



General Register Office for Scotland
Information about Scotland's people

Disability Equality Scheme
ANNUAL REPORT

December 2010

Foreword by Duncan Macniven, Registrar General for Scotland

I am pleased to introduce the 2010 Disability Equality Annual Report for the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS).

This report will focus on our preparatory work for the 2011 Census which best demonstrates our commitment to disability equality.

We await the outcome of The Scottish Government's consultation on its proposals for draft regulations that will cover the specific duties.

1. PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE 2011 CENSUS

1.1 Census Information

A Census provides the most complete source of information about the population. Census information and the analysis of that information is used by Government, NHS Boards, local authorities amongst others to form policy, plan services for specific groups of people, including disabled people, and distribute resources more effectively.

As the Census provides baseline information on the population's age, sex, ethnicity, religion as well as levels of disability it can also be used by government and local authorities to measure the success of equal opportunities policies.

1.2 Census Order

The Census (Scotland) Order 2010 is now in force and provides the Registrar General with the authority to undertake a Census on Sunday, 27 March 2011. Censuses are also planned to be taken on the same day in the rest of the UK.

1.3 Census Design

Consultation has played a very important part in the design and content of the Census questionnaire. GROS met with a number of people and organisations with specialist knowledge to better understand the needs of disabled people when completing the Census. The groups we have met include:

- Blind and partially sighted people.
- Deaf and deaf blind people
- Disability organisations i.e. Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)

In particular, and after consultation with the RNIB, we are producing a large print questionnaire for people with visual impairment. Census questions are also being translated into Braille.

1.4 Questions

We are including a question on types of disability (long-term health conditions). This question will, for the first time, provide information on the prevalence of certain conditions in the population. This will better inform future planning on the provision of services for disabled people.

1.5 Social Inclusion

To encourage completion of the questionnaire we have put in place sources of assistance. These are:

- Census Helpline
We have put in place a Telephone Data Capture where an Advisor at the Census Helpline will assist with completion of the questionnaire over the telephone.

- **Audio Translations**
Audio Translations of the census questions will be available on our website and by contacting the Helpline.
- **Questionnaire return**
The questionnaire can be given to an enumerator to return for those who are unable to return their form by post.
- **Enumerators**
Enumerators will provide general guidance and assistance on the doorstep and extra help will be available to disabled people who require assistance to complete the paper questionnaire. Enumerators will be provided with information and training to help them identify instances where assistance is required.

1.6 Website

The Census website has been designed to comply with the international web accessibility standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) as part of their Web Accessibility Initiative. As well as providing access to help, news and information about the census, questionnaires can be completed online and improvements have been made for those web users with visual, motor or other impairments. Further details can be found on the website at: www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/usability.html

1.7 Recruitment

In recruiting our Field Staff, GROS will participate in the "Positive about Disabled People" Scheme. Under this scheme all candidates who consider themselves to be disabled, in terms of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and who meet the minimum criteria for the post, will be guaranteed an interview.

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA of the Census was completed in October 2010. A copy can be found on our website at: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/policy/2011-census-equality-impact-assessment.pdf.

A further EIA will be undertaken after the results of the Census have been published. This will provide more information on the impact the census has had on equality issues. It is anticipated that this EIA will take place towards the end of 2013.

1.9 Further Information

More information about the Census can be found on the dedicated web site at: www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk.

2. CONCLUSION

We will commence work on our Single Equality Scheme after the completion of The [Scottish Government's consultation](#) on its proposals for draft regulations that will cover the specific duties.