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Scotland's Census 2022

**** The census deadline has been extended to 31 May 2022 ****

What is the census?

The census is the only complete official attempt to collect information about everyone living in the country. It has taken place every ten years since 1801 (except for 1941 during the War), and the last census was in 2011. The present census was delayed from last year because of the pandemic.

The census asks questions about every household in the country, such as how many people live there and what facilities they have in their homes. It also asks about each person's age, sex, employment, education and qualifications, ethnicity, and faith or belief

The information collected is used by national and local government, researchers, businesses, and other organisations, to help plan services. By giving a complete and accurate picture of your local area, it helps make sure that services that everyone needs, such as education, transport, and healthcare, are provided where they are needed.

However, great care is taken to ensure that information about individuals remains private, and, by law, individual responses cannot be made public for 100 years.

When is the census?

Census Day is Sunday 20 March, but you can complete your census form online as soon as you receive a letter giving you an **Internet Access Code**. However the answers must reflect your household as it will be on Sunday 20 March.

If you have not received an Internet Access Code, you can request one [here](#).

What do I have to do?

If you are the “householder” – that is if you either own or rent your home and are responsible for paying the household bills and expenses – then you must make sure that the form is completed and returned.

Any member of the household who is aged 16 or over can use an **individual questionnaire** to provide answers in private. [Click here](#) to request an individual questionnaire, or phone the **census helpline on 0800 030 8308**.

People who live in shared accommodation such as student residences, care homes, or prisons, where there is no householder, should also complete an individual questionnaire.

Note that you still need to complete the Scottish census form now even if you also completed the census in another part of the UK last year.

How do I complete the census questionnaire?

Most people will complete the census online, but if you would prefer a paper questionnaire you can ask for one [here](#), or by phoning the **census helpline on 0800 030 8308**.

Questions

The questions asked in the census were decided after wide consultation, and the wording has been tested in a number of trials, to try to make the questions as clear as possible.

Click on each question below to read information about how to answer it:

Household questions

- H1: [Who usually lives here?](#)
- H2: [How many people usually live here?](#)
- H3: [List the names of people counted in H2](#)
- H4: [Is there anyone else staying at this address?](#)
- H5: [How many people are staying at this address whose permanent home is elsewhere?](#)
- H6: [How are the members of this household related to each other?](#)
- H7: [What type of accommodation is this?](#)
- H8: [Are all the rooms in this accommodation behind a closed door that only this household can use?](#)
- H9: [How many bedrooms are available for use only by this household?](#)
- H10: [What type of central heating does this accommodation have?](#)
- H11: This explains that, if no-one usually lives at the address but there are people staying there on census night, their names should be listed on the back page.
- H12: [Does your household own or rent this accommodation?](#)
- H13: [Who is your landlord?](#)
- H14: [In total, how many cars or vans are owned, or are available for use, by members of this household?](#)

Individual questions

Remember that no-one will be able to identify your answers, and all information that you give on the form, or to census officials, is protected by law for 100 years.

- 1: What is your name?
- 2: What is your date of birth?
- 3: What is your sex?
- 4: Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?
- 5: On 21 March 2022, what is your legal marital or registered civil partnership status?
- 6: Are you a schoolchild or student in full-time education?
- 7: During term time, do you live at the address on the front of this questionnaire or at another address?
- 8: Which of the following describes your sexual orientation?
- 9: What is your country of birth?
- 10: If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?
- 11: One year ago, what was your usual address?
- 12: Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: long-term physical/mental ill-health/disability; or problems related to old age?
- 13: How well can you understand, speak, read and write English?
- 14: Can you understand, speak, read and write Scottish Gaelic or Scots?
- 15: Can you use British Sign Language (BSL)?
- 16: What is your main language?
- 17: How is your health in general?
- 18: Do you have any of the following [conditions], which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?
- 19: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?
- 20: What passports do you hold?
- 21: What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?
- 22: What do you feel is your national identity?
- 23: What is your ethnic group?

- 24: Explains that people aged 16 or over should continue with question 25, but people aged 15 or under should go straight to question 41.
- 25: Which of these qualifications do you have?
- 26: Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?
- 27: In the last seven days, were you doing any of the following [types of work]?
- 28: Which of the following describes what you were doing in the last seven days? [your employment status]
- 29: In the last four weeks, were you actively looking for any kind of paid work?
- 30: If a job became available now, could you start it within two weeks?
- 31: In the last seven days, were you waiting to start a job already accepted?
- 32: Have you ever done any paid work?
- 33: Explains that the following group of questions should be answered in relation to your main job, or, if you are not working, your last main job.
- 34: In your main job, what is (was) your employment status?
- 35: What is (was) the name of the organisation or business you work (worked) for?
- 36: What is (was) your full job title?
- 37: Briefly describe what you do (did) in your main job.
- 38: What is (was) the main activity of your organisation, business or freelance work?
- 39: Do (did) you supervise or oversee the work of other employees on a day-to-day basis?
- 40: In your main job, how many hours a week do (did) you usually work?
- 41: Explains that people who are currently working or studying should continue with question 42, but people not currently working or studying, including retired people, should go straight to question 44.
- 42: What address do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?
- 43: How do you usually travel to your main job or course of study(including school)?

Visitor questions

- V1: What is this person's name?
- V2: What is this person's date of birth?
- V3: What is this person's sex?
- V4: What is this person's usual UK address?

What is the census used for?

Because everyone must complete the questionnaire, the information collected gives as complete and accurate a picture as is possible of the whole population. This helps the government and others, such as the NHS, plan services to make sure that they reach those who need them.

For example, information about the population of the whole country helps plan new roads and railways; information about your town or village can help plan local services such as schools and hospitals; and information about your local neighbourhood can help plan new shopping centres. Questions about ethnicity and religion provide baseline figures against which employers and other can compare their own diversity statistics.

That is why it is important that everyone fills in the questionnaire accurately. The answers you provide will help make sure that the tax you pay is used to pay for the facilities and services that you need.

Who runs the census?

[National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#), which is part of the Scottish Government, is in charge of the census in Scotland, and also advises on what questions to ask, and on the format and process, but [the](#) final decisions are made by the Scottish Parliament.

The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) runs the census in England and Wales, and the [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\)](#) the Northern Ireland census. ONS and NISRA are part of the UK government.

These three agencies work together to ensure that the most important statistics can be compared across the whole of the UK. However, not all of the questions are the same in all three parts of the UK, and they can also change from one census to the next.

Help and advice

There is a telephone helpline (0800 030 8308), which is open from 8am to 8pm from Monday to Friday, and 9am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. During census weekend, Sat 19 and Sun 20 March, the helpline will be open from 8am to 8pm. The helpline offers support in many different languages.

Written guidance on filling in the census questionnaire is available in **Arabic, Cantonese, Czech, Farsi, Gaelic, Hindi, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Urdu**. [Click here](#) to download the census guidance in any of these languages.

Help is also available in **BSL, easy read, audio, braille, and large print** – [click here](#) for information on how to access these.

Useful Links

- **Online census questionnaire**
<https://survey.census.gov.scot/welcome>
- **Census helpline: 0800 030 8308**
- **Census information in BSL, easy read, audio, braille, and large print**
<https://www.census.gov.scot/help/language-and-accessibility-support/support-bsl-easy-read-audio-braille-and-large-print>
- **Census information in Arabic, Cantonese, Czech, Farsi, Gaelic, Hindi, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Turkish, and Urdu**
<https://www.census.gov.scot/help/language-and-accessibility-support/translated-guidance>
- **Information about the census and why it is important**
<https://www.census.gov.scot/about>
- **'Easy Read' leaflet about the census**
<https://tinyurl.com/2mhjszpd>
- **Series of short videos about the census and why it is important**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFwNr_TR0xf2SzzLrFMvwjQ

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Please circulate this issue of MEMO+ among your family, friends, and colleagues, and encourage them to complete their census form!

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



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The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>