

Scotland's Census 2021 Topic Consultation – Video Transcript

Hello, I'm Tim Ellis, the Registrar General for Scotland and head of the National Records of Scotland. And I would like your help in planning Scotland's next Census.

The next census will take place in 2021. And although that may seem a long time away, we need to start working towards it right now.

We have run our own Census in Scotland since 1861, and it has provided us with important insights into who we are, how we work, and how we have lived in Scotland over the last 150 years.

Decisions are taken every day that use information from the census, helping to plan and provide services the length and breadth of Scotland, and from the cradle to the grave.

The census helps to inform the numbers of houses or care homes that are built, and the number of primary schools or doctors surgeries that we need.

They help us plan what we need, and, importantly, where we need them.

And we will keep the information that we collect safe for many years to come, so that future generations of historians and genealogists can also understand who we are now.

The census is used by lots of different people and by law it must be completed by everyone in Scotland. So it is important that what we ask is what the people of Scotland need – and that we only ask what is really needed.

So National Records of Scotland would like to hear from everyone who uses census data, to get their view on the important topics that Scotland's Census 2021 should ask about.

The consultation is open to everyone - whether you work for an organisation or you want to respond on your own behalf. We want to hear from as many people as possible, whatever your background or responsibilities, and you can give us your feedback until the 15th of January.

This is your chance to get involved in shaping what we will ask everyone in Scotland in 2021.

Taking part is easy, and we want to make this consultation as user friendly as possible. You can comment on all of the suggested topics or just one. You can also tell us if you think that we are missing topics.

A lot changes in the 10 years between each census. Scotland in 2021 may be a very different place from 2011. So the information that we collect in the census may need to change too. That is why your feedback is important.

The census is about producing high quality information to enable high quality decisions that will improve the lives of the people of Scotland.

So please take the time to get involved in this consultation. And please encourage others to get involved too.

Thank you for your help.