

## **Data Collection Exercises – reasons for not yet completing Scotland's Census and CCS hard refusals**

### **1) Reasons for not yet completing Scotland's Census**

**Process :** Over the period 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, Census Field Force continued to support householders who had yet to complete their Census form to do so. As part of this work, Field Force invited these householders to comment on the reasons they had not yet completed.

The Field Force colleagues then classified these responses into some broader categories, or a more general 'Other'.

#### **The Question asked :**

It is really helpful to the Census to understand the reasons why you have not yet been able to complete a Census return.

*If the householder is not completing a doorstep data capture with you:*

- Could you please tell me why you haven't completed the Census?

*If the householder is completing a doorstep data capture with you:*

- Could you please tell me why you hadn't completed the Census until today?

**Results :** The data collection exercise provides some interesting information on the sorts of reasons as to why householders who had not returned their Census form, had been unable to do so.

The data collection collates the views of the 1,213 householders who provided their thoughts. As such it provides a useful insight into the motivation of these householders who had yet to complete their Census.

Reason given	Overall	Male	Female	Aged 16-40	Aged 41-65	Aged over 65
Not aware of the Census	17.3%	19.3%	15.7%	25.0%	10.6%	8.2%
They didn't see the point of the Census	6.8%	10.8%	3.3%	6.4%	8.2%	3.7%
Didn't realise they had to complete it	14.0%	14.8%	13.5%	16.5%	11.8%	11.1%
They were concerned about privacy and confidentiality of their data	2.6%	3.0%	2.1%	1.9%	3.2%	3.0%
They tried to complete online but couldn't	5.9%	4.9%	6.8%	4.4%	5.3%	14.1%
They were concerned that the information they provide might be used against them	2.3%	2.8%	1.9%	1.0%	3.6%	2.2%
They wanted a paper form but couldn't get one	4.4%	3.7%	5.1%	2.7%	4.0%	13.3%
They were too busy	35.3%	31.9%	38.1%	38.3%	39.9%	7.4%
They didn't want to answer some of the questions	3.2%	3.7%	2.9%	1.5%	5.3%	3.7%
They had a general distrust of Government	4.5%	7.3%	2.1%	2.9%	6.5%	5.2%
They thought the questions were too complicated	2.6%	2.1%	3.0%	1.5%	3.2%	5.2%
They needed help but didn't know where to get help	4.5%	3.3%	5.7%	2.5%	3.8%	16.3%
Other	30.0%	29.4%	30.5%	27.7%	28.3%	45.9%
Columns do not add up to 100% due to the multiple response option						
Other - contains a wide range of comments which weren't considered to sit within the other response categories.						

Number of householders who provided views :

1,213 householders : 574 men, 632 females : blank (7)

Estimated ages : 16- 40 (593) : 41 – 65 (474) : over 65 (135) : blank (11)

## **2) Understanding reasons for Census Coverage Survey hard refusals**

Just over 10,900 households that were contacted refused unequivocally to participate in the CCS. The 10,280 households that issued a 'hard refusal' and provided a reason for doing so fall into five broad categories:

- 41% not interested in participating in the survey
- 19% indicated that they had already taken part in the census, or indicated a language barrier to completion
- 18% too busy to participate in the survey.
- 15% refusal was associated with old age, infirmity, disability, or illness
- 7% other general refusal with little detail or further information