

**Scotland's Census 2021
Labour Market
Topic Event Summary**

March 2018

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1. Main Points

The Labour Market Topic includes some of the most widely used census variables. In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF) National Records of Scotland (NRS) proposed to continue to collect information on Labour Market Topic in Scotland's Census 2021.

The report stated that NRS would gather further information on a number of areas to better understand the exact nature of user need.

NRS held a stakeholder event to gather information on user need for a number of Labour Market sub-topics.

Supervisory Status

Stakeholders at this event identified a strong need for UK data comparability. Some need for continuity with Scotland's Census 2011 data was identified, however this was not as strong as the need for UK consistency.

Year Last Worked

All stakeholders at this event had a preference for comparability with the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, over continuity with the Scotland's Census 2011 data.

Hours Worked

Stakeholders at this event agreed that a banded hours worked question (rather than an open text box response) would meet their need. Some commented that it would be interesting to have the extra detail provided by the 2011 NRS question, however it was clarified that this was an interest, not a requirement.

Address of place of work or study

Stakeholders indicated that it was very important to know that people travelled offshore but less important to know where they travelled offshore from.

Stakeholders stated that for those who both work and study it is most important to know where they spend most time.

Method of travel to work or study

Stakeholders were asked to comment on the wording, grouping and ordering of the response options in this question. Stakeholders suggested small changes to some response options and stated that response options should be grouped by similar types of travel: active, public and private transport.

2. Introduction

2.1 Topic Consultation

National Records of Scotland (NRS) invited views on [Scotland's Census 2021 – Topic Consultation](#) (PDF) between 8 October 2015 and 15 January 2016. The consultation document presented the initial views from NRS on the topics under consideration for collection in the census in 2021, with the aim of encouraging discussion and to help build strong cases to justify the inclusion of topics.

The consultation was a key step towards understanding what information users will need from the census in 2021. The focus of the consultation was on information required at topic-level, not the detail of the questions that should be asked on the questionnaire.

In order to develop the question set that will be recommended for inclusion in the census questionnaire, NRS is working with stakeholders and undertaking research, question testing and consideration of acceptable burden. The final decision on the content of Scotland's Census 2021 questionnaire will ultimately be made by the Scottish Parliament. NRS will make recommendations on content to parliament, likely in late 2018.

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

ONS and NISRA published responses to the consultations on the content for the 2021 Censuses in England & Wales¹ and Northern Ireland² in 2016.

2.2 Topic Consultation Follow-up Event

In the Topic Consultation, NRS outlined the next steps for each topic or sub-topic where question changes or new questions may be required. For the Labour Market Topic this included further discussion with stakeholders to better understand the exact nature of user need.

We recognised that it was vital to ensure that our follow-up discussions included a wide range of stakeholders. Respondents to the Topic Consultation who indicated that they were happy to be contacted by NRS about Labour Market were invited to attend a Topic Consultation follow-up event on 19 December 2017.

Footnotes

1) 'The 2021 Census – Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales: response to consultation' [2021 Census topic consultation - Office for National Statistics](#)

2) 'Assessment of the responses received – Response to Consultation' [2021 Census Topic consultation – Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#)

The event was also widely promoted through the [Scotland's Census newsletter](#) which has a distribution list of around 2,000 contacts.

In order to capture the requirements of users who could not attend the event, and to capture further detailed requirements from those who did, NRS will be continuing to engage with stakeholders about Education and Labour Market census questions and outputs as we plan for Scotland's Census 2021.

The materials from the [Education and Labour Market Event](#) held on 19 December 2017 are available on the Scotland's Census website.

This report summarises the discussion with stakeholders from the Labour Market Topic Event. NRS have now incorporated Travel as a sub-topic of the Labour Market Topic and so these questions were also discussed during the event and are summarised in this document.

The report summarising further discussion with stakeholders about the Education Topic can be found on the [Education and Labour Market Event](#) page on the Scotland's Census website.

3. Labour Market

3.1 Introduction

The Labour Market Topic includes some of the most widely used census variables. Occupation, National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-Sec) and Industry are used extensively by a range of stakeholders for key economic analyses. They inform policy and underpin service planning and delivery and are important factors in exploring inequalities and differences in social conditions for particular population sub-groups at local area level.

In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF) NRS proposed to continue to collect information on the following sub-topics within the Labour Market Topic in 2021: Occupation, National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-Sec) and Industry, Year Last Worked, Supervisory Status and Hours Worked.

The report stated that NRS would gather further information on a number of areas to better understand the exact nature of user need.

While Scotland's Census 2021 will be primarily online, NRS is aware that there are populations for whom completing the census online would not be suitable and so there will still be a paper questionnaire. Therefore, as well as user needs, NRS need to consider space constraints (for the paper questionnaire) and respondent burden, both for those who complete on paper and for those who complete online.

In Scotland's Census 2011 there were 14 questions included in the Labour Market section (not including questions on travel), which covered over a page of the paper questionnaire. This is over a quarter of the space in the questionnaire for individuals.

NRS are working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who are reviewing the question set as a whole. The aims of this work are to investigate whether there is scope to reduce respondent burden, save space in the paper questionnaire and improve data quality while still meeting key user needs.

In particular, considerations include how data on supervisory status, hours worked and year last worked are collected and produced. As well as consideration of these sub-topics the composition of, and routing through, the question set as a whole are being reviewed.

The sub-topics being considered were discussed individually at the event on 19 December 2017 and the following sections are a summary of the discussions held around them.

3.2 Supervisory Status

Stakeholders were asked whether UK data comparability or continuity with Scotland's Census 2011 data was more important for their needs. While some need was identified for consistency with Scotland's Census 2011 data, stronger requirements were identified for UK comparability.

3.2.1 Introduction

Scotland's Census 2011 asked the following question about supervisory status:

Figure 1. Scotland's Census 2011 Supervisory Status Question

Do (did) you supervise any employees?
 ♦ Supervision involves overseeing the work of other employees on a day-to-day basis.

Yes No

Data from the Supervisory Status Question was used, along with Occupation and other variables, to create the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) which gives an indication of socio-economic position. The function of the Supervisory Status data within the NS-SeC variable is to split respondents between the following columns, for certain occupations:

Table 1. Supervisory Status effect on NS-SeC

Occupation	NS-SeC if a supervisor	NS-Sec if not a supervisor
Occupation X	Higher supervisory occupations	Intermediate occupations
Occupation Y	Lower supervisory occupations	Lower technical occupations
		Semi routine occupations
		Routine occupations

For example, in [Table 1](#) above, if a respondent's occupation was 'X' their NS-SeC would either be 'Higher supervisory' if they were a supervisor, or 'Intermediate' if they were not a supervisor.

In the Topic Consultation support was received for continuing to collect information on supervisory status. Less use of this information was reported compared to the key labour market sub-topics of occupation and industry. However, a number of key users offered support for its inclusion as an important contributory variable to producing a high-quality NS-SeC classification.

ONS have been working with academics to explore options for deriving a NS-SeC that would still meet user needs for continuity. One of these options is a census specific NS-SeC matrix. Academics are using the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010 data to estimate the impact of moving to a census specific matrix. Their early findings suggest that a census specific matrix would correctly derive 92.6% of the 13 operational classes. This research is on-going.³

If ONS propose to use a census specific matrix to derive NS-SeC in 2021, NRS would consider this as well as this would keep Scottish data comparable with data from the rest of the UK, reduce respondent burden and reduce space taken up in the paper questionnaire.

Incorporating these changes would reduce comparability with supervisory status data from Scotland's Census 2011. However, the Government Statistical Society (GSS) are reviewing the Standard Occupation Codes which are used to create the NS-SeC data and will be publishing their reviewed classification codes before 2021. As the new GSS classification will be used to create the outputs from the 2021 census, the NS-SeC data may not be entirely comparable with 2011 even if an identical supervisory status question were asked in Scotland's Census 2021.

3.2.2 Discussion

Stakeholders were asked to have a short discussion around their use of the supervisory status data, both by itself and as part of the NS-SeC data.

Stakeholders were asked whether their user needs could still be met despite the reduction in comparability with the 2011 data that using a census specific matrix would cause. In particular, they were asked to consider whether comparability with UK 2021 data or Scotland's Census 2011 data would be of more importance for their work.

The majority of the stakeholders who use supervisory status in their work (either directly or through use of NS-SeC) said that UK comparability would be of highest

³ ONS Research Update – December 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchdecember2017>

importance to them and that they would be happy to have a minor reduction in continuity over time to ensure UK comparability.

While some need was identified for consistency with 2011, stronger requirements were identified for UK comparability.

3.3 Year Last Worked

Stakeholders were asked whether comparability with Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, or continuity with Scotland's Census 2011 data, was more important for their needs. All stakeholders preferred comparability with the LFS data, over continuity with the Scotland's Census 2011 data.

Stakeholders were shown some potential options for a Year Last Worked Question and asked to comment on them. In general stakeholders thought that the simplest wording would be best for this question and preferred suggested options that included a reference date.

3.3.1 Introduction

Scotland's Census 2011 asked the following question about year last worked:

Figure 2. Scotland's Census 2011 Year Last Worked Question

Have you ever worked?

Yes, please write in the year you last worked

No, have never worked

→ Go to 30

→ Go to 38

This question was only asked of those who had previously stated that they were unemployed. Information from this question was used to produce data on whether respondents had ever worked or whether they were long or short-term unemployed.

Similarly to supervisory status, the Topic Consultation showed that there was support for the continued collection of information on year last worked. Much less use of this information was reported compared with other major labour market sub-topics. One use of this data was through NS-SeC as it also allows identification of the long-term unemployed within NS-SeC.

Due to the way the census question was asked, the 2011 census definition of 'long-term unemployed' differs to that of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The LFS classifies respondents as 'long-term unemployed' if they have not worked in the last 12 months whereas the 2011 census classifies respondents as 'long-term unemployed' if they have not worked for at least the past 15 months⁴.

Figure 3. Comparison of 2011 Census and LFS Long-Term Unemployment Definitions

		Census	LFS
...	...	Long-term unemployed	Long-term unemployed
2009	October		
2009	November		
2009	December		
2010	January	Short-term unemployed	Long-term unemployed
2010	February		
2010	March		
2010	April	Short-term unemployed	Short-term unemployed
2010	May		
2010	June		
2010	July		
2010	August		
2010	September		
2010	October		
2010	November		
2010	December		
2011	January		
2011	February		
2011	March		

Since the census took place at the end of March 2011, those who had last worked between January and March 2010 would have been categorised as 'short-term unemployed' by the census, whereas the LFS would have categorised them as 'long-term unemployed', as shown in Figure 3.

NRS are working with ONS and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to create a question which aligns the census definition of 'long-term unemployed' with the LFS definition. This change would reduce comparability with year last worked data from Scotland's Census 2011, including data on NS-SeC.

3.3.2 Discussion

Stakeholders were asked to have a short discussion around their use of the year last worked data, both by itself and as part of the NS-SeC data.

⁴ This is because the 2011 Census question only collected respondents' last year (rather than month, or date) of work. The census classifies respondents as 'long-term unemployed' if their last year of work is 2009 or earlier. As census day was in March in 2011, those classified as being in 'long-term unemployment' had not worked for at least 15 months before census day.

They were asked to consider, with regards to long-term unemployment, whether comparability with the LFS data or Scotland's Census 2011 data, would be of more importance for their work.

All stakeholders present had a preference for comparability with the LFS data, over continuity with the Scotland's Census 2011 data.

Stakeholders were shown three versions of a Year Last Worked Question which would align the census and LFS 'long-term unemployed' definitions and were asked to review and discuss them.

Figure 4. Potential Year Last Worked Question – Option 1

Option 1

28 Have you worked since 27 March 2010?

Yes

No, but worked before 27 March 2010

No, have never worked → Go to **40**

Figure 5. Potential Year Last Worked Question – Option 2

Option 2

28 Have you ever worked?

Yes, since 27 March 2010 → Go to **29**

Yes, before 27 March 2010 → Go to **29**

No, have never worked → Go to **40**

Figure 6. Potential Year Last Worked Question – Option 3

Option 3

28 Have you ever worked?

Yes, less than a year ago → Go to **29**

Yes, more than a year ago → Go to **29**

No → Go to **40**

Advantages and disadvantages raised for each option are shown in

Table 2.

In general stakeholders thought that the simplest wording would be best and that for this reason Option 2 or Option 1 were thought to be best.

Table 2. Advantages and Disadvantages of Potential Year Last Worked Questions

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier for employed people as they just tick the first option and are finished with question. • Simpler • Less confusing 	
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More precise • More scope to “get it in the ballpark” • Less scope to “feel judged” • Feels more affirmative for those ticking second option • Clear distinction between have worked and haven't worked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There might be confusion over which box to tick on the paper questionnaire (may wish to tick both 'yes' boxes)
Option 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There might be confusion over which box to tick on the paper questionnaire (may wish to tick both 'yes' boxes) • May give vague information, i.e. people thinking of “about a year ago” rather than a specific date • Too imprecise and does not encourage being precise • Respondents may find it difficult to know when a year ago was

None of the options shown included a box for a date to be written in and so the specific number of years since a respondent had last worked would not be able to be calculated. Stakeholders who commented on this said that there was no user need for determining specific number of years of unemployment.

3.4 Hours Worked

Stakeholders were asked to consider whether data from a question with four bands of hours worked (like those asked in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2011), rather than an open text box (like the one asked in Scotland in 2011), would meet their needs. The four bands used by ONS and NISRA in 2011 would meet the needs of all stakeholders present. Some commented that it would be interesting to have the extra detail provided by the 2011 NRS question, however it was clarified that this was an interest, not a requirement.

3.4.1 Introduction

Scotland's Census 2011 asked the following question about year last worked:

Figure 7. Scotland's Census 2011 Year Last Worked Question

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

◆ Include paid and unpaid overtime.

Number of hours worked in a typical week

In the Topic Consultation good evidence was provided for a continuing need for information on hours worked. Information on working patterns is frequently used by a range of stakeholders in conjunction with the other key labour market sub-topics, to contribute to analysis of economic activity at local area level. NRS therefore proposed to continue to collect information on hours worked in the census in 2021.

The questions asked in England & Wales, and Northern Ireland in 2011 were slightly different to the one asked in Scotland. The main difference being that they used four bands of hours worked rather than an open text box:

Figure 8. England and Wales 2011 Hours Worked Question

42 In your main job, how many hours a week (including paid and unpaid overtime) do you usually work?

15 or less

16 - 30

31 - 48

49 or more

Figure 9. Northern Ireland 2011 Hours Worked Question

42 In your main job, how many hours a week do (did) you usually work?

➔ Include paid and unpaid overtime.

15 or less 16 - 30

31 - 48 49 or more

NRS is reviewing the detail of the information which needs to be collected in Scotland's Census 2021; specifically whether asking a banded hours question would meet user need.

The question asked in Scotland can provide more detailed data about number of hours worked per week. However, it does have a higher respondent burden; as calculating the exact number of hours usually worked is more difficult than estimating to within a 15 hour (or more) band.

There is also an operational disadvantage that the question asked in Scotland has a higher coding burden.

The 'part-time'/'full-time' split which is used in the economic activity variable can be created from the four bands in the ONS and NISRA 2011 questions and 50 per cent of output tables from Scotland's Census 2011 (which used hours worked on its own, rather than as part of the economic activity variable) could have been created using these bands.

3.4.2 Discussion

Stakeholders were asked to consider their use of the hours worked data, and indicate whether the four bands (15 or less, 16-30, 31-48, 49 or more) would meet their needs or whether they have a need for the extra detail that a question in the style of the one asked in Scotland's Census 2021 can provide.

A short questionnaire was available for anyone who said that they needed more detail than the four bands so that they could provide further information about their use of the data. This was also made available as an [online survey](#).

No stakeholders present needed more detail than the four bands. Some commented that they were only interested in splitting part-time from full-time and so the bands would be sufficient.

There were some comments that it would be interesting to have the more detailed data but it was clarified that this was an interest, not a requirement.

Some stakeholders commented that they were not sure what classified 'full-time' rather than 'part-time'. One stakeholder commented that some surveys classify 25 or more hours as full-time. In Scotland's Census 2011, 31 hours or more was classed as full-time. This has been identified as an area for further investigation.

Comments around the question wording were made, such as that it would be better to ask about total hours worked in a week, as opposed to in the main job, given the rise in numbers of people working several part-time jobs.

There was also discussion around whether the question should ask about contracted hours or actual hours worked.

4. Travel

4.1 Introduction

The Labour Market topic includes a pair of questions on Travel: Work or Study Address and Method of Travel to Place of Work or Study. The questions asked on travel in Scotland's Census 2011 are shown below:

Figure 10. Scotland's Census 2011 – Address of Place of Work or Study Question - Paper

11 What address do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?

- ◆ Answer for the place where you spend the most time.
- ◆ If you report to a depot, please write in the depot address.

Not currently working or studying → Go to **13**
 Work or study mainly at, or from, home → Go to **13**
 No fixed place
 Work on an offshore installation - please use the address panel below to write in where you travel offshore from, for example "ABERDEEN HARBOUR"
 The address below, please write in

Postcode

Figure 11. Scotland's Census 2011 – Method of Travel to Work or Study Question - Paper

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

Information on address of place of work is widely used by local government and public bodies as an important input to many transport planning projects. It is vital for the production of origin-destination statistics which inform the work of transport consultations, strategy and policy work, and are used with information on migration to determine housing market and travel to work areas.

Method of transport data is similarly widely used by local government and public bodies for transport planning. It is used to inform transport and active travel strategies which feed into policy and investment decisions.

In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF) NRS proposed to continue to collect information on both Work or Study Address and Method of Travel to Place of Work or Study, in 2021.

During the Topic Consultation some concern was noted by users about the effect on data quality created by asking combined questions on travel to both work and study and so NRS proposed to undertake work to look at asking two separate pairs of questions for potential inclusion in 2021: one for work and one for study.

NRS investigated the possibility of separating the two pairs of questions. As part of this investigation data quality and respondent burden were considered. While Scotland's Census 2021 will be primarily online, NRS is aware that there are populations for whom completing the census online would not be suitable, and so there will still be a paper questionnaire. Therefore, space constraints for the paper questionnaire were also considered.

The outcome of this investigation was that, while data quality may be improved by asking two separate pairs of questions, the increase in respondent burden and the amount of space this would take up in the paper questionnaire outweigh the benefits.

Therefore, NRS intend to improve the data quality through guidance and question wording.

The following sections are a summary of the discussions held at the event on 19 December 2017 around the travel questions.

4.2 Address of Place of Work or Study

Stakeholders were asked what their data needs were for those working offshore. Stakeholders indicated that it was very important to know that people travelled offshore but less important to know where they travelled offshore from.

Stakeholders were asked what their data needs were for those who both work and study. Stakeholders stated that for those who both work and study it is most important to know where they spend most time.

4.2.1 Introduction

The following question on address of place of work or study was included in NRS's 2017 quantitative testing. The wording of the question stem and guidance are the same as the Scotland's Census 2011 question.

Figure 12. Scotland's Census Question Testing 2017 – Address of Place of Work or Study Question - Paper

26 What address do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?

- ◆ Answer for the place where you spend the most time
- ◆ If you report to a depot, please write in the depot address

Not currently working or studying, including retired → Go to 28

Work mainly at, or from, home → Go to 28

Distance learning, home schooled or equivalent → Go to 28

No fixed place → Go to 27

Work on an offshore installation – please write where you travel offshore from, for example “ABERDEEN HARBOUR”

The address below, please write in

Postcode

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The address entered above is my place of

Work Study

Table 3 details changes from the Scotland's Census 2011 question..

Table 3. Changes Between the 2011 Census, and 2017 Testing, Address of Place of Work or Study Question

Change	Reason
The first response option was amended to include “including retired”.	Cognitive testing showed that retired people were among those who found this question the most difficult to answer because they did not know which response option to choose.
“Working or studying mainly at, or from, home” was split into two response options: “Work mainly at, or from, home” and “Distance learning, home schooled or equivalent”.	Quality issues in 2011 suggested that misunderstanding of this question resulted in an over count of students who study mainly at or from home. This change is intended to improve understanding and, therefore, reduce this over count. It will also allow a better split between data on those working and those studying, than the 2011 question did.
Routing was added to the “No fixed place” response option.	For those with ‘No fixed place’ of work or study, no address is necessary.
The wording of the ‘offshore installation’ response option was simplified.	This change reduces the length of the question and is intended to be simpler to read and understand, therefore reducing respondent burden.

A second section was added which asked whether the information given above is about work or study.

This is the most significant change to the question and is intended to allow a better split between data on those working and those studying, than the 2011 question did.

The online version of this question was asked over two pages (Figure 13 and Figure 14):

Figure 13. Scotland's Census Question Testing 2017 - Place of Work or Study Question - Online

Q26. Where do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?

- Not currently working or studying, including retired
- Work mainly at, or from, home
- Distance learning, home schooled or equivalent
- No fixed place
- Work on an offshore installation
- Work or study at a fixed address or report to a depot

◀ Previous Stop ■ Next question ▶

Figure 14. Scotland's Census Question Testing 2017 - Address of Place of Work or Study Question - Online

Q26b. Please enter the address you usually travel to for your main job or course of study (including school):

- Answer for the place where you spend the most time
- If you report to a depot please enter the depot address
- If you work on an offshore installation please enter where you travel offshore from, for example "ABERDEEN HARBOUR"

First line:

Second line:

Third line:

Town/City:

County:

Postcode:

Is the address above your place of work or place of study?

- Work
- Study

◀ Previous Stop ■ Next question ▶

The first four response options were the same as the paper version of the question in testing. The last two response options were changed to fit the online format. Respondents were only shown the second page if they select one of the last two response options on the first page.

While initial testing shows that this question improved respondent understanding in general, some respondents still found this question confusing. This was particularly evident with respondents who were not currently working or studying who felt that the question assumed they were working or studying, rather than asking them whether they were or not.

NRS are working to create a version of the question which both increases data quality and reduces respondent burden as much as possible. Working with results from question testing, NRS have created the alternative pair of questions shown in Figure 15 and Figure 16. These questions have not been formally tested but were discussed at the event to gauge whether stakeholders thought that they would sufficiently meet their needs.

Figure 15. Alternative Place of Work or Study Question

Q26. Do you regularly travel to a place where you work or study (including school)?
 ♦ *This includes school, college, university and any fixed place of work including working from a depot or an offshore installation*

Yes
 No – not currently working or studying (including retired)
 No – work or study at, or from, home
 No – no fixed place

Note: this mock up does not show separate response options for working or studying at home, this is a consideration that could still be made for this question if this format were to be taken forward.

Figure 16. Alternative Address of Work or Study Question

Q26b. Please enter the address you usually travel to for your main job or course of study (including school):
 ♦ *Answer for the place where you spend the most time*
 ♦ *If you report to a depot, please write in the depot address*
 ♦ *If you work on an offshore installation please enter the address you travel offshore from, for example "ABERDEEN HARBOUR"*

Postcode

Is the address entered above your place of work or place of study?

Work
 Study

In this case only respondents who select 'Yes' on the first page (Figure 15) would be shown the second page (Figure 16).

A key difference with this version is that rather than assuming respondents do travel to a place of work or study, it asks whether they do.

The majority of the population do travel to a place of work or study, and this version of the question reduces burden for this population sub-group.

4.2.2 Discussion

Respondents were asked to discuss the following areas, each of which will be summarised below, to gather further information on user need:

- Offshore Workers
- Information collected from those who both work and study.

Offshore workers

In 2011 respondents who worked on an offshore installation were asked to enter the address they travelled offshore from, in the available address box. This guidance was also included in the question tested in 2017.

However, this information was never output from the Scotland's Census 2011 data. Those working offshore were grouped as 'Other' in outputs about distance travelled to work or study, along with those with 'no fixed place' of work or study, and those who worked or studied outside of the UK.

No work/study address was collected for those working offshore in the questions asked by ONS and NISRA in 2011 (Figure 17 and Figure 18).

Figure 17. England and Wales 2011 Question on Work Address

40 In your main job, what is the address of your workplace?

↻ If you work at or from home, on an offshore installation, or have no fixed workplace, tick one of the boxes below

↻ If you report to a depot, write in the depot address

Postcode

OR

Mainly work at or from home

Offshore installation

No fixed place

Figure 18. Northern Ireland 2011 Question on Work or Study Address

43 What address do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?

➤ Answer for the place where you spend the most time.

➤ If you report to a depot, write in the depot address.

Not currently working or studying → Go to **45**

Work or study mainly at or from home → Go to **45**

No fixed place

Offshore installation

The address below, write in

Country _____

Postcode _____

At the event on 19 December, NRS asked stakeholders to discuss what data is needed from those who work offshore.

The stakeholders who commented on this indicated that it was very important to know that people travelled offshore but less important to know where they travelled offshore from. It was commented that this would be 'nice to have' but not essential.

Information collected from those who both work and study

As this question asks for information about both work and study, considerations need to be made about what information is required of those who both work and study.

The 2011 NRS and NISRA questions stated that respondents should refer to their 'main job or course of study'. The guidance indicated that they should refer to the place where they spend the most time.

Therefore, if a respondent both worked and studied, they would answer for whichever activity they spend most time doing.

The table below shows what the questions aim to collect for those working, studying and those doing both:

		Work		
		Not working	Part-time	Full-time
Study	Not studying	N/A	Work	Work
	Part-time	Study	Whichever they do most	Work
	Full-time	Study	Study	Whichever they do most

An alternative, would be to ask this question in a similar way to the question used by the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) which asks about method of transport using the following wording:

'How do you usually travel to work (or school/college/university, if in full-time education)?'

The corresponding question for address of place of work or study would be:

'What address do you travel to for your main job (or course of study, if in full-time education)?'

The following table shows what each the SHS style question would aim to collect for those working, studying and those doing both.

The yellow cells indicate differences between what the SHS style question and the 2011 Census question intend to capture. The red cell indicates data that would not be collected by the SHS style question.

		Work		
		Not working	Part-time	Full-time
Study	Not studying	N/A	Work	Work
	Part-time	-	Work	Work
	Full-time	Study	Study	Study

Changing to the wording in the SHS-style question may improve respondents' understanding of how to answer, due to clearer instruction; however, it would change what information is intended to be collected. There would be three key differences:

1. Changing to the SHS style question would mean losing data for those who do not work but do study part-time.
2. For those who both work and study part-time, the SHS style question would aim to collect their work address, no matter which activity they did more.

3. For those who both work and study full-time, the SHS style question would aim to collect their study address, no matter which activity they did more.

For difference 1, guidance could be added to the SHS style question to instruct those not working but studying part-time to give their study address. Whether differences 2 and 3 are positive or negative depends on the user need for data on those who are both working and studying.

NRS asked stakeholders to discuss what information they need from those who both work and study and whether the SHS style question would meet their needs.

While some stakeholders considered consistency with the SHS important, the majority of stakeholders preferred the Scotland's Census 2011 question to the SHS style question discussed.

Most stated that for those who both work and study it would be most important to know about where they spend most time as this is more important for transport planning and comparison with other variables, for example method of transport for commuting statistics.

Stakeholders discussed that knowing whether the address given was for a place of work or a place of study would be valuable for transport planning and commuting statistics. Some stakeholders commented that the additional tick boxes (discussed in [3.2](#)) which indicate whether the address given was for place of work or place of study, are simple but effective.

Other comments about this question included that it is important to have data on respondents who work from home separate from data on people who study from home. The question tested in 2017 would meet this need but the SHS style question discussed would not.

4.3 Method of Travel

Stakeholders were asked to comment on the wording, grouping and ordering of the response options in this question. Stakeholders suggested small changes to some response options including removing 'metro' and 'light rail' from the 'Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram' response option and adding 'private hire' to the 'Taxi' response option.

Stakeholders stated that response options should be grouped by similar types of travel: active, public and private transport.

4.3.1 Introduction

The following question on method of travel to place or work or study was included in NRS's 2017 quantitative testing (Figure 19 and Figure 20):

Figure 19. Scotland's Census Testing 2017 – Method of Travel to Work or Study Question - Paper

27 How do you usually travel to your main job or course of study (including school)?

- ◆ Answer for your usual travel to the place where you spend the most time
- ◆ Tick the box for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey to work or study
- ◆ Tick **one** box only

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

Figure 20. Scotland's Census Testing 2017 – Method of Travel to Work or Study Question - Online

Q27. How do you usually travel to your main job or course of study (including school)?

- Answer for your usual travel to the place where you spend the most time
- Answer for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey to work or study
- Select **one** only

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

◀ Previous Stop Next question ▶

The only change from the question asked in Scotland's Census 2011 was the addition of a piece of guidance instructing respondents to 'Answer for [their] usual travel to the place where [they] spend the most time'.

4.3.2 Discussion

Across time, and between the UK censuses, there have been differences between the wording and order of response options for this question.

For most questions the response options are ordered either alphabetically or by population size. However, for some questions the order of the response options is

arranged to avoid confusion and help respondents be able to easily find the response they identify with. The question on method of transport is one where neither of the standard orders (alphabetical or by population size) are intuitive.

NRS asked stakeholders to discuss the response options, in particular:

- Whether any response options are missing
- Whether any response options need rewording and whether methods are correctly grouped within response options
- What the best order for the response options would be

Stakeholders were given cards with all existing response options and were asked to order them in a way that they thought was appropriate for the question. Blank cards were available to add any new response options necessary and stakeholders were encouraged to write on the existing response option cards if they felt that amendments were needed.

In general, stakeholders were fairly happy with the existing wording and groupings of the response options. Their comments on the specific areas mentioned above, are shown below:

Missing Response Options

Respondents thought the following methods of travel were missing from the existing response options:

- Private hire cabs
- Uber
- Car sharing and Car clubs (car not owned/regularly used by a person)
- Bike sharing (e.g. 'Boris Bikes')
- Electric cars
- Ferry

Stakeholders decided that some of these methods could be covered in the additional guidance, for example 'Uber' and 'Car Sharing'. However, stakeholders suggested that some of the other methods 'Private hire' should be added to existing response options. One stakeholder suggested that 'Ferry' should be added as an additional response option.

Wording and Grouping

Stakeholders suggested small changes to two of the response options. Stakeholders suggested removing 'metro' and 'light rail' from the 'Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram' response option as these methods either do not exist in Scotland, or people do not refer to them by these terms. Guidance could be added for people living in Scotland but working elsewhere who use, for example, the Newcastle Metro.

As discussed above, stakeholders suggested adding 'private hire' to the 'Taxi' response option to cover privately hired minibuses, Uber and similar methods.

Table 4. Suggested Wording Changes for the Method of Travel Question

2011 Wording	Suggestion
'Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram'	'Underground, subway, or tram'
'Taxi'	'Taxi or private hire'

Stakeholders were happy with the existing groupings within the response options.

Order

Stakeholders felt that response options should be grouped on similar types of travel. The reason for this was to avoid mis-ticks, i.e. respondents searching for their method ticking the first similar type of transport in the list. For example, 'On foot' should be grouped with 'Bicycle' as these are both active types of travel.

Each group of stakeholders grouped the methods into active, public and private transport. However, the discussion groups gave different suggestions for how these three groups should be ordered.

Table 5. Order of Response Options for the Method of Travel Questions – Suggestions by Three Groups of Stakeholders

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus, minibus or coach • Underground, subway, or tram • Train • Taxi or private hire • Passenger in car or van • Driving in car or van • Motorcycle • On foot • Bicycle • Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving in a car or van • Passenger in car or van • Taxi • Bus, minibus or coach • Train • Underground, subway or tram • Motorcycle, scooter or moped • Bicycle • On foot • Ferry • Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving a car or van • Passenger in a car or van • Motorcycle, scooter or moped • On foot • Bicycle • Bus, minibus or coach • Train • Taxi • Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram • Other

Group 1 suggested moving 'Passenger in a car or van' above 'Driving in a car or van' to prevent confusion and mis-ticking, i.e. a respondent who is a passenger seeing the term 'car or van' in the 'Driving in a car or van' response options and ticking it in error. They suggested that 'Taxi' should come above 'Passenger in car or van' for same reason.

Stakeholders were also asked to discuss whether information on method of travel to work or study was needed for those with no fixed place of work or study. Stakeholders suggested that this information was necessary to identify how many people are using each type of transport.

5. Next Steps

NRS are continuing to engage with stakeholders in planning for Scotland's Census 2021. NRS will be updating users on progress as this process continues.

More information and details about upcoming events can be found on the [Scotland's Census website](#), by subscribing to the [Scotland's Census newsletter](#) and following us on Twitter [@NatRecordsScot](#).