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Scotland's 2011 Census: Proposed Running Order for Release of Statistical Results

August 2011

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1. Introduction

The main objective of the 2011 Census is to provide high quality population statistics required by a wide range of users including policy makers, service providers, academics, commercial enterprises and the general public. To help achieve this, the National Records of Scotland (NRS), formerly General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) has carried out an extensive programme of consultations to define the range of 2011 Census products and services and how they could be disseminated. The most recent consultation took place between February and April 2011 and a summary analysis was published in the [Census Outputs Consultation](#) section of this website on 30 June 2011.

NRS is keen to ensure that we keep users engaged (and indeed attract new users of census data) both in the period leading up to release of products and services and afterwards. We will therefore publish progress updates, provisionally on a quarterly basis from September 2011, on a number of topics relating to the development of the statistical outputs from Scotland's 2011 Census.

We are not yet in a position to produce a precise timetable for the publication of results without the risk of having to revise these dates at a later stage. However, based on feedback from previous consultations we are now able to present in this note our proposals for the provisional running order of the main statistical series of outputs from Scotland's 2011 Census. An indicative outline of the content of the first release of statistics, planned for July 2012, is also provided. We welcome further comments on these proposals from users; details of how to do so are provided at the end of this note.

2. Provisional Running Order

First release (July 2012)

NRS is working towards publishing the first census results in July 2012, two months earlier than the corresponding date for the 2001 Census. It is proposed to publish a set of first release tables which are broadly consistent with those published in [2001](#), based on the usual resident census day population estimates for Scotland by age and sex. This first release will be co-ordinated with the other UK census offices and estimates for the United Kingdom, England, Wales and Northern Ireland are to be published at the same time by the Office For National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency (NISRA).

The set of NRS first release tables will include estimates for:

- Scotland level by single year age/sex;
- Local authorities within Scotland by five year age/sex.

Additional tables may also be included to give the estimates for:

- United Kingdom level by single year age/sex;
- England & Wales and Northern Ireland by five year age/sex.

The tables will be accompanied by a commentary and a high level summary of the quality assurance processes followed, to give users confidence in the accuracy and robustness of the estimates. This will include information about the coverage adjustments made at local authority level to account for persons and households missed in the census enumeration.

More detailed information on the quality of the census population estimates, for example on non-response rates to individual census questions, will be published in conjunction with later releases of census data. A full description of the plans for data quality assurance of Scotland's 2011 Census will be published on our website later this year.

Second release

This release will represent the start of the dissemination of detailed census statistics for small areas. It will include all the univariate information specified during the outputs consultation process. The intention is to release this information at Output Area (OA) level and for all higher area geographies. Further details on these higher area geographies, and on what outputs will be provided for them, is given in the [annex](#) to this note.

Headcounts (counts of people and counts of households) will be made available at postcode level.

To support and enhance the use and understanding of the census results, a range of geography products will also be made available. These will include digitised boundaries for output areas, a postcode to output area index and an output area to higher area index.

This release will correspond to the following 2001 outputs:

- Key statistic tables produced for univariate information (counts and as percentages);
- Univariate (UV) tables;
- Census profiles
- Headcounts;
- Geography products

Third release

The third release will consist of multivariate data designed for release at the lowest levels of geography. The intention is therefore to again release this information at output area (OA) level and for all higher geographies.

This release will correspond to the following 2001 outputs:

- Census Area Statistics (CAS) tables – multivariate KS tables;
- Census Area Statistics Theme (CAST) tables.

Fourth release

The fourth release will provide the most statistically detailed tables of multivariate data. Due to disclosure control constraints these outputs cannot be produced at the lowest geographical level, the output area. The results will, however, be made available for all census areas above (statistical) wards and postcode sectors. They will not be produced for any area which has fewer than 400 households or 1,000 residents.

This release will correspond to the following 2001 outputs:

- Standard tables;
- Standard Theme tables.

(Depending on progress with the outputs production and quality assurance phases, it may prove possible to combine the third and fourth releases, i.e. to provide a single release covering all multivariate data.)

Subsequent releases

A series of further releases are still to be confirmed. These include:

- Migration statistics;
- Travel and workplace statistics;
- Detailed additional outputs (e.g. more detail on the range of write-in responses to a number of census questions).

Developments of larger multi-dimensional datasets at local authority level and above are being explored. It is envisaged that these “cubes” will offer users greater flexibility and easier access to census data, allowing them to produce a range of outputs to their own specification. The aim is to provide the functionality for flexible table generation as part of the online system being developed to disseminate Scotland’s 2011 Census results. (That online system, which we will introduce as the successor to the existing SCROL system, will be the main way in which we disseminate the census results in the second to fourth releases described above.)

Following the 2001 Census, a number of analytical topic reports were produced, including on Gaelic, inhabited islands, migration and travel to work or study. For 2011, the intention is to produce a set of similar reports, depending on the demand for these (to be determined through further consultation) and on the resources available.

Our aim is to provide relevant metadata and supporting information at the same time as each release of statistical outputs.

The provisional running order described above is broadly consistent with the corresponding output plans of the other UK census offices. The [provisional running order for England & Wales](#) was published by ONS on 27 July 2011.

3. Further Work

A good deal of the consultation so far about statistical outputs from the 2011 Census has focussed on designing the core set of standard pre-defined statistical tables. We published a set of [table outlines](#) on 30 June 2011 to give users a strong indication of how the final tables will appear and the basis for providing further comments should they wish to do so. These table outlines are still provisional; we intend to publish a full set of baselined table layouts in September 2011. Together with the other UK census offices, we are also aiming to finalise by the end of September 2011, detailed specifications of the set of standard tables and other census outputs to be produced at the UK level.

Further consultations on more specialist products and services will take place throughout the remainder of 2011 and early 2012, to complete the output prospectus. These include:

- Microdata products;
- Origin–destination data (migration and travel to work/study flows);
- Analytical products, such as topic reports.

Once these consultations are complete, a full outputs timetable and prospectus will be made available, most likely in early 2012.

As noted above, regular progress updates on issues relating to the development of the statistical outputs from Scotland's 2011 Census will be published on this website, provisionally on a quarterly basis from September 2011. These updates will also be used to consult users about specific topics. Email alerts will be sent to all those on our census consultation database every time one of these updates is issued.

4. Commenting on these proposals

We welcome feedback on the proposals set out in this note for the provisional running order for the release of results from Scotland's 2011 Census. Any comments should be emailed to: (census.consultation@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk);

or posted to: Census Consultation,
General Register Office for Scotland,
Area 2/3/1, Ladywell House,
Ladywell Road,
Edinburgh
EH12 7TF.

The closing date for receipt of comments is **Friday, 28 October 2011**.

Comments may be shared with the other UK Census Offices in order that they can also take your views into account.

Should you wish to discuss any queries in relation to our developing plans for statistical outputs from the 2011 Census, please do not hesitate to contact us, by email or in writing (as per contact details above), or by telephone (0131 314 4215).

Annex

The table below shows the preliminary set of geographies which it is proposed to include “pre-defined” within the 2011 Census outputs dissemination system. It is also intended that the system will provide users with the ability to define (and save for later re-use) their own output geographies built from aggregations of output areas.

Area ⁽¹⁾	Key Statistics	Univariate Statistics	Census Area Statistics	CAS Theme Statistics	Standard Tables	Theme tables	Census Profiles
Scotland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Council Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scottish Parliamentary Region	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scottish Parliamentary Constituency 2011	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Health Board Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Health Care Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Multi-member Council Ward ⁽²⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
National Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Postcode Sector ⁽²⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Settlement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Locality	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Civil Parish	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Inhabited Islands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
SNS Data zone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Output Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Footnote 1. Output areas are created so that they fit exactly to council area boundaries. All other output geographies will be created from best-fit aggregations of 2011 output areas.

Footnote 2. As in 2001, it may be necessary to create two versions of the output geographies for council wards and postcode sectors, so that the additional detail included in the Standard and Theme tables can be made available – please go to [2001 Census - Geography Classification](#) for further background information.

Users will be consulted again once proposals have been developed.