

Scotland's Census 2021 Migration Topic Report

Table of Contents

1	Main Points	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Background	5
4	Understanding user need for 2021	5
4.1	2011 Census migration topics	6
4.2	Additional migration topics	6
5	Intent to stay (type of migration)	6
5.1	Background and user need	6
5.2	Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses	8
5.3	Alternative sources	8
5.4	Conclusion	8
6	Reason for migration (type of migration).....	9
6.1	Background and user need	9
6.2	Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses	10
6.3	Alternative sources	10
6.4	Conclusion	12
7	Passports held (citizenship).....	12
7.1	Background and user need	12
7.2	Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses	14
7.3	Alternative sources	15
7.4	Question testing	15
7.5	Conclusion	18
8	Next Steps	18
	Annex A: Country of birth, date of arrival and address one year ago	19
	Annex B: Questions on migration in other UK 2011 censuses – country of birth and date of arrival	24
	Annex C: Alternative sources	26
	Annex D: 2017 Cognitive Testing – Passports held	29
	Annex E: 2017 Quantitative Testing – Passports held	33

1 Main Points

- Scotland's Census 2011 included migration questions on country of birth, date of arrival and address one year ago.
- Strong user need for data on **country of birth, date of arrival and address one year ago** has been identified in Scotland.
- In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF) National Records of Scotland (NRS) proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021. The 2011 Census questions fully meet the majority of user need.
- The consultation identified requirements for additional migration data on intent to stay (type of migration), reason for migration (type of migration), and citizenship.
- Low user need has been identified for **intent to stay**. This type of information is subjective, raising concerns about data quality.
- Moderate user need has been identified for **reason for migration**. There are concerns that the census is the not the most appropriate way of collecting this information.
- Moderate user need has been identified for **passports held** (citizenship). Evidence gathered to date suggests a passports held question is acceptable to the public and gathers good quality data which meets the majority of user needs.
- Research and analysis supports taking the following questions on this subject further at this stage:
 - country of birth,
 - date of arrival in the UK,
 - address one year ago, and
 - passports held (subject to minimising respondent burden).
- The digital first approach for 2021 requires further development and user testing to fully understand the best way to present the questions online to maximise response, minimise respondent burden and ensure good quality data which meets user needs. An on-going programme of question development, focusing on sensitive or complex questions will further inform the specific question wording.

2 Introduction

This topic review sets out the evidence gathered in developing migration questions for Scotland's Census 2021.

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

The 2021 Census will be digital first. The Census 2021 questionnaire must gather high quality data that meets user needs. More information about [key elements of the design](#) for 2021 can be found online.

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

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

Strength of user need

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

Suitability of alternative sources

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

Acceptability, clarity and data quality

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

Comparability

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

Operational considerations

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

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

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

3 Background

Migration is a complex topic of increasing importance and interest. Migration is a key research topic across government. The impacts and outcomes of migration are of major policy interest.

Improving migration estimates is essential for improving estimates of the population. Migration is the most difficult component of population change to estimate.

Migration data are used extensively by users from a range of organisational sectors.

Data are used at all geographical levels. A key benefit of the census is the ability to analyse migration data by other census topics. Many alternative sources of information do not have the capability for cross-tabulation. No alternative source delivers the combination of fine geographical detail and attribute characteristics available from the census.

UK comparability and continuity with previous censuses are important for a large number of users. International migration policy is currently developed on a UK wide basis. Census data on migration are a key indicator of population change over time.

Different questions capture information about different aspects of migration. The 2011 Census asked questions on:

- country of birth;
- date of arrival; and
- address one year ago.

4 Understanding user need for 2021

NRS invited views on [Scotland's Census 2021 – Topic Consultation](#) (PDF) between 8 October 2015 and 15 January 2016. The consultation was a key step towards understanding what information users will need from the census in 2021, and helped to build strong cases to justify the inclusion of topics. The focus of the consultation was on information required at topic-level, not the detail of the questions that should be asked in the questionnaire.

Following the consultation, NRS worked closely with stakeholders through follow-up events, meetings, focus groups and online surveys to gather more detailed information about data requirements to ensure user needs were understood. Information about these events can be found on our [Get Involved pages](#) online.

There were 34 responses received through the Topic Consultation on the subject of migration. A summary of these responses can be found in the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF).

4.1 2011 Census migration topics

Strong support was expressed by users for the continued collection of:

- country of birth;
- date of arrival; and
- address one year ago.

In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF), NRS therefore proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021.

The 2011 Census questions fully meet the majority of user need. No further question development has been considered necessary for these questions. Background information on country of birth, date of arrival, and address one year ago is available in [Annex A](#).

4.2 Additional migration topics

The consultation identified requirements for additional migration data on:

- intent to stay (type of migration),
- reason for migration (type of migration), and
- passports held (citizenship).

A follow-up survey gathered additional information about user need for these migration topics. There were 24 respondents to this survey. Information gathered through the Topic Consultation and follow-up survey has been combined to assist NRS with question development for 2021.

This topic report focuses on the evaluation of evidence for the additional requirements identified in the Topic Consultation.

5 Intent to stay (type of migration)

5.1 Background and user need

5.1.1 Short-term migration

Data from a question on intent to stay in the UK may help identify short term migrants.

Limited support was received for the collection of information on intent to stay in the UK in the Topic Consultation and follow-up work for the purpose of reporting the number of short term migrants.

Home Office Science noted that *“including a question on intended length of stay for those arriving in the year preceding the census will allow short and long term migrants to be considered separately, permitting a more accurate assessment of immigration policies”*.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) commented that this data *“... would be beneficial for planning and delivering local services, e.g. language specific*

services, school places and English as an Additional Language (EAL) services, housing development, health and social care services, information services, transport, and community learning and development”.

However, other users with requirements for better data on short term migration indicated that data collected by the census may not meet their needs for a number of reasons, including:

- *“Census date is March, so does not pick up seasonal migration, which is particularly important in relation to agriculture, hospitality and tourism”*
- *“[migration] data are mobile and hard to capture in a data collection such as the Census”*
- *“The Census is only run every 10 years, so responses will not help with the planning of services etc.”*

5.1.2 Estimation of the usually resident population base

The collection of intent to stay data could potentially contribute to the derivation of a harmonised population enumeration base across the UK.

In 2011 this information was collected in the rest of the UK and used in estimating the usually resident population base for census outputs from the enumeration base.

The usually resident population base was defined for the 2011 Census as: all people who, on the night of 27 March 2011, were resident in Scotland and had been resident, or intended to be resident in the UK for a period of 12 months or more (or who were resident outside the UK but had a permanent Scotland address and intended to be outside the UK for less than a year).

The enumeration base describes who is included in the count of the population. In 2011 all people staying, or expecting to stay in the UK for 6 months or more were enumerated in Scotland.

An adjustment was not deemed to be necessary to account for the difference between the enumeration base and usually resident population base in Scotland. Available evidence indicated that the short term resident population staying between 6 and 12 months would be within the margin of error of the census usually resident population.

Limited support has been received for the collection of information on intent to stay in the UK for the purposes of estimating the usually resident population base for outputs.

At the time of the Topic Consultation, decisions about the enumeration base for Scotland's Census 2021 had not yet been made. NRS agreed to give further consideration to whether a question on intent to stay in the UK should be proposed for collection in 2021 but noted that in the context of minimising respondent burden, trade-offs may be required.

NRS intend to use the same enumeration base as in the 2011 Census. That is, to enumerate all people in Scotland on census night who are staying, or expecting to stay in the UK for 6 months or more. More information can be found in [Scotland's Census 2021 Enumeration Base](#) (PDF).

5.2 Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses

The intent to stay questions included in the 2011 Censuses in England and Wales and Northern Ireland are shown in Figure 1. These questions varied slightly but provided comparable data.

Figure 1: 2011 Census intent to stay questions, England and Wales (left) and Northern Ireland (right) – Paper Questionnaire

<p>12 Including the time you have already spent here, how long do you intend to stay in the United Kingdom?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 months or more but less than 12 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or more</p>	<p>9 Including the time you have already spent in the United Kingdom, how long do you intend to stay in the UK?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 months or more but less than 12 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or more</p>
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The item non-response rate for this question in England and Wales in 2011 was high, at 14.5% ¹. This question was considered to have a medium respondent burden, because respondents have to answer several questions to provide this information and may not know their intended length of stay.

5.3 Alternative sources

Questions on intent to stay are not widely asked in social surveys. The main alternative source of information about short term migration in the UK is the International Passenger Survey (IPS) (Annex C). However, information on short-term migration is typically only available for England and Wales.

The IPS asks about intended length of stay through a series of questions to identify individuals who are medium stay visitors (3 to 6 months), long stay visitors (6 to 12 months) and migrants (12 months or more).

5.4 Conclusion

Research and analysis does not support taking a question on this subject further at this stage.

Low user need has been identified for this topic. There are also concerns about the data quality from an intent to stay question. The question is subjective and difficult for respondents to answer. It is also difficult to assess the robustness of this data without follow-up.

¹ The Office for National Statistics, [2011 Census General Report \(2015\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/howourcensusworks/howdidwedoin2011/2011censusgeneralreport)
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/howourcensusworks/howdidwedoin2011/2011censusgeneralreport>

6 Reason for migration (type of migration)

6.1 Background and user need

The Topic Consultation identified user requirements for data on reason for migration. NRS concluded that further work was required with users to better understand user need for additional information on reason for migration.

Requirements for information about reason for migration were largely split into two groups: reasons for migration of interest primarily for international migration, and reasons for migration of interest primarily for internal migration.

Moderate user need for this information has been identified in Scotland.

6.1.1 International migration

Central government expressed a need for better information about the economic and social contributions and demands made by different groups of migrants, to enable better understanding of their intentions for the future, the contribution they may make to Scotland's demography and workforce and the needs they may have. In particular, that information on asylum and/or refugee status would enable further understanding of the characteristics of different types of migrants.

Other users also expressed a particular interest in capturing information on:

- asylum seekers and refugees;
- movement for family reunion;
- settlement after being a student; and
- work permits.

6.1.2 Internal migration

A number of users expressed that collecting reason for migration data would be useful for understanding domestic migration, especially for areas experiencing population decline. They indicated that this information could provide credible evidence for resource allocation, regional and local planning, housing strategies and to support health, education and transport services.

Reasons for migration of interest included:

- study;
- housing costs
- housing needs; and
- job opportunities.

6.2 Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses

Reason for migration questions have not previously been included in any UK Censuses. Topic Consultations elsewhere in the UK also considered the collection of reason for migration data for the 2021 Censuses.

In their [Topic Consultation Assessment](#) (PDF), NISRA noted that although moderate user need was identified, there are concerns about low numbers, potential difficulties in enumeration and required definitions which raises additional concerns about the amount of available space on the questionnaire.

In their [Topic Consultation](#), ONS indicated that constraints around respondent burden coupled with lower user need means that there is insufficient evidence to include this additional topic ahead of other topics in the 2021 Census. Currently available sources such as the Annual Population Survey and the International Passenger Survey are considered to partially meet the need for information on recent international migrants.

6.3 Alternative sources

Questions on reason for migration are not widely asked in surveys and are not asked in similar ways or of similar populations across the surveys that do capture this information.

6.3.1 International Migration

The Labour Force Survey asks all non-UK born migrants their “main reason for coming to the UK (most recent arrival)” and provides the following response options. This question is also included in the Annual Population Survey.

Labour Force Survey: WHYUK15

What was your main reason for coming to the UK (most recent arrival)?

1. For employment,
2. For study,
3. As a spouse/partner/child under 18 of a UK citizen or person with indefinite leave to remain in the UK,
4. As a spouse/partner/child under 18 of someone coming to the UK or already living here, who does not have indefinite leave to remain,
5. Seeking asylum,
6. As a visitor,
7. Other reasons

Applies if respondent was not born in Britain and is over 16

The International Passenger Survey asks those leaving and arriving in the UK their main reason for visit, to capture both migration and tourism. The IPS also asks former immigrants their previous main reason for immigrating. This captures a large variety of reasons for visit or migration.

For migration these are typically grouped to 'work related' (including 'definite job' and 'looking for work'), 'accompany/join', 'formal study', 'going home to live', 'other' and 'no reason stated'.

For more information about these surveys, see Annex A.

6.3.2 Internal migration

The Scottish Household Survey asks whether respondents "ever lived anywhere else (other than this address)". Respondents are asked a series of questions about their previous home, including address, distance moved, duration of stay at previous address, reason for moving to new area, and tenure and landlord (if applicable) of previous home.

The Scottish Household Survey question on reason for moving to a new area provides a large number of potential response options, as shown below. This question is asked of all respondents who identify that they have lived somewhere else other than their current address. This does not include temporary stays, for example in halls of residence as a student.

Scottish Household Survey: T64

What was/were your reason(s) for moving to this area?

1. To be near family/friends
2. To be close to work/employment
3. Change in family/household circumstances/left home
4. To buy own house/flat or rent place of own
5. Health reasons, including move to bungalow/flat
6. Moved to sheltered housing/supported accommodation
7. Like the area/nice area
8. Move to the countryside/sea
9. Good schools
10. Good services/amenities
11. Good transport
12. Wanted a garden/land
13. Right size/kind of property
14. Cheaper property
15. No choice - allocated by council/HA, eviction
16. To avoid violence/discrimination
17. Other (Please specify)
18. Don't know (Spontaneous only)

6.4 Conclusion

Research and analysis does not support taking a question on this subject further at this stage.

The mix of national requirements for information on reason for migration means it is unlikely a single question would meet the majority of user need. Multiple additional questions may be required to capture reason for migration for international and internal migration or to capture reason for migration for all previous moves.

Information about reason for migration for international migrants could be met by a question similar to the LFS question. This could follow the census question “If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?”.

Information about reason for migration for both international and domestic migrants could be collected by a question similar to the SHS question. This could follow the census question “One year ago, what was your usual address?”. However, this limits the data collection to very recent moves only. Patterns of migration can change quite rapidly, and the value of capturing this information about moves in the year prior to each census may be limited.

To meet the majority of requirements, a large number of response options (or long response options) may be required. Guidance or definitions may be required alongside these to aid respondents.

Moderate user need for this information has been identified in Scotland. Data available from the Labour Force Survey, Annual Population Survey, International Passenger Survey and Scottish Household Survey partially meet the needs of most users. Some users also indicated their use of country of birth and economic activity status or occupation data from the census as a proxy source for reason for migration for international migrants.

There are concerns that the census is not the most appropriate way of collecting this information. Multiple questions would be required to meet a moderate user need and some alternative sources are available.

7 Passports held (citizenship)

7.1 Background and user need

The Topic Consultation identified some support for collecting information on passports held as a proxy for citizenship. NRS agreed to give further consideration to the collection of information on passports held in the 2021 Census and noted that in the context of minimising respondent burden, trade-offs may be required.

Additional support for the collection of passports held was identified through the follow-up migration survey and through further engagement with stakeholders.

Passports held data are used to provide a proxy for citizenship. A question on passports held is used to capture this elsewhere in the UK. A passports held

question was determined prior to the 2011 Census to be the most suitable method of collecting this information in the census².

Central government, local government and migration research bodies expressed a requirement for information about citizenship primarily to inform and monitor the implications of migration policy:

- to “[inform] policy discussions about the extent to which Scotland has different economic needs from the UK and whether policy in Scotland should be different” (The Migration Observatory)
- to “allow separate analysis of EU and non-EU migrants. Given the review of immigration policy in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU, these data are of key interest to help inform policy development and monitoring.” (Scottish Government)
- “in order to develop any future seasonal workers or agricultural workers scheme it would be important to know the legal origins of people working in Scotland at present.” (Scottish Government)
- to “better inform the national debate around UK immigration policy and would provide Members of Parliament with a more accurate picture of the foreign-national populations in their constituencies, as well as the potential impact of changes to migration policy on those populations and on the local economy.” (The House of Commons Library)
- as “a key dimension for considering the stock and flow of migrants, both within the UK and internationally” and “in considering the level of integration of migrant groups (by looking at those who have gained a UK nationality)” (Home Office Science).

Information about citizenship was also noted as being potentially useful to give additional insight in race equality-related work and to contribute to work to understand the movement and integration or intended staying patterns of migrants, to give insight into household dynamics, and for area profiling.

A number of users expressed strong requirements for UK level data on citizenship and for Scotland's Census to harmonise with the rest of the UK on this topic.

Information is needed at national and council area level. Information on nationality or citizenship is available at these geographies from survey data. However, users noted that historically the census has provided the most detailed and accurate statistics on the migrant populations of the UK, while the accuracy of some other survey sources has been questioned.

While country of birth and national identity data from the census have previously been used as a proxy for citizenship, it was noted that passports held data is more relevant for migration policy discussions where individuals' rights and entitlements are conferred by citizenship. Data quality concerns with using country of birth data as a proxy for citizenship were expressed.

A moderate user need for this information has been identified in Scotland.

² The Office for National Statistics, [Final recommended questions 2011 - Migration](#)

7.2 Questions in other UK 2011 Censuses

A passports held question was included for the first time in the 2011 Censuses in England/Wales and Northern Ireland. The questions asked in 2011 are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: 2011 Census Passports Held Question – England/Wales (left) and Northern Ireland (right)

22 What passports do you hold?
 → Tick all that apply.
 United Kingdom
 Irish
 Other, write in

 None

14 What passports do you hold?
 → Tick all that apply.
 United Kingdom
 Ireland
 Other, write in

 None

The 2011 Census question captures information about all passports held, and provides a response option for individuals who do not hold a passport.

The proxy citizenship variable derived from this data assumes that those who do not hold a passport are UK citizens.

The rights and entitlements of individuals living in the UK are of most interest to users. As such, UK and Irish passports are given precedence when allocating citizenship to respondents. A census respondent who holds both a UK and Ireland passport, or a UK and any other passport, will be counted as a UK citizen. A census respondent holding an Ireland and a non-UK passport will be counted as an Irish citizen. The proxy citizenship variable derived from passports held data does not provide information about dual citizenship.

There is no evidence of data quality issues with the questions asked elsewhere in the UK. In England and Wales the non-response rate to this question was low (2.3%), and there was a 91.8% agreement between the census and the Census Quality Survey. There is also no evidence of public acceptability issues from the 2011 Census.

7.3 Alternative sources

Information about citizenship is not captured consistently. Surveys ask for either nationality, citizenship, or passports held.

The Labour Force Survey asks “What is your nationality?”. This question is also included in the Annual Population Survey. [Estimates of the Scottish population by Country of Birth and Nationality from the Annual Population Survey](#)³ are published annually by NRS.

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) asks “What nationality passport do you hold?”. The IPS records both passports for those with dual nationality, but codes the passport issued by the country of residence. If not resident in either country, the passport presented on the day of interview is coded.

7.4 Question testing

To confirm that this question could be adopted in Scotland with no data quality or public acceptability concerns, a passports held question was included for cognitive and quantitative testing in 2017.

Cognitive testing is a form of in depth interviewing with a small number of respondents. It aims to provide an insight into the mental processes respondents use when answering questions. This helps us to identify if there are any problems with a question or question design and gain an insight into the source of any difficulty respondents are having.

Quantitative testing is undertaken primarily to identify data quality concerns. NRS included feedback questions in the 2017 Quantitative Testing in order to gather further information on public acceptability and to identify specific difficulties respondents faced if they were unable to answer a question easily.

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

³ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/population-by-country-of-birth-and-nationality>

7.4.1 Cognitive testing

A passports held question based on the 2011 Northern Ireland question was included for cognitive testing in 2017. This question is shown in Figure 3.

The aims of this testing were to:

- Explore respondents' understanding of the question and ease of responding;
- Explore the acceptability of asking about passports held in context with all other questions on this subject being asked (country of birth, date of arrival in UK, address one year ago, national identity, ethnic group and languages).

Full details of the results of the 2017 Cognitive Testing are available in Annex D.

Figure 3: 2017 Cognitive Testing Passports Held Question

Q10. What passports do you hold?

Select **all** that apply.

United Kingdom

Ireland

Other, please enter:

None

During cognitive testing respondents generally understood the question on passports held and found the question easy to answer.

The only minor issue which was raised was whether those with expired passports should include their expired passport. Guidance saying "Please include passports which have expired" could be added to the question. Similar information was previously removed from this question due to census space constraints⁴. However, guidance on how to answer questions is available in the census.

Data quality issues with the proxy citizenship output that may arise from this are considered to be minimal. Previous testing by ONS indicated that there was some inconsistency in the way respondents with expired passports answered. However it was concluded that the question generally collected reliable and valid data⁴.

Respondents in cognitive testing indicated that they would find it acceptable to be asked about passports held in Scotland's Census 2021, even when the question is being asked in addition to country of birth, date of arrival in the UK, address one year ago, national identity, ethnic group and languages. This included respondents who held non-UK passports.

⁴ The Office for National Statistics, [Final recommended questions 2011 - Migration](#)

7.4.2 Quantitative testing

The same passports held question was included for quantitative testing in 2017. In addition, a paper form of this question was included. In this, two lines of text boxes were included to enable multiple responses. These questions are shown in Figure 4.

The aims of this testing were to:

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

Figure 4: 2017 Quantitative Testing Passports Held Question – paper questionnaire (left) and online questionnaire (right)

17 What passports do you hold?
 ♦ Tick all that apply

United Kingdom

Ireland

Other, please write in

None

Q17. What passports do you hold?

▪ Select all that apply

United Kingdom

Ireland

Other, please enter:

None

Key results

- The distribution of responses was similar to that obtained in the 2011 Census in England and Wales.
- Findings on passports held by country of birth and national identity indicated a strong relationship between these variables, as we would largely expect.
- Invalid responses were given by around 1% of respondents, almost all of which were attributable to item non-response.
- Less than 1% of respondents selected that they found the passports question difficult to answer.
- There were no modal effects observed between paper and online questionnaires that indicate data quality issues.
- Of respondents with no passport, 78% responded on paper compared to 22% online. However, this may be a mode preference in line with the age distribution of responses by questionnaire mode. Almost half (around 48%) of those reporting holding no passports were aged 65 or above. Around 72% of all respondents aged 65 or above responded on paper.

The question performed well in quantitative testing. There was no evidence for data quality or acceptability concerns about this question.

Full details of the results of the 2017 Quantitative Testing are available in Annex E.

7.5 Conclusion

Research and analysis does support taking a question on this subject further at this stage.

A moderate user need for data on passports held has been identified in Scotland. There are concerns that the currently available proxy information for citizenship from the 2011 Census is not fit for purpose.

A passports held question performed well in testing and would meet the majority of user need.

As noted in the Topic Consultation, the inclusion of a question is subject to minimising respondent burden, and trade-offs may be required.

8 Next Steps

NRS are continuing question development of a full question set for the 2021 Census and will be considering questionnaire design and respondent burden. The final decision on the content of Scotland's Census 2021 questionnaire will ultimately be made by the Scottish Parliament.

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

More information about preparation for Scotland's Census 2021 and details about upcoming events can be found on the [Scotland's Census website](#), by subscribing to the [Scotland's Census newsletter](#) or by following us on Twitter [@NatRecordsScot](#).

Annex A: Country of birth, date of arrival and address one year ago

1. Country of birth

Country of birth (or birthplace) data has been collected in Scotland since 1841. This information is used extensively for a range of purposes such as for analysis of long-term patterns of migration and as a basis for estimating migrant communities who may have particular needs in order to support resource allocation and/or service provision.

The 2001 and 2011 Census questions on country of birth are shown in Figure A1. The online version of this question was roughly identical to the paper question in 2011. Online, the routing instructions to skip date of arrival for those born in the UK did not appear on the question. This routing was automatic.

Figure A1: Scotland's Census 2001 (left) and 2011 (right) Country of birth and date of arrival questions – paper questionnaire

The figure shows two versions of a census question side-by-side. The left version is from the 2001 census, and the right version is from the 2011 census.

2001 Question (Left): Question 12: "What is your country of birth?" It lists six options with checkboxes: Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, and "Elsewhere, please write in the present name of the country". Below the list are two rows of empty boxes for writing. A note at the bottom states: "Date of arrival was not captured in 2001".

2011 Question (Right): Question 7: "What is your country of birth?" It lists the same six options. The "Elsewhere" option is followed by a text input field. Routing instructions are provided: "Go to 9" for Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Question 8: "If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?" It includes a note: "Do not count short visits away from the UK." and input fields for "Month" and "Year".

Minor changes have been made over time to the tick boxes, guidance and routing included in this question. But the data this question provides are comparable over time.

This question provides data comparable with the other UK censuses (Annex B) and social surveys (Annex C).

Strong user need for country of birth data was identified through the Topic Consultation. In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF), NRS therefore proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021.

The 2011 Census question gathers good quality data which fully meet the majority of user need.

Most requests for additional data on country of birth were related to wanting more detail about specific country of birth rather than aggregate country groupings. This information is made available by NRS where possible, but is limited by disclosure control to ensure the anonymity of census respondents. If a particular country breakdown has not been published by NRS, this may be available by commissioning a table from us.

Research and analysis does support taking a question on country of birth further at this stage.

No further question development has been considered necessary at this stage. However, the order of response options will be updated to reflect the population size of UK-born respondent groups, in line with the original question design. Response options will be in the order: "Scotland"; "England"; "Northern Ireland"; "Wales".

2. Date of arrival

A question on date of arrival in the UK was included for the first time in 2011. Month of arrival as well as year of arrival is captured to provide the necessary detail on those who arrived in the UK in the year previous to census day. This question captures information about the date of most recent arrival to the UK. Information is only captured from individuals born outwith the UK. The 2011 Census question on date of arrival is shown in Figure A1.

Information on date of arrival in the UK has been used for identifying patterns in recent international migration, the characteristics of those who have migrated, and to identify areas with transient populations. It has enabled analysis to consider the impact of length of residence on social and economic characteristics and has been used in a range of equality-related policy development and research.

The same question was asked in England and Wales in 2011, providing comparable data. Northern Ireland asked about date of arrival in Northern Ireland. These questions are shown in Annex B. As such, UK outputs were not available. Similar questions on date of arrival in the UK are asked in the Scottish Household Survey and the Labour Force Survey (Annex C).

Strong user need for date of arrival was identified through the Topic Consultation. In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF), NRS therefore proposed to continue to collect this information in 2021.

Research and analysis does support taking a question on date of arrival further at this stage.

The question asked in 2011 fully meets the majority of user need.

There are few data quality concerns with the information collected in 2011. This is not an easy question for all respondents to answer quickly, particularly when they arrived in the UK a long time ago or have made a number of visits away from the UK. However, no further question development has been considered necessary at this stage.

3. Address one year ago

A question on address one year ago was introduced in 1961. Information on address one year ago is used to identify both internal and international migration. The data are used as input to population projections and seen as an important contributory factor for housing need and demand assessments.

The 2001 and 2011 Census paper questionnaire questions on address one year ago are shown in Figure A2 and Figure A3. The online version of this question in the 2011 Census is shown in Figure A4. The question asked was identical on paper and online. However, the response options varied slightly. The household address was piped to the question page and the response options were changed to accommodate this.

This question varies slightly for the first respondent (Person 1) on paper, where a space is left in the question for a tick box that is available for the remaining respondents to indicate that their previous address is the same as Person 1.

Figure A2: Scotland's Census 2001 address one year ago question

9 What was your usual address one year ago?

- ◆ If you were a child at boarding school or a student one year ago, give the address at which you were living during the school/college/university term.
- ◆ For a child born after 29 April 2000, ✓ 'No usual address one year ago'.

The address shown on the front of the form
 No usual address one year ago
 Elsewhere, *please write in below*

	Postcode								
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>								

Figure A3: Scotland's Census 2011 address one year ago question – paper questionnaire

Figure A4: Scotland's Census 2011 address one year ago question – online questionnaire

Changes have been made over time to the tick boxes and guidance in this question. However, the data this question provides are broadly comparable over time.

This question provides data comparable with the other UK censuses (Annex B). Similar data are collected by the Scottish Household Survey and the Labour Force Survey (Annex C).

The Topic Consultation highlighted a strong user demand for continued collection of this information. In the [Topic Consultation Report](#) (PDF), NRS proposed to continue to collect this in 2021.

Research and analysis does support taking a question on address one year ago further at this stage.

The 2011 Census question gathers good quality data which fully meet the majority of user need. No further question development has been considered necessary at this stage.

Annex B: Questions on migration in other UK 2011 censuses – country of birth and date of arrival

Migration questions included in the 2011 Census in England and Wales are shown in Figure B1. The passports held question is not included in this figure and is included in Figure 2.

Figure B1: Migration questions in the 2011 Census, England and Wales

9 What is your country of birth?

England ➔ Go to **13**

Wales ➔ Go to **13**

Scotland ➔ Go to **13**

Northern Ireland ➔ Go to **13**

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere, write in the current name of country

10 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

11 If you arrived before 27 March 2010 ➔ Go to **13**

If you arrived on or after 27 March 2010 ➔ Go to **12**

12 Including the time you have already spent here, how long do you intend to stay in the United Kingdom?

Less than 6 months

6 months or more but less than 12 months

12 months or more

21 One year ago, what was your usual address?

➔ If you had no usual address one year ago, state the address where you were staying

The address on the front of this questionnaire

Student term time/boarding school address in the UK, write in term time address below

Another address in the UK, write in below

Postcode

OR Outside the UK, write in country

Migration questions included in the 2011 Census in Northern Ireland are shown in Figures B2 and B3. The passports held question is not included in this figure and is included in Figure 2.

In 2011, the Northern Ireland Census asked about date of arrival in Northern Ireland rather than date of arrival in the UK. This question was not routed from country of birth. The Northern Ireland Census included additional migration questions and different routing. Only respondents who select “No” to “Have you lived outside Northern Ireland for a continuous period of one year or more?” were routed past date of arrival.

Figure B2: Migration questions in the 2011 Census, Northern Ireland

7 What is your country of birth?

Northern Ireland ➔ Go to **10**

England ➔ Go to **10**

Scotland ➔ Go to **10**

Wales ➔ Go to **10**

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere, write in the current name of country

8 If you arrived to live in the United Kingdom:

- on or after 27 March 2010 ➔ Go to **9**
- before 27 March 2010 ➔ Go to **10**

9 Including the time you have already spent in the United Kingdom, how long do you intend to stay in the UK?

Less than 6 months

6 months or more but less than 12 months

12 months or more

10 Have you lived outside Northern Ireland for a continuous period of one year or more?

Yes

No ➔ Go to **13**

11 During this time outside Northern Ireland, what was the last country you lived in?

12 When did you most recently arrive to live in Northern Ireland?

Month Year

Figure B3: Migration questions in the 2011 Census, Northern Ireland, continued

13 One year ago, what was your usual address?

↻ If you had no usual address one year ago, state the address where you were staying.

The address on the front of this questionnaire

Student term-time/boarding school address in the UK, write in term-time address below

Another address in the UK, write in below

Postcode _____

OR Outside the UK, write in country

Annex C: Alternative sources

1. Scottish Government surveys

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

- the [Scottish Household Survey](#) (SHS)
- the [Scottish Health Survey](#) (SHeS)
- the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#) (SCJS)

A set of core and harmonised questions is recommended in order to provide comparable estimates across Scotland. More information can be found on the Scottish Government website ([Core Survey Questions](#)).

Country of birth is a core question. The core survey question differs slightly from the 2011 Census question in the wording of the guidance for the write-in category, as shown in Figure C1. However, comparable data are collected.

Figure C1: Scottish Government surveys core question – country of birth

Question :	What is your country of birth?
Answer:	923. Scotland 921. England 924. Wales 922. Northern Ireland 372. Republic of Ireland Elsewhere (please specify)

Date of arrival is not a core or harmonised Scottish Survey question, but is captured in the SHS. This question provides comparable data.

The SHS asks “When did you most recently arrive to live in the United Kingdom? Do not count short visits away.” This question is asked of respondents who indicate they were not born in Scotland, England, Wales or Northern Ireland in the question about country of birth. Month and year of arrival are captured, as in the 2011 Census. Additionally, the response options “Don’t know/Can’t remember month” and “Don’t know/Can’t remember year” are captured.

Address one year ago is not a core or harmonised Scottish Survey question. However, the SHS asks if respondents have “ever lived anywhere else (other than this address)” and collect previous address, approximate distance between previous and current address, length of residence at previous address, reason for moving and information about tenure and landlord for previous address. The SHS also captures intentions about future movements. The SHS question on reason for migration is included in Section 6.3.2.

In addition to asking country of birth, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey asks some questions about local area, including length of residence in local area.

2. Labour Force Survey

The [Labour Force Survey](#) (LFS)⁵ is a quarterly survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The Annual Population Survey (APS) includes the LFS and also includes a further sample boost. The APS is the largest household survey in the UK.

The LFS and APS capture country of birth through a different question stem to Scotland's Census 2011, and offers a larger number of response options as well as capturing all other countries of birth as write-ins, as shown in Figure C2. This question captures comparable data.

Figure C2: Labour Force Survey – country of birth

Question :	In which country were you born?	
Answer:	921	England,
	924	Wales,
	923	Scotland,
	922	Northern Ireland,
	926	UK, Britain (don't know country),
	372	Republic of Ireland,
	356	India
	586	Pakistan
	616	Poland
	997	Other
		<i>Type in country (Applies if respondent has 'other' country of birth)</i>

⁵ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/methodologies/labourforcesurveyuserguidance>

The LFS collects information about year and month of most recent arrival to the UK as well as information on year of first arrival, but has different routing around these questions from the 2011 Census in Scotland. The data collected are comparable.

The LFS collects address one year ago for individuals who have been resident at their current address for less than three months. Country of residence outside the UK, or UK town or village and county or borough are captured. To capture this information for those who have lived at their current address for less than three months the LFS also asks about period of residence at current address, and for respondents who indicate they have been resident for less than 12 months, captures the number of months and whether three months ago, the respondent was living in the UK or somewhere else, and which country. For those living elsewhere in the UK, town or village and county or borough are captured for address three months ago.

The LFS and APS ask “What was your main reason for coming to the UK (most recent arrival)?” of all non-UK born migrants. This question is shown in [Section 6.3.1](#).

3. The International Passenger Survey

The [International Passenger Survey](#) (IPS)⁶ is a sample survey of passengers arriving at, and departing from, UK air and sea ports and the Channel Tunnel. It is carried out by the Office for National Statistics for a range of public and private sector organisations. The IPS provides the largest component of the official statistics on Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates in the UK.

The [International Passenger Survey](#) (IPS) asks intended length of stay through a series of questions (depending on other question responses) to identify respondents who are medium stay visitors (3-6 months), long stay visitors (6-12 months) and migrants (12 months or more).

The IPS asks both those leaving and arriving in the UK their main reason for visit (capturing migration and tourism) and since 2012 also asked former immigrants their previous main reason for immigrating. This captures a large variety of reasons for visit or migration. For migration these are typically grouped to ‘work related’ (including ‘definite job’ and ‘looking for work’), ‘accompany/join’, ‘formal study’, ‘going home to live’, ‘other’ and ‘no reason stated’.

⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/leisureandtourism/methodologies/internationalpassengersurveyqmi>

Annex D: 2017 Cognitive Testing – Passports held

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

Questions tested and measurement aims

A question on 'passports held' was included for cognitive interviewing.

To ensure the target populations were reached, several recruitment strategies were adopted. Table D1 shows the sample achieved for cognitive testing. The question tested is shown in Figure D1.

Table D1: Sample composition achieved

Characteristics Number	
Sex	
Male	17
Female	15
Age	
18-34	5
35-64	22
65+	5
Highest qualification	
Further or higher education (degree, masters, PhD, professional quals, SVQ level 5)	21
Upper secondary school qualification (e.g. Highers, A-Levels)	6
Lower secondary school qualification (e.g. Standard Grade, Intermediate 2s, O grades, GSCE, National 4/5) or below/none	5
Religion	
None	14
Church of Scotland	6
Roman Catholic	1
Other Christian	4
Muslim	1
Buddhist	1
Sikh	2
Hindu	1

Other	2
-------	---

Table D1 continued: Sample composition achieved

Characteristics Number	
Ethnic Group	
White	25
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	5
African	1
Other ethnic group	1
Passports held	
United Kingdom	24
Ireland	1
Other	5
None	2
Use language other than English at home	
No, English only	26
Yes, British sign language	-
Other	6
Computer Skills	
Has difficulty managing basic computer tasks/cannot manage basic computer tasks	-
Can manage basic computer tasks such as browsing the internet and word processing	10
Can manage more complex computer tasks	22
Tenure	
Owns with a mortgage or loan	11
Own outright	7
Own with shared equity	
Rent (with or without housing benefit)	12
Part own and part rent (shared ownership)	1
Live here rent free	1

Figure D1: 2017 Cognitive Testing passports held question

Q10. What passports do you hold?

Select **all** that apply.

United Kingdom

Ireland

Other, please enter:

None

The aims of testing this question were to:

- Explore respondents' understanding of the question and ease of responding;
- Explore the acceptability of asking about passports held in context with all other questions on this subject being asked (country of birth, date of arrival in UK, address one year ago, national identity, ethnic group and languages).

1. Findings on understanding

Respondents generally understood the question on passports held and were able to answer with ease. However, some were unsure whether they should still respond as having a passport if their passport had expired. Respondents with expired passports selected 'None', but queried whether the question is specifically asking about valid, in-date passports, or whether they should still code as having one because technically, they are eligible. These respondents suggested that additional clarification should be added to the question if it is to be asked in Scotland's Census 2021.

Some respondents discussed the fact that they hold 'ID cards' from other countries which grant them similar rights to a passport. However, there were no instances where respondents miscoded these as passports when answering the question.

2. Findings on acceptability

During the cognitive testing, respondents were asked about the acceptability of asking about passports held in addition to country of birth, date of arrival in the UK, address one year ago, national identity, ethnic group and languages. In general, most respondents were comfortable with a question on passports held being asked. Many understood that this question could operate as a proxy question for citizenship, allowing capture of information about the diversity of the Scottish population. Respondents discussed how they would not always be comfortable providing this information for standard social surveys, although they felt that it was acceptable and

relevant information to be asked in the census. This included the respondents who held non-UK passports.

The acceptance of the passports held question in addition to the other questions on socio-classification reflected the fact that respondents generally viewed the census to be an important method of gathering information about the population in order to help the government direct funding and deliver services.

However, though respondents were comfortable with the passports held question, some acknowledged that others may have reservations when answering. Respondents discussed ongoing debates around immigration and Brexit, and how some people may worry that declaring this information for the purposes of the census may put them at risk of losing their status in the UK. Some used the phrase '*Big Brother*', and suggested that some people may be reluctant to provide this information or find the questions "*threatening*" or "*intrusive*". It was proposed that additional assurances on confidentiality and privacy may be helpful at this question.

3. Summary

In summary, during the cognitive testing respondents generally understood the question on passports held. The only minor issue which was raised regarding comprehension of the question was whether those with expired passports should code as having a passport.

Respondents found it acceptable to be asked about passports held in Scotland's Census 2021, even when the question is being asked in addition to country of birth, date of arrival in the UK, address one year ago, national identity, ethnic group and languages. This included respondents who held non-UK passports.

Annex E: 2017 Quantitative Testing – Passports held⁷

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


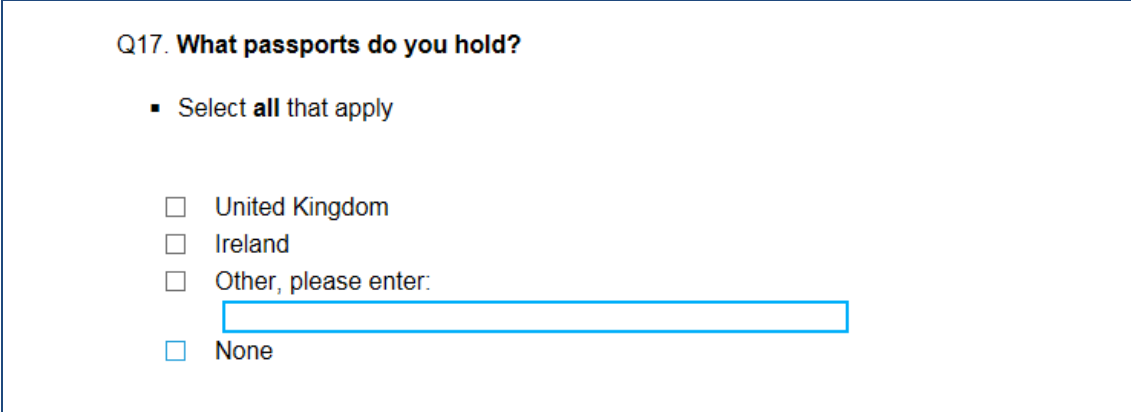
1. Question tested and aims of testing

A multi-tick question asking people about which passports they held was included in the individual section of the questionnaire.

The aims of testing this question were:

- To look at the distribution of responses, including similarities and differences in distribution by mode, age, national identity and country of birth;
- To analyse item non-response rates as a measure of data quality and acceptability;
- To analyse invalid responses as a measure of data quality.

Table E1: 2017 Quantitative Testing, Passports Held Questions

Passports held 2017 test (paper)
 <p>17 What passports do you hold? ♦ Tick all that apply</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ireland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
Passports held 2017 test (online)
 <p>Q17. What passports do you hold?</p> <p>▪ Select all that apply</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ireland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please enter:</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

⁷ All figures in this report have been rounded to zero decimal places.

2. Passports held distribution

In total, around 99% of respondents who fully completed the questionnaire provided a valid response to the question on passports held. An invalid response was given by around 1% of respondents, almost all of which were attributable to item non-response.

'United Kingdom (only)' accounted for the highest proportion of valid responses (78%), followed by 'No passport held' (12%) and 'Other(s) only' (8%), as shown in Table E2.

Passports held is not asked by any of the large surveys in Scotland, and was not asked in the 2011 Census in Scotland so comparable data from elsewhere are not available for Scotland. However, this question was asked in the 2011 census in England and Wales, where around 76% of the population reported having a UK passport, 16% reported having no passport and 7% reported having an 'other' passport only. The distribution of responses was similar to that obtained in the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

Responses to the passports held question were also used to determine how many passports respondents held. Of those who provided a valid response to the passports held question, most respondents reported holding one passport (84%), whilst around one in ten (11%) reporting holding no passports. Just 2% of respondents had 2 passports, and no-one in the sample held 3 or more passports.

Passports held by mode

The provision of a valid response to the passports held question did not differ significantly by mode.

Of respondents who responded 'United Kingdom (only)', 53% completed the questionnaire online and 47% on paper, as shown in Table E3.

Of respondents with no passport, 78% responded on paper compared to 22% online. However, this may be a mode preference in line with the age distribution of responses by questionnaire mode.

There was no significant difference by mode among those who reported having one passport only. Too few people held more than one passport to detect any differences by mode.

Table E2: Distribution of responses to the passports held question (all responses, weighted)

		2017 test	
		Total	%
Passports	<i>Passports held</i>		
	United Kingdom (only)	1,101	78%
	United Kingdom + Republic of Ireland	9	1%
	Republic of Ireland (only)	2	<1%
	United Kingdom + any other passports (excluding Ireland)	13	1%
	Other(s) (only)	115	8%
	Republic of Ireland + any other passports (excluding United Kingdom)	0	0%
	No passports held	165	12%
	Total valid responses	1,405	100%
	<i>Number of passports held</i>		
	0 passports held	165	11%
	1 passport held	1,218	84%
	2 passports held	22	2%
	3+ passports held	0	<1%
	Total valid responses	1,405	100%

Table E3: Passports held by mode (as a percentage, based on weighted estimates of total valid responses)

		Mode		Total	
		Responses - Online	Responses - Paper		
Passports	Passports held				
		United Kingdom (only)	53%	47%	100%
		United Kingdom + Republic of Ireland	0%	100%	100%
		Republic of Ireland (only)	85%	15%	100%
		United Kingdom + any other passports (excluding Ireland)	57%	43%	0%
		Other(s) (only)	54%	46%	100%
		Republic of Ireland + any other passports (excluding United Kingdom)	0%	0%	0%
		No passports held	27%	73%	100%
		Total valid responses	50%	50%	100%
		Number of passports held			
		0 passports held	27%	73%	100%
		1 passport held	53%	47%	100%
		2 passports held	34%	66%	100%
		3+ passports held	0%	0%	0%
		Total valid responses	50%	50%	100%

Passports held by age

Almost half (around 48%) of those who reported holding no passports were aged 65 or above, as shown in Table E4. Around one third of those with no passport were aged 35-54 (28%) and one in five were aged 55-64 (19%). The youngest age group were the least likely to report holding no passports, at around 5%.

Whilst it appears the opposite is true for multiple passports held, base sizes amongst those holding more than one passport are too small to allow for comment by age.

It should be noted that any association between age and passports held has not been tested for significance.

Table E4: Passports held by age (as a percentage, based on weighted estimates of total valid responses)

		Age				Total valid responses
		16-34	35-54	55-64	65+	
Passports	Passports held					
	United Kingdom (only)	30%	33%	16%	21%	100%
	United Kingdom + Republic of Ireland	45%	24%	21%	10%	100%
	Republic of Ireland (only)	0%	0%	43%	57%	100%
	United Kingdom + any other passports (excluding Ireland)	59%	33%	4%	4%	0%
	Republic of Ireland + any other passports (excluding United Kingdom)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Other(s) (only)	56%	38%	3%	3%	100%
	0 passports held	5%	28%	19%	48%	100%
	Total valid responses	30%	33%	15%	22%	100%
	Number of passports held					
	0 passports held	5%	28%	19%	48%	100%
	1 passport held	33%	33%	15%	19%	100%
	2 passports held	54%	29%	10%	7%	100%
	3+ passports held	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total valid responses	30%	33%	15%	22%	100%

Passports held by country of birth

Overall, the majority of those who provided a valid response to the passports held question were born in the United Kingdom (88%). One in ten (11%) were born elsewhere in the world, and less than 1% were born in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). These findings show that valid responses to passports held are in line with the general distribution of country of birth in the data.

Of those who held a 'United Kingdom (only)' passport, around 97% were born in the UK, around 3% were born elsewhere in the world, and less than 1% were born in the ROI, as shown in Table E5. Among those who held 'United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' passports, around 85% were born in the UK and around 15% were born in the ROI.

The majority of respondents who held a 'Republic of Ireland (only)' passport were born in the ROI (approximately 70%) and around 30% were born in the UK. For respondents who held a passport from the 'Rest of world', 94% were born in the rest of the world and 6% were born in the UK.

Of all respondents with a non-UK passport, the majority (97%) were born in the rest of the world (outside of the UK and ROI), 2% were born in the UK and 1% were born in the ROI. Of those with more than one passport, 87% were born in the UK and 12% were born in the rest of the world. Less than 1% were born in the ROI.

Of respondents who reported not holding a passport, 98% were born in the UK, around 1% were born in ROI and 2% were born in the rest of the world.

As such, these findings show what we would largely expect the relationship between passports held and country of birth to be. That is, the majority of respondents who reported holding a specific passport also reported being born in that country.

Passports held by national identity

The majority of respondents who provided a valid response to the passports held question identified as 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' (approximately 90%). Around 8% identified as an 'other' identity, and around 2% identified as an alternative combination of national identities. These findings show that valid responses to passports held are in line with the general distribution of national identities in the data.

The majority of respondents who held a 'United Kingdom passport (only)' answered 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' to the national identity question (around 98%), as shown in Table E6.

For respondents who held both a 'United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' passport, around 85% answered 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' to the national identity question, whilst around 15% had an 'other' national identity. No respondents holding both a UK and ROI passport reported having any other combination of national identities.

Table E5: Passports held by country of birth (as a percentage, based on weighted estimates of total valid responses)⁸

		Country of Birth				
		United Kingdom	Republic of Ireland	Rest of the World	Total valid responses	All non-UK
Passports	Passports held					
	United Kingdom (only)	97%	<1%	3%	100%	3%
	United Kingdom + Republic of Ireland	85%	15%	0%	100%	15%
	Republic of Ireland (only)	30%	70%	0%	100%	70%
	Rest of the World (only)	1%	0%	99%	100%	94%
	All non-UK	2%	1%	97%	100%	93%
	All other combinations of Passports held	51%	0%	49%	0%	0%
Total valid responses	88%	<1%	11%	100%	12%	

Of those who answered 'Republic of Ireland (only)' for passports held, around 15% answered 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' to the national identity question, around 85% had an 'other' national identity, and no respondents reported any other combination of national identities.

Of respondents who reported having a passport from the rest of the world only, around 8% reported a 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' national identity, around 78% had an 'other' national identity and around 14% had an alternative combination of national identities.

Of all those with a non-UK passport (those with a passport from the ROI and those with passports from the rest of the world), approximately 8% answered 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' to the national identity question, whilst around 78% had an 'other' national identity and around 14% had an alternative combination.

Almost all (around 99%) respondents who reported having no passport also reported a 'Scottish/English/Northern Irish/Welsh/British or any combination' national identity.

⁸ Please note that figures are rounded and may not add up exactly to totals or figures quoted elsewhere in the text.

Table E6: Passports held by national identity (as a percentage, based on weighted estimates of total valid responses)⁹

	National Identity			Total valid responses
	Scottish/ English/ Northern Irish/ Welsh/ British or any combination of the above	Other identities only	All other combinations	
Passports held				
United Kingdom (only)	98%	1%	1%	100%
United Kingdom + Republic of Ireland	85%	15%	0%	100%
Republic of Ireland (only)	15%	85%	0%	100%
Rest of the World (only)	8%	78%	14%	100%
<i>All non-UK</i>	8%	78%	14%	100%
All other combinations of Passports held	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total valid responses	90%	8%	2%	100%

3. Invalid responses to passports held

All types of invalid response

If no questions later than the marital status question (Q12) were answered, responses were considered to be partial completions of the questionnaire. For all questions after the marital status question, partial completions are treated as questionnaire 'drop-out' and are commented on separately from item non-response by full completions. Overall, 4% of total responses were considered to be partial completions.

Around 1% of item non-response at the passports held question was from fully completed questionnaires.

As a question on passports held has not been asked in previous iterations of Scotland's census, it is not possible to conduct a comparison of item non-response with data from previous years.

⁹ Please note that figures are rounded and may not add up exactly to totals or figures quoted elsewhere in the text.

All types of invalid response by mode

Item non-response from full completions at the passports held question was split roughly evenly by mode, with the paper questionnaire accounting for five cases of item non-response, and the online accounting for six, as shown in Table E7. As such, there does not appear to be a modal effect.

There was only one instance of invalid by invalid combination. As this type of invalid was not technically possible on the online mode, it is not relevant to comment on mode effects.

Table E7: Invalid passports held by mode (unweighted counts)

	Mode		
	Number of responses - Online	Number of responses - Paper	Total
Item non response – full completions	6	5	11
Item non-response – partial completions	34	0	34
Invalid multi-tick – paper only, single tick questions			
Invalid combination	0	1	1
Routing error			
Total invalid responses	40	6	46
Not applicable			
Total valid responses	605	803	1,408
Total responses	645	809	1,454

4. Feedback

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

A feedback question asked “Did you find any of the following questions difficult to answer?” Less than 1% of respondents selected that they found the passports held question difficult to answer.

When looking at response to the feedback question by validity of response to the passports held question, we can see that eight of the nine respondents who answered ‘yes’ to finding the question difficult, also provided a valid answer.