do count</i> all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms and studies. ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room. <p>Number of rooms <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p>
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2011 question proposed

2001 question

This question was asked in 2001. The wording has similarly been amended to clarify that the information requested relates to the accommodation at the

address to which the questionnaire was delivered. Conservatories are now listed as rooms to be included in the count.

The question on the number of rooms helps to show, together with the number and characteristics of people in each household, the degree to which accommodation may be overcrowded or under-utilised. This is useful in identifying areas of deprivation and those living in unsuitable accommodation. In turn, this information can be used to plan future housing provision, resource allocation and develop housing policies.

4.3.4 Tenure

<div data-bbox="230 808 857 1083" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px;"> <p>H9 Does your household own or rent this accommodation? ♦ Tick one box only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Owns outright → Go to H11 <input type="checkbox"/> Owns with a mortgage or loan → Go to H11 <input type="checkbox"/> Part owns and part rents (shared ownership) <input type="checkbox"/> Rents (with or without housing benefit) <input type="checkbox"/> Lives here rent free </div> <p style="text-align: center;">2011 question proposed</p>	<div data-bbox="873 569 1286 1083" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #ffe6e6; padding: 5px;"> <p>H8 Does your household own or rent the accommodation? ♦ <i>✓ one box only.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Owns outright ▶ Go to H11 <input type="checkbox"/> Owns with a mortgage or loan ▶ Go to H11 <input type="checkbox"/> Pays part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership) ▶ Go to H11 <input type="checkbox"/> Rents ▶ Go to H9 <input type="checkbox"/> Lives here rent free ▶ Go to H9 </div> <p style="text-align: center;">2001 question</p>
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This question was asked in 2001. The wording has similarly been amended to clarify that the information requested relates to the accommodation at the address to which the questionnaire was delivered. The response category relating to part ownership/part rent has been amended to “part owns and part rents (shared ownership)” as testing showed that respondents find this wording easier to understand. The routing instructions have also been amended to allow for collection of landlord information (the following question) from those who part own/part rent.

Information on tenure is used in analysis of the housing stock and the operation of the housing market, and how these have changed over time. When used in conjunction with other census data, it also provides a greater understanding of demographic and socio-structural factors affecting the supply and demand of housing.

4.3.5 Landlord

H10 Who is your landlord?

- Council (Local Authority)
- Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

2011 question proposed

H9 Who is your landlord?

- Council (Local Authority)
Scottish Homes
- Housing Association
Housing Co-operative
Charitable Trust
Non-profit housing company
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

2001 question

Information on landlord was also requested in 2001. The wording of the first two response categories has been updated to reflect current organisations in Scotland.

Information from the question is used to assess changes in housing demand and for the future planning of housing and land use.

4.3.6 Type of central heating

H11 What type of central heating does this accommodation have?

◆ If the central heating is available, tick the box whether or not you use it.

- No central heating
- Gas
- Electric
- Oil
- Solid fuel
- Other central heating

2011 question proposed

H6 Does your accommodation have central heating?

◆ If you have central heating available, ✓ 'Yes' whether or not you use it.

◆ Central heating includes:

- gas, oil or solid fuel central heating
- night storage heaters
- warm air heating
- underfloor heating

- Yes, in some or all rooms
- No

2001 question

This question has been expanded since 2001 and hence the format has changed. The question now collects information about the type of central heating present in the accommodation, rather than simply asking whether central heating is present or not.

Gathering information on the availability of central heating will still allow the identification of accommodation with no central heating. This is a useful indicator of housing standards and quality. Additional data on type of central heating can provide further evidence of deprivation and fuel poverty as well as allowing an insight in to the types of fuel used by households. Information on dual fuel systems and the uptake of energy efficient systems will also be obtained from the extended question.

4.3.7 Number of cars/vans

<p>H12 In total, how many cars or vans are owned, or are available for use, by members of this household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Include any company car(s) or van(s) available for private use. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> One <input type="checkbox"/> Two <input type="checkbox"/> Three <input type="checkbox"/> Four or more, please write in number <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> 	<p>H7 How many cars or vans are owned, or available for use, by one or more members of your household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Include any company car or van if available for private use. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> One <input type="checkbox"/> Two <input type="checkbox"/> Three <input type="checkbox"/> Four or more, <i>please write in number</i> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/>
--	---

2011 question proposed

2001 question

There have been minimal changes made to this question since 2001, all of which are aimed at making the question easier to understand and complete.

Data on car availability can help identify areas where private transport makes the most demand on road space and areas where people are likely to be more dependent on public transport. The statistics will also be used in making projections of future levels of car ownership, studies of road use and appraisals of the need for future investment in public transport. The number of cars owned by a household can also be used as a proxy measure of affluence/deprivation.

4.3.8 Income

H13 What is your household's total income from all sources over the last 12 months?

- ◆ Count income from every person included in **H2**.
- ◆ Include:
 - all earnings (include overtime, tips, bonuses, self-employment)
 - all pensions
 - all student grants and bursaries (but not loans)
 - all benefits and tax credits (such as child benefit, incapacity benefit)
 - all interest from savings or investments
 - all rent from property (after expenses)
 - other income (such as maintenance or grants)
- ◆ Do not deduct:
 - Taxes, National Insurance contributions, Health Insurance payments, Superannuation payments

Per week	Per year
less than £100 <input type="checkbox"/>	less than £5,200 <input type="checkbox"/>
£100 to £199 <input type="checkbox"/>	£5,200 to £10,399 <input type="checkbox"/>
£200 to £299 <input type="checkbox"/>	£10,400 to £15,599 <input type="checkbox"/>
£300 to £499 <input type="checkbox"/>	£15,600 to £25,999 <input type="checkbox"/>
£500 to £699 <input type="checkbox"/>	£26,000 to £36,399 <input type="checkbox"/>
£700 to £949 <input type="checkbox"/>	£36,400 to £49,399 <input type="checkbox"/>
£950 to £1,199 <input type="checkbox"/>	£49,400 to £62,399 <input type="checkbox"/>
£1,200 to £1,499 <input type="checkbox"/>	£62,400 to £77,999 <input type="checkbox"/>
£1,500 or more <input type="checkbox"/>	£78,000 or more <input type="checkbox"/>

2011 question proposed

The household income question is proposed for inclusion for the first time in Scotland's 2011 Census.

There was strong user demand for an income question to be included in the census for 2011 at either household or individual level. Given the amount of space that such a question occupies, and the demand for other questions to be included in the individual section of the questionnaire, the decision was made to ask the income question within the household section of the questionnaire. Such information at a household level is thought to be useful – and in some cases, better than an individual question – as it provides a more rounded picture of the financial well-being of a household. For example, for a family of four, it is the total household income which must be considered when assessing whether or not they are considered to live in poverty. Although the scope for analysis of income data along with other questions is limited due to there being no individual income information, it still has potential to provide further understanding into the links between this and other census data.

Income information collected from the census will provide a measure of deprivation and affluence for small geographic areas. This in turn will provide a useful indication of living standards and allow identification of areas of poverty. Such data will inform decisions surrounding resource allocation and service delivery as well as identifying areas in need of investment. Analysis of income data alongside other census information will allow better understanding of the characteristics of people with differing levels of income. It may also provide a more detailed insight into the issues surrounding affordable housing, the relationship between disability and poverty and the reasons for differences in financial welfare across geographical areas of Scotland. Other potential uses of the data have also been identified – for example, in providing an indication of take-up of benefits and to help explore the links between this and social inclusion.

It is expected therefore that the data from an income question would provide a valuable source of information for central and local government in particular, as well as for local service providers and business and commercial organisations.

Following the 2006 Census Test Evaluation (which included analysis of the income question), further evaluation of the effect that the income question had on response rates was carried out. A report was produced which concluded that the presence of an income question had no significant effect on response rate. The report will be available on the GROS website in the near future.

There have, however, been concerns raised about the acceptability of an income question and its suitability for the census. There are also concerns about the quality of the data the question will yield. Nonetheless (and even with an awareness of these issues) users have continued to indicate a strong desire for the inclusion of the question in Scotland's census in 2011. The

Information on name is required for operational purposes but is also needed for legal reasons - to ensure the requirement to fill in a Census form is met.

4.4.2 Sex

2 What is your sex?
 Male Female

2011 question proposed

2 What is your sex?
 Male Female

2001 question

There have been no changes made to the 2001 question on sex.

This variable is used extensively in multivariate analysis with other census variables and in the production of sex-specific population estimates, for example.

4.4.3 Date of birth

3 What is your date of birth?
 Day Month Year

2011 question proposed

3 What is your date of birth?
 Day Month Year

2001 question

There have been no changes made to the 2001 question on date of birth.

Similarly to sex, date of birth is a fundamental Census variable that is extensively used. In addition to cross-tabulation with other variables and derivation of population estimates, date of birth is also used for validation purposes and data linkage (for example, with the Scottish Longitudinal Survey).

4.4.4 Marital status

4 On the 29 March 2009, what is your legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status?

- Never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership
- Married
- Separated, but still legally married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- In a registered same-sex civil partnership
- Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership
- Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership

2011 question proposed

4 What is your marital status (on 29 April 2001)?

- Single (never married)
- Married (first marriage)
- Re-married
- Separated (but still legally married)
- Divorced
- Widowed

2001 question

The question on marital status has changed from that used in 2001. Following the Civil Partnership Act 2004, the question has been expanded to allow people to indicate their civil partnership status. The question wording which will be used for the Census Rehearsal questionnaire (shown on the previous page) refers to the date on which the Rehearsal takes place – this will change for the 2011 questionnaire to refer to the date of census in 2011.

The marital status question is the only question in the questionnaire which has double banked response options. Double banking of response options involves presenting the response options in two columns (rather than in one) and is basically a space saving technique. Generally, as noted earlier in this paper, double banking is not recommended as people do not always notice the second column options, hence response quality can be detrimentally affected. However, the desire to create visual parity between the marriage and civil partnership response options (in addition to space considerations) has meant that the decision was taken to double bank the response options for the marital status question.

Data on marital status is heavily used. It provides input to household estimates and projections and estimates of population by marital status and is used as a denominator for analysis of marriage and divorce. With the amendments made to the question for 2011, it will provide the only definitive count of the population in civil partnerships at national level.

4.4.5 Relationship matrix

The relationship matrix is not shown here due to the size of the matrix (it spans two pages) – please refer to the 2009 Census Rehearsal questionnaire for details of the design and content.

There have been amendments made to the 2001 relationship matrix, for 2011, both in terms of content and design. The instructions and overall design have been improved to make it easier for respondents to see how the matrix should be completed. In the 2001 Census, respondents reported difficulty with completion of the matrix, due to its complexity. In terms of content, response options have been added for ‘Same-sex civil partner’ and ‘Step brother or step sister’.

Despite its known complexity and difficulties with completion, the relationship matrix provides valuable analytic information. It collects information on families (derived by cross-tabulation with sex and marital status) and allows identification of relationships between family members. It also collects information on households by type (derived by cross-tabulation with sex). Applications include planning of accommodation and services for elderly people and the assessment of the potential demand for housing from young families and multi-family households.

4.5 TOPIC: MIGRATION

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **Country of birth**
- **Usual address one year ago**
- **Month and year of arrival in the UK**

Information on migration is particularly important since migration accounts for much of the change in the population between censuses. The information collected in the census will allow inferences to be made about the level and pattern of migration in the intervening years. To have a complete count, and hence a better understanding, of the number of people and households which move in the year before the census is important. The census is the only current source of reliable migration data for small areas, and provides more information than any other source about migrants' demographic characteristics and type of moves.

Consultation identified strong support for the collection of information on migration - it is a topic of increasing policy importance. A wide variety of users make extensive use of migration data – central and local government, local service providers, business and commercial users and researchers, in addition to many Departments within the Scottish Government.

Careful consideration was given to achieving the correct balance in respect of this topic, in terms of allocation of space for questions about migration weighed against other topics and the type of questions which can reasonably be asked and are suitable for the census.

Hence user need, quality and accuracy, as well as a lack of alternative sources were of particular relevance in assessing the priority of this topic (and particular questions) for inclusion in Scotland's 2011 Census.

4.5.1 Country of birth

7 What is your country of birth?

Scotland → Go to **9**

England → Go to **9**

Wales → Go to **9**

Northern Ireland → Go to **9**

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere, please write in the current name of the country

2011 question proposed

12 What is your country of birth?

Scotland

England

Wales

Northern Ireland

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere, *please write in the present name of the country*

2001 question

arrivals from outside the UK in the year before the census. The data is also useful as an indicator of enrolment to local schools in areas of new housing development and feeds into local level population and household projections and estimates.

4.5.3 Month and year of arrival in the UK



8 If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?
◆ Do not count short visits away from the UK.
Month Year
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

2011 question proposed

This is a new question proposed for inclusion in the census in 2011. It is complementary to the questions on country of birth and usual address one year ago and will be asked of everyone born outside the UK, to improve information about migrant profiles, including the assessment of the social and economic assimilation of different migrant cohorts over time.

4.6 TOPIC: TRAVEL TO WORK & STUDY

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **Workplace/study address**
- **Method of travel to work/study**

Data from questions on travel to work and study allows better understanding of the pressures on transport systems and can be used to inform transport planning and modelling. As well as being used as an accurate predictor of traffic flows, it also provides valuable information on daytime populations and the volume of commuters at low level geographical areas.

The data generated on travel to work and study is widely used by both local authorities and central government. It is also useful to local service providers and business and commercial organisations.

4.6.2 Method of travel to work/study

12 How do you usually travel to your main place of work or study (including school)?

- ◆ Tick one box only.
- ◆ Tick the box for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey to work or study.

Driving a car or van

Passenger in a car or van

On foot

Bus, minibus or coach

Train

Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram

Taxi

Bicycle

Motorcycle, scooter or moped

Other

2011 question proposed

11 How do you usually travel to your main place of work or study (including school)?

- ◆ ✓ one box only.
- ◆ ✓ the box for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey to work or study.

<input type="checkbox"/> Underground, tube, metro or light rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger in a car or van
<input type="checkbox"/> Train	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor cycle, scooter or moped
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus, minibus or coach (public or private)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi or minicab	<input type="checkbox"/> On foot
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving a car or van	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

2001 question

A question on method of travel to work and study was also asked in 2001. Some of the response categories have undergone minor changes and their order changed to more accurately reflect the incidence of the different modes of travel used in Scotland.

This question provides information on the mode of transport normally used for the longest part of the journey to work/study. Detailed analyses of specific commuting flows by main means of travel are used in the planning of public transport and facilities for private transport.

4.7 TOPIC: HEALTH & CARE

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **General health**
- **Limiting long-term health problem or disability**
- **Unpaid personal care**
- **Long term health conditions**

Data on general health contributes to the development of health policy and the planning and provision of services at a local level, while the question on limiting long term health problem or disability provides useful information on the need for health and personal social services at both a national and local level. Data on the amount of time spent providing unpaid personal care helps to improve understanding of the variations in the need for care and the pressure on social services. Consultation identified a strong need to continue collecting all of this information, but also that additional information about the type of health conditions that affect people would be very useful, particularly in terms of the value of the multivariate analysis that would be possible with such information.

A wide range of users make extensive use of health data – central and local government, local service providers and research/academic users.

In assessing the priority of this topic, user need was a significant factor as was the requirement for data at all levels of geography (coupled with the lack of a suitable alternative source for data on type of health conditions). Continuity was important in consideration of the question on unpaid personal care.

4.7.1 General health

19 How is your health in general?

Very Good Good Fair Bad Very Bad

2011 question proposed

7 Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been:

Good? Fairly good?

Not good?

2001 question

This question has been amended to include a 5-point scale for 2011 (a 3-point scale was used in 2001).

Information relating to general health provides a good indication of the demand for health services, while also contributing to the monitoring of delivery of healthcare and the assessment of progress towards better population health. It is also an important variable in analyses of deprivation.

4.7.2 Limiting long-term health problem or disability

21 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

◆ Include problems related to old age.

Yes, limited a lot

Yes, limited a little

No

2011 question proposed

8 Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do?

◆ Include problems which are due to old age.

Yes No

2001 question

The wording of this question has been slightly amended since 2001 and an extra response option added, to allow for the distinction to be made between day to day activities being limited a lot, or a little, as a result of the health problem or disability.

Data from the question on limiting long-term health problem or disability provides the only measure of disability in small areas and contributes to policy development in measuring healthy life expectancy. It is utilised also in the area of resource allocation for care of the elderly.

4.7.3 Unpaid personal care

9 Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either:

- long-term physical / mental ill-health / disability; or
- problems related to old age?

◆ Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment.

No

Yes, 1-19 hours a week

Yes, 20-34 hours a week

Yes, 35-49 hours a week

Yes, 50+ hours a week

2011 question proposed

17 Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of:

- long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability, or
- problems related to old age?

◆ Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment.

◆ ✓ time spent in a typical week.

No

Yes, 1-19 hours a week

Yes, 20-49 hours a week

Yes, 50+ hours a week

2001 question

The question on unpaid personal care has also had an extra response option added since 2001, to allow more detail to be captured in respect of those people providing many hours of unpaid care per week.

Data from the question on carers allows identification of who undertakes unpaid care and to what extent. It hence provides an evidence base for policy development and service delivery in relation to provision of care and will allow for monitoring of changes in the population who provide care over time. It is also useful in multivariate analysis with other census variables.

4.7.4 Long-term health conditions

20 Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?

◆ Tick all that apply.

Deafness or severe hearing impairment

Blindness or severe vision impairment

A physical disability (a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, lifting or carrying)

A learning disability (such as Down's Syndrome)

A learning difficulty (such as dyslexia or dyspraxia)

A mental health condition (such as depression or schizophrenia)

A chronic illness (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, heart disease or epilepsy)

Other condition

No

2011 question proposed

This is a new question proposed for inclusion in the census in Scotland in 2011. The wording of the question carefully avoids the use of the word

'disability' since many people affected by the kinds of health condition listed in the question do not consider themselves 'disabled'.

The provision of more detailed information on specific conditions has great analytic potential. It will enable more specific policy service planning and provision than has previously possible, in relation to health services, social justice, housing and so on. It will potentially be used in the development and monitoring of policies for tackling inequality and social exclusion, as well as in analyses of the effect of different conditions on the likelihood of economic activity. It also has potential for use in matching reported conditions with use of services.

4.8 TOPIC: ETHNICITY, IDENTITY, LANGUAGE & RELIGION

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **Ethnic group**
- **National identity**
- **Language**
- **Religion**

A question on ethnic group was included for the first time in the census in 1991. The information has enabled national and local government, health authorities and others to take account of the special needs of ethnic minority groups. In particular, the question has provided baseline figures against which the government can monitor possible disadvantage within minority ethnic groups. The census is particularly important because many minority ethnic groups in Scotland are too small in number to be captured effectively by sample surveys. The census gives the only robust information on size of groups at local level.

Following the 2001 Census, in 2002 the then Communities Minister promised to review the way that Scottish surveys classify ethnicity, to ensure that they reflect modern circumstances, meets users' information needs and have broad community support. This followed recommendations by the Race Equality Advisory Forum (REAF) and some community concerns about the classification used in Scotland's 2001 Census - in particular about the different use of colour and geography across the ethnic group categories.

The Scottish Government (SG) worked in partnership with the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) to conduct the review. The result is a new official ethnicity classification for use in Scottish surveys and Scotland's 2011 Census. The details of the review and the new classification itself were published by the SG in July 2008:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/newethnicityclass>

The review also identified benefits in developing a separate national identity question for use on the Census and relevant Scottish official statistics. Hence such a question is proposed for inclusion in Scotland's census in 2011.

Religion and language are related and complementary concepts to ethnic group. Data obtained from the religion questions in 2001 was of interest to the main religious denominations in Scotland and helped identification of ethnic minority sub-groups – helping to improve understanding of local populations, to promote legal obligations under equality legislation and to prevent discrimination. Information on Gaelic language proficiency is used to inform policy development and monitoring as well as in local service provision. Such information also aids the development of Gaelic and promotion of its use. A clear need however has also been identified for information on other languages and hence additional questions are proposed for inclusion in 2011.

Consultation revealed that all user groups make use of ethnic group data - central and local government, local service providers, community and special interest groups, business, commercial and academic users, as well as individuals. All groups also indicated that they *would* make use of data on a variety of languages, while community and special interest groups, local government, central and devolved government and individuals were highlighted as the primary users of data on religion.

Acceptability, lack of alternative sources and user need were particularly important considerations in assessing priority for the group of questions associated with this identity-related topic.

4.8.1 Ethnic group

15 What is your ethnic group?

◆ Choose **ONE** section from A to E, then tick **ONE** box which **best describes** your ethnic group or background.

A White

Scottish

English

Welsh

Northern Irish

British

Irish

Gypsy / Traveller

Polish

Other white ethnic group, please write in

B Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in

C Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British

Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British

Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British

Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British

Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British

Other, please write in

D African, Caribbean or Black

African, African Scottish or African British

Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British

Black, Black Scottish or Black British

Other, please write in

E Other ethnic group

Arab

Other, please write in

2011 question proposed

15 What is your ethnic group?

◆ Choose **ONE** section from A to E, then **✓** the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

A White

Scottish

Other British

Irish

Any other White background, *please write in*

B Mixed

Any Mixed background, *please write in*

C Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, *please write in*

D Black, Black Scottish or Black British

Caribbean

African

Any other Black background, *please write in*

E Other ethnic background

Any other background, *please write in*

2001 question

The main changes made to the question used in the 2001 census are:-

- Colour terms “White” and “Black” are retained, because testing showed that an ethnic classification based only on geography can cause confusion
- Under the “White” category, new tick boxes are provided for “English”, “Welsh”, “Northern Irish”, “British”, “Gypsy/Traveller” and “Polish”
- The “Mixed” category is re-termed “Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups”
- The 'Black, Black Scottish or Black British' category is re-termed 'African, Caribbean or Black'. A new tick box is added for 'Black, Black Scottish or Black British' to give respondents the option to identify in this way if they wish. People who do not wish to identify as 'Black' will not be required to do so and will be able to choose an 'African, African Scottish or African British' or 'Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British' tick box or to write-in their response.
- Tick boxes under the 'Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British' and 'African, Caribbean or Black' category are re-worded to add references to 'Scottish' and 'British' e.g. 'Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British', 'African, African Scottish or African British'
- A tick box is added in the “Other Ethnic Group” category for people who are “Arab”

Ethnicity is a complicated concept, where people hold strong (and sometimes polarised) views. Peoples’ concept of their ethnicity, and the way that they choose to express it, changes over the years. The new classification is designed to meet changing user requirements and use acceptable terminology, while retaining an element of comparability for 2011 statistics with those from the 2001 Census and statistics relating to the rest of the UK.

Extensive use is made of ethnic group data, primarily to provide a better understanding of communities and highlight areas of inequality among different groups. This enables central and local government to allocate resources so that appropriate services can be provided. The data is also used extensively in workforce monitoring and demographic profiling of the population. It contributes to work on community engagement, in terms of enhancing understanding of local and regional needs and promoting good community relations. It has been used as a proxy for language use and is frequently used as a comparator for estimates from other surveys.

proficiency can potentially be used also as a measure of integration. Information on other language use will allow translation services to be planned and targeted appropriately and provide further contextual information on ethnicity. Multivariate analysis with other Census variables may help identify disadvantage resulting from language ability.

4.8.4 Religion

13 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?

None

Church of Scotland

Roman Catholic

Other Christian

Muslim

Buddhist

Sikh

Jewish

Hindu

Pagan

Another religion, please write in

2011 question proposed

13 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?

None

Church of Scotland

Roman Catholic

Other Christian, *please write in*

Buddhist

Hindu Jewish

Muslim Sikh

Another Religion, *please write in*

14 What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?

None

Church of Scotland

Roman Catholic

Other Christian, *please write in*

Buddhist

Hindu Jewish

Muslim Sikh

Another Religion, *please write in*

2001 questions

The 2001 Census in Scotland asked two questions on religion – one about current religion and one about religion of upbringing. Consultation revealed limited user demand for the religion of upbringing question and the space created by the omission of this question allowed a question on another topic (for which there was greater demand) to be added.

The question on current religion which was retained from 2001 has been amended. The row of write-in boxes for ‘Other Christian’ denominations has been removed, since having a row of write-in boxes part way through a set of response options is an undesirable design feature. Moreover, ‘Other Christian’ – or indeed any other religions, religious denominations or bodies - can still be written in at the end of the question. A response option has also been added for ‘Pagan’ since ‘Pagan’ was the most frequently written-in

response under the 'Other' category in Scotland in 2001 (leaving aside entries for 'Jedi'!)

Data on religion allows for monitoring of demographic changes within faith groups as well as providing a broad understanding of the make-up of such groups in Scotland. It is used by organisations to inform equality issues and service provision for health, social care and education, since all these areas are affected by religious diversity.

4.9 TOPIC: LABOUR MARKET AND QUALIFICATIONS

Questions recommended by GROS for inclusion in 2011:

- **Qualifications**
- **Economic activity status**
- **Ever worked**
- **Occupation**
- **Number of hours worked**
- **Industry**

Qualifications data provides an overview of the skills base in Scotland. It is also useful to help identify areas of underemployment, deprivation and those to be targeted for resource allocation or recruitment. It can assist in the coding of occupation and together with other census information, provides greater insight into the labour market.

Questions on economic activity status, whether someone has ever worked, occupation, number of hours worked and industry, provide the primary source of information about the socio-economic characteristics of the population. This range of information generates statistics about the ages and occupations of workers in different industries. Information about economically inactive groups such as full-time students, people looking after the home or family, and retired people is also obtained from these questions. The census is an important source of labour market information – for example providing detailed statistics for small areas on employment and unemployment among various groups. It provides statistics on the pool of labour available and the potential reserves of labour in different parts of the country. This information is used particularly to help estimate the future labour force for local authority structure plans and by private sector employers wishing to locate operations in areas where there is suitable labour resource.

The main users of census data on qualifications and the labour market are central government and local authorities. Both local service providers and business and commercial organisations utilise the data to a degree, as do community groups and individuals.

4.9.1 Qualifications

23 Which of these qualifications do you have?

◆ Tick all that apply.

- O Grade, Standard Grade, Access 3 Cluster, Intermediate 1 or 2, GCSE, CSE, Senior Certificate or equivalent
- SCE Higher Grade, Higher, Advanced Higher, CSYS, A Level, AS Level, Advanced Senior Certificate or equivalent
- GSVQ Foundation or Intermediate, SVQ level 1 or 2, SCOTVEC Module, City and Guilds Craft or equivalent
- GSVQ Advanced, SVQ level 3, ONC, OND, SCOTVEC National Diploma, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or equivalent
- HNC, HND, SVQ level 4 or equivalent
- First Degree, Postgraduate qualifications, Masters, PhD, SVQ level 5 or equivalent
- Professional qualifications e.g. teaching, accountancy
- Other school qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications)
- Other post-school but pre-Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications)
- Other Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications)
- No qualifications

2011 question proposed

34 Which of these qualifications do you have?

◆ *✓ all boxes that apply.*

- 'O' Grade, Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, GCSE, CSE, Senior Certificate or equivalent
- Higher Grade, CSYS, Scottish Group Award at Higher, 'A' Level, AS Level, Advanced Senior Certificate or equivalent
- GSVQ/SVQ Level 1 or 2, SCOTVEC National Certificate Module, BTEC First Diploma, City and Guilds Craft, RSA Diploma or equivalent
- GSVQ/SVQ Level 3, ONC, OND, SCOTVEC National Diploma, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, RSA Advanced Diploma or equivalent
- HNC, HND, SVQ Level 4 or 5, RSA Higher Diploma or equivalent
- First Degree, Higher Degree
- Professional Qualifications (for example, teaching, accountancy)
- None of these

2001 question

This question was asked in 2001 and has increased in size to include categories for 'other' qualifications by level, so that respondents (including those with foreign qualifications) can more easily identify appropriate response categories. The qualifications list has also been revised and updated as necessary. There is now a response option for 'no qualifications' so that a complete count of people in this category can be obtained.

Information about educational and vocational qualifications is used to help measure shortfalls in the provision of education and training and in monitoring take up of government initiatives. It also helps to assess reserves of skilled and qualified people who are unemployed, including those not currently seeking work. The primary intention of obtaining information on level of qualification is to derive the highest qualification. The census is the only source of this information for small areas and the only one which allows cross-tabulation of qualifications with other factors such as employment. The data is also useful for benchmarking and for making comparisons between small geographic areas and population groups. Mothers' qualifications can be a useful predictor of children's attainment.

4.9.2 Economic activity status (activity last week (x2), actively seeking employment, availability to start work, waiting to start work)

<p>24 Last week were you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tick all that apply. ◆ Include any paid work, including casual or temporary work, even if only for one hour. <p><input type="checkbox"/> working as an employee? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on a Government sponsored training scheme? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> self-employed or freelance? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> working paid or unpaid for your own or your family's business? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> away from work ill, on maternity leave, on holiday or temporarily laid off? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> doing any other kind of paid work? → Go to 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> none of the above</p>	<p>19 Last week, were you doing any work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as an employee, • as self-employed/freelance, • in your own/family business, or • on a Government sponsored training scheme? <p>◆ ✓ 'Yes' if you were away from work ill, on maternity leave, on holiday or temporarily laid off.</p> <p>◆ ✓ 'Yes' for any paid work, including casual or temporary work, even if only for one hour.</p> <p>◆ ✓ 'Yes' if you worked, paid or unpaid, in your own/family business.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes → Go to 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No → Go to 20</p>
<p>25 Were you actively looking for any kind of paid work during the last four weeks?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>20 Were you actively looking for any kind of paid work during the last 4 weeks?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>26 If a job had been available last week, could you have started it within two weeks?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>21 If a job had been available last week, could you have started it within 2 weeks?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>27 Last week, were you waiting to start a job already obtained?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>22 Last week, were you waiting to start a job already obtained?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>28 Last week were you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tick all that apply. <input type="checkbox"/> retired (whether receiving a pension or not)? <input type="checkbox"/> a student? <input type="checkbox"/> looking after home or family? <input type="checkbox"/> long-term sick or disabled? <input type="checkbox"/> other 	<p>23 Last week, were you any of the following?</p> <p>◆ ✓ <i>all the boxes that apply.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Student</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Looking after home/family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Permanently sick/disabled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</p>

2011 questions proposed

2001 questions

The first activity last week question (question 24 above) was asked in 2001, although the format of the question has been changed. Previously there were lengthy instructions at the start of the question followed by a 'yes/no' response option. The changes made are to help respondents navigate through the question and enable them to answer it more accurately.

The questions on actively seeking employment, availability to start work and waiting to start work remain unchanged from 2001.

The wording of the second activity last week question (question 28 on the previous page) has been amended from that used in 2001 to encourage respondents to read - and hence properly consider - the response options. There have been minor amendments made to some of the response categories to make them easier to understand.

The response categories in the first activity last week question provide the basic classification for analysis of economic activity i.e. whether someone is employed or unemployed. They are designed to be as consistent as possible with the definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation and the Conference of European Statisticians. When used together with the information from the other economic activity status questions, a rich information base is provided which can give an indication of the likelihood of future employment/unemployment and reasons for unemployment.

4.9.3 Ever worked

29 Have you ever worked?

Yes, please write in the year you last worked

→ Go to **30**

No, have never worked → Go to **38**

2011 question proposed

24 Have you ever worked?

Yes, *please write in the year you last worked*

▶ Go to **25**

No, have never worked

▶ Go to **34**

2001 question

This question was asked in 2001 and is unchanged for 2011.

It is asked of those who were not working in the week before the census. The information provided determines local differences in periods of unemployment and the extent of long-term unemployment. In turn, this helps assess and allows monitoring of disadvantage and exclusion, planning of education and training, allocation of resources, as well as analysis of the labour market and research into mortality and morbidity.

4.9.4 Occupation (employed/self-employed, job title, job description, supervisor status)

31 In your main job, are (were) you:

an employee?

self-employed or freelance without employees?

self-employed with employees?

26 Do (did) you work as an employee or are (were) you self-employed?

Employee

Self-employed with employees

Self-employed/freelance without employees

Information about whether someone is self-employed (with or without employees) and their supervisory responsibilities helps to assign people more accurately to the NS-SEC.

4.9.5 Number of hours worked

35 How many hours (to the nearest full hour) a week do (did) you usually work in your main job?

Number of hours worked in a typical week

2011 question proposed

29 How many hours (to the nearest full hour) a week do (did) you usually work in your *main* job?

◆ Give average for last four weeks. Number of hours worked a week

2001 question

This question was asked in 2001. There have been minimal changes made for 2011, with the exclusion of the instruction ‘give average for last four weeks’ which was thought to add unnecessary complexity to the question; instead, the phrase ‘in a typical week’ has been added.

Information on number of hours worked provides a valuable insight into both full-time and part-time working patterns and can be used to identify those working an excessive number of hours. The information will help users to better understand changes in the labour market and working patterns within particular occupations and industries. It will also be used to assess disadvantage.

4.9.6 Industry (activity of employer, name of organisation)

36 At your workplace, what is (was) the main activity of your employer or business?

- ◆ For example, PRIMARY EDUCATION, REPAIRING CARS, CONTRACT CATERING, COMPUTER SERVICING, DOCTOR'S SURGERY.
- ◆ If you are (were) a civil servant, please write GOVERNMENT.
- ◆ If you are (were) a local government officer, please write LOCAL GOVERNMENT and give the name of your department within the local authority.

33 What is (was) the business of the organisation which you named above at Question 32?

- ◆ For example, MAKING SHOES, REPAIRING CARS, SECONDARY EDUCATION.
- ◆ Civil Servants, Local Government Officers - please specify your Department.

37 In your main job, what is (was) the name of the organisation you work (worked) for?

◆ If you are (were) self-employed in your own organisation, please write in the business name.

No organisation, for example, self-employed, freelance, or work (worked) for a private individual.

2011 questions proposed

32 What is the full name of the organisation you work (worked) for in your main job?

◆ Please write in or ✓ one box below as appropriate.

◆ If you have your own business, write in the name.

Self-employed/freelance Work (worked) for a private individual

2001 questions

Both of the questions relating to industry were asked in 2001. There have been a few changes made for 2011, to make the questions easier for the respondent to understand and assist them in providing more accurate answers. The question wording for activity of employer has been amended and the examples updated to provide a more modern and broader range. Instructions for civil servants and local government officers have been clarified. Name of organisation now contains a clearer instruction for people who are self-employed and there is only one response option at the end of the question for people who are not employed in an organisation.

These two questions are used together to accurately code type of industry, by reference to the Inter-Departmental Business Register, which has a list of large employers already classified by type of industry. This provides further understanding of local labour markets and areas of disadvantage. It should be noted that responses to these questions will not be used to produce information on named individual employers.

5. Questions not proposed for inclusion in Scotland's 2011 Census

5.1 Household questions included in 2001 but not proposed for inclusion in 2011

5.1.1 Availability of bath/shower and toilet for use by household

This question was previously used as an indicator of deprivation and substandard accommodation. However, this question is now obsolete: more than 99% of respondents in 2001 answered "yes" to this question.

5.1.2 Lowest floor level (of living accommodation)

Data from this question was used to analyse the accessibility and suitability of accommodation. However, similar information is available from surveys, which in some cases provide a richer source of data.

5.2 Individual questions included in 2001 but not proposed for inclusion in 2011

5.2.1 Size of organisation worked for

Data from this question was used previously for informing the development of regional and local economic policy and to improve coding for a small number of occupations. However, user demand for this information was limited, and sufficiently accurate NS-SEC coding can be derived without it.

5.2.2 Rented accommodation - furnished or unfurnished

This question was used previously to identify differences in security of tenure between those who rent furnished or unfurnished accommodation. However, negligible user demand was identified for this information in the recent consultations.

5.3 Suggested new questions not proposed for inclusion in 2011

5.3.1 Citizenship

A question asking about citizenship has potential use in calculating the proportion of the eligible population who register to vote and in meeting EU statistical requirements for data on citizenship. However, this question is not proposed for inclusion in the questionnaire due to the higher user demand for other questions.

5.3.2 Intended length of stay

Data from this question may help to identify people who are in the country for short periods of time (short term migrants). However, the question is subjective (questions of this type are not generally thought appropriate for censuses) and fairly complex for non-UK born respondents to answer, leading to concerns about the quality of data it would yield. Moreover, it would be difficult to actually assess whether the data was robust – some kind of follow-up would be required.

5.3.3 Second residence (2 questions)

In an increasingly mobile age, more people have two or more homes or spend time between two or more addresses. It would be useful for housing and transport planning to know more about these second residences and their effect on the population of local areas. Such information might also help to ensure that the census avoids over or under-enumeration of various groups (people who stay away from home while working, for example). However, a relatively small proportion of the population in Scotland are affected by these issues and there is limited user demand for the information – although some census users, such as local authorities expressed interest in this question. There would also need to be 2 questions, the first asking whether someone stays at another address for more than 30 days a year and the second asking what type of address that is (an Armed Forces base address, for example). These two questions take up space which would be better occupied by other questions for which there is more demand.

5.3.4 Negative discrimination

This question has potential to provide evidence on perceived discrimination in Scottish society. However, this question is subjective, which creates doubts about the accuracy of the information that could be collected, and hence it is not considered suitable for the census.

5.3.5 Number of children given birth to

Data from this question would potentially be of use in measuring fertility rates and people's whole birth histories. But there is very limited user need for this information and the question would be likely to be intrusive and sensitive for some respondents.

5.3.6 Feeling of safety going out in evening in local area

This question has the potential to inform crime and justice social research work. However this question is also subjective which creates doubts about the accuracy of the information that could be collected, and hence it is not considered suitable for a census.

5.3.7 State of repairs

A question on state of repairs has potential to provide an indication of housing standards and quality and for providing additional information in relation to some measures of deprivation. However, this question was assessed as too subjective and complex to include in a self-completion questionnaire.

5.3.8 Crofting

Information on crofting households has some potential use for policy purposes. However, the information would only be of benefit to very few users and so only a limited return would result from including such a question in census.

5.3.9 Access to garden

This question would have potential for providing data on availability of, and access to, amenity space and as an indicator of deprivation. However, no strong user requirement was identified.

5.3.10 Number of bedrooms

This data could potentially contribute to better estimates of overcrowding. However, there are definitional complexities with the proposed question, leading to concerns about data quality – moreover, sufficient information will be obtainable from the “number of rooms” question.

5.3.11 Energy efficiency

Such information is potentially useful to allow targeting of resources, evaluation of energy efficiency initiatives and as an indicator of attitudes towards climate change. However, no clear wording was identified and this type of information was judged to be too complex to collect in a self-completion questionnaire.

5.3.12 Sexual orientation

Consultation with users indicated strong interest in information on sexual orientation, in order to provide a benchmark against which equality monitoring policies could be better assessed and to give sexual orientation the same status as the other equality strands, which do have questions in the census. The potential value of such information is recognised. A question has not been included in the current proposed content of the 2011 census, however, because of concerns about individual privacy and the public acceptability of including a question in a compulsory household survey and the quality of the resulting data. In a small-scale postal survey carried out by the General Register Office for Scotland in 2005, which included a question on sexual orientation, one in seven of the 31% of households that responded did not provide useful data – either because they elected to tick the “prefer not to answer” box or because they declined to complete the question at all. This far outweighed the percentage of respondents who declared a non-heterosexual orientation, calling into question the accuracy of any data collected and hence its utility. Furthermore, the terminology and concepts used to distinguish different aspects of sexual orientation confuse many respondents, leading to additional inaccuracies in the responses, in line with the conclusion of international research into the viability of such a question in a population census. However, there is no doubt about the wider need for information about sexual orientation, particularly to monitor equalities legislation. The Scottish Government has included such a question in the Scottish Health Survey and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and is working to devise a question suitable for inclusion in the Scottish Household Survey. These interviewer-based surveys are likely to collect more accurate information on this topic than the census could provide. Moreover, the Scottish Government is in contact with the Office for National Statistics in relation to their Sexual Identity Project and is considering how information gathered from that project may be relevant in Scotland.

More information about the ONS Sexual Identity Project can be found on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/measuring-equality/sexual-identity-project/index.html>

6. Way forward

As noted previously, the content of the GROS 2009 Census Rehearsal questionnaire is subject to change, following evaluation of the Rehearsal data and/or Parliamentary approval.

The expected timetable for the finalisation of Scotland's 2011 Census questionnaire is given below.

Year	Date	Event
2009	March	GROS Census Rehearsal
2009	Autumn/Winter	GROS questionnaires for 2011 Census finalised
2010	Spring	GROS 2011 Census questionnaire approved by Parliament
2011	March	Census day

7. Contact details

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You can also send questions or comments about any other Census-related issue to:

Census.consultation@gro.scotland.gov.uk

**GROS Census Division
December 2008**

ANNEX A

Alternative Sources - Summary of Scotland's Major Surveys

High quality survey research is required by all levels of government to inform policy and public debates on a range of issues. Scottish survey results are increasingly being used with other statistics to monitor government targets.

Scottish Household Survey

The Scottish Household Survey is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of Scottish households and individuals on a range of issues. The survey is specifically designed to support the work of the Scottish Government's transport, communities and local government policy areas.

The sample is drawn from the small user file of the Postcode Address File. To allow sufficient disaggregation of the survey results, an achieved sample of approximately 31,000 households over two years is required.

The Highest Income Householder, or his/her partner/spouse, is interviewed face-to-face and is required to answer questions about themselves and other members of the household. In addition, a randomly selected adult member (aged 16 or over) of the same household is interviewed on different topics. This allows results from the survey to be representative of both Scottish households and adult individuals.

In the bid to keep up with policy initiatives and to assist in the collection of a robust evidence base, the questionnaire is revised every two years. However, core questions, providing standard information about the composition and key characteristics of households, remain largely unchanged over time. Topics surveyed include travel and transport, accommodation, health and disability, income and education and training.

Further detailed information on the Scottish Household Survey can be accessed here-

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/SurveyOverview>.

Scottish Health Survey

The Scottish Health Survey provides a detailed picture of the health of the Scottish population in private households and is designed to make a major contribution to the monitoring of health in Scotland.

Currently, the Scottish Health Survey is running continuously from 2008-2011. This began in January 2008; prior to this there were three one-off surveys in 1995, 1998 and 2003.

The main achieved sample size is expected to be around 6,400 adults and 2,000 children each year. There is a two-stage interview process to the survey: a personal interview is carried out by a trained interviewer which is then followed by a nurse visit. The interview covers self assessed health and disability, health service use, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, smoking, drinking, common mental health problems, eating patterns and physical activity, as well as collecting information on a range of indicators of socio-economic position. The nurse asks some further questions, for example on use of prescribed medicines, and takes a series of anthropometric and biomedical measurements.

With the exception of the Scottish House Condition Survey, this is the only national survey which adopts a two-stage approach. The combination of interviewer-administered questionnaire and clinical information collected by the nurse provides a potentially powerful source of information. For example, it is possible to look at the link between lifestyle characteristics, health status and physiological function.

Further detailed information on the Scottish Health Survey can be found here- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey>

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (formerly known as the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey) is a survey of the Scottish population which provides estimates of crime and victimisation as well as recording attitudes to the Scottish Criminal Justice system.

In 2008, the survey became continuous, surveying 16,000 adults per annum. Prior to 2008 the survey was conducted in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2004 and 2006, surveying less than 5,000 people on each occasion.

The main aims of the survey are to provide a measure of crime in Scotland that is complementary to police recorded statistics; to examine the trends in the extent and nature of crime over time; to examine the risk of becoming a victim to crime; and to collect information on a number of crime-related issues.

Estimates produced by the survey complement the official police recorded crime statistics by estimating the extent of crimes which are experienced by households and individuals regardless of whether they are reported to, or recorded by, the police.

Further detailed information on the Scottish Crime and Victimization can be found here- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/12094216/0>

Scottish House Condition Survey

This is the largest single housing research project in Scotland, and the only national survey to look at the physical condition of Scotland's homes as well as the experiences of householders.

The current survey fieldwork period is January 2008 to December 2008. The survey combines both an interview with occupants and a physical inspection of dwellings to build a picture of Scotland's occupied housing stock which covers all types of dwellings across the entire country - whether owned or rented, flats or houses.

Further detailed information on the Scottish House Condition Survey can be found here-

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS>

Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours Survey

Results from the 2008 Scottish Government Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours Survey are due in Spring 2009.

Prior to the 2008 survey, the 2002 survey of Public Attitudes to the Environment in Scotland provided data on the environmental knowledge, actions and attitudes of a sample of the Scottish population allowing analysis of the data collected by a number of key population sub-groups and by geographic location.

The survey was commissioned by the Scottish Executive, in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission. A representative sample of over 4,000 people throughout Scotland was surveyed between February and June 2002. Households were selected using a multi-stage stratified approach and the sample was drawn from a 'cleaned' version of the Postcode Address File (PAF) of residential addresses.

Key findings of the survey were published on 29 November 2002 and the main survey report was published on 27 January 2005.

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. Although this is a UK wide survey it does have a significant Scottish element and is still seen to be one of the major surveys in Scotland. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.

ONS publishes full UK Labour Force Survey results. However, the fieldwork is carried out separately; by ONS for England, Scotland, and Wales, and by the Central Survey Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

The survey seeks information on respondents' personal circumstances and their labour market status during a specific reference period, normally a period of one week or four weeks immediately prior to the interview.

The survey is based on a systematic random sample design which makes it representative of the whole of Great Britain. Each quarter's sample of 60,000 private households is made up of 5 'waves', each of approximately 12,000 households. Households are interviewed face-to-face when first included in the survey and by telephone thereafter.

Further information on The Labour Force Survey can be found here-
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Source.asp?vlnk=358&More=Y>