Office for
National Statistics

June 2025

Future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales

Results from the 2023 consultation

Contents

Executive summary

In recent years, technological advances and the greater availability of administrative data (for example, tax and benefits records, visas issued, and NHS data) have meant that the ONS has been able to demonstrate the viability of using updated approaches to estimate the population at a more consistent level of accuracy and more frequently.

We have led a programme of research to improve our population and migration statistics and further expand the range of data sources we use.

On 29 June 2023, we launched a consultation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales. This sought views on how our proposals to create a sustainable, administrative data-based system for producing essential, up-to-date statistics about the population would meet user needs. A total of 706 responses were received.

Responses came from a variety of organisations and individuals from the public and private sectors and beyond. Feedback was also collected through engagement events with stakeholders during the consultation period.

The responses demonstrated the vital importance of our population statistics across a range of users' needs. Uses of these statistics include:

- the planning and provision of services to local and specific populations
- understanding population change within a local area, or country wide
- research including historical changes, specific characteristics data in academic studies and population trends over time
- contribution of important data in the construction of funding bids to determine and plan infrastructure and services within the local area

Population data are also used extensively by social historians, and for genealogical research to understand historical family structures.

Respondents showed widespread support for the continued development of a system that increasingly uses administrative data, including the benefits of more timely and frequent data. Alongside this, there was a strong appetite for further assurances on some of the technical details of an administrative system and its delivery. Users required a greater understanding of the proposed statistical design, particularly for producing individual-level data. There were consistent views across all broad user groups, including government, researchers, third sector and individuals that:

- **more timely population and international migration estimates** would provide an improved supporting base for service provision and delivery
- **better monitoring of population movements** through the proposed alternative definitions allows users to better understand changing trends at specified times
- **detailed characteristics data are essential** for many users and organisations to function effectively, and to fully understand the needs of specific populations
- **data at granular geographic areas** are needed to understand differences between communities, particularly in relation to inequalities or deprivation
- **certainty is needed around the sustainability of underlying administrative sources,** ensuring full coverage of characteristics data, reliability of data supply and data quality
- **certainty is needed in the supply, quality, harmonisation and coherence** of data across sources and different parts of the UK
- **collection of data at an individual level** is essential to enable bespoke aggregation into outputs to meet a wide range of needs
- **once sufficient time has passed, population data is valued by social historians and for genealogical research,** particularly to understand historical family structures

Respondents requested assurances around the implementation of safeguards to maintain reliable flows of administrative data into the ONS. They also requested assurances around the influence we have over collection methods for administrative data which are supplied by external organisations. For many respondents, there was a strong preference in keeping open the option of a traditional survey, such as the census, to mitigate potential risks.

Users also requested more detail around the quality of statistical outputs based on the new system - in particular, the trade-offs between accuracy, frequency and timeliness of outputs. They asked for clarity on how we would quality assure population estimates, particularly if census data were not available. They also noted that users would lose confidence if the statistical picture is constantly changing. Users needed more detail to understand how the proposals will handle missing or underrepresented populations within its estimates. This includes information on communities which do not interact with government services and therefore may not be included in administrative datasets.

A large number of respondents had concerns about the feasibility of the proposals outlined in the consultation, based on the evidence provided. The majority were not yet convinced of the ability of administrative datasets to fully replace traditional data collection, such as the census. However, respondents welcomed our ambition to improve the timeliness of population estimates and frequency of characteristics data. They regarded having more timely and accurate annual population estimates in the years between census as a significant improvement. Respondents noted that traditional census data become outdated as we move further from census day. Having population data supplemented by administrative data would provide a timelier and more accurate picture of the population.

Respondents expressed the importance of understanding international migration trends to monitor population movement more accurately. Positive feedback was provided about the proposals to use administrative data to supply 'real time' short-term internal and international migration data, as well as providing estimates with different definitions. However, users of international and internal migration-based estimates wanted more assurances on how coverage gaps would be addressed. Missing groups such as student populations and economically inactive individuals would reduce accuracy of estimates.

Individual-level datasets remain highly valued by all user groups. In particular, academic researchers and public sector organisations required individual-level data and noted concerns around whether administrative data could deliver the same detail as a traditional census. Specific examples include data on:

- disability
- unpaid care
- Welsh language
- veterans

Users also asked for further evidence around the availability and quality of data on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and associated variables. These data are needed to be able to create an inclusive statistical system.

Users greatly value being able to aggregate individual-level data to suit their specific needs. A need to be able to aggregate data at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level, or smaller, was highlighted as a requirement for many users of the ONS data.

These are essential for creating bespoke geographies, such as health geographies and national park boundaries.

Respondents also requested further clarity around how the proposal would support UK coherence and harmonisation on UK-wide data. Devolved governments and their associated public bodies noted that the proposal related to England and Wales but had implications for the production of coherent UK population statistics. Respondents, particularly researchers, suggested that there should be an integrated approach to a new UK-wide statistical system.

Feedback from this consultation has been crucial in understanding the needs of our data users in greater depth. We have received feedback from a diverse range of users, including:

- government departments
- local government
- academia
- the private sector
- charities and voluntary organisations
- individual respondents

Whilst it is clear many users welcome the long-term ambitions for population and migration statistics, and our public focus groups have indicated acceptance, it is apparent from responses that our evidence to date has not yet demonstrated sufficient maturity in delivery on the Authority's vision.

We will continue to engage with a wide range of audiences about the work in progress and the plan for the future of population and migration statistics.

SECTION 1

Introduction

1.1 Recommendation and analysis report

This report has been published to accompany the UK Statistics Authority's (the Authority) Recommendation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales. We have also published an Equality Impact Assessment. These reports should be read alongside the recommendation document.

The recommendation considers all available evidence including the achievements of the ONS research programme, the expert assessments from advisory committees and the views gathered through a consultation. The recommendation provides three actions to government regarding the use of population statistics and administrative data.

This consultation outcomes report is based on user feedback and frequently uses respondents' language. We present thematic analysis from the consultation and evidence that will provide the foundation of the recommendation and our work on the future of population and migration statistics. It provides the reader with an analysis and findings of the responses and feedback that we received during the consultation.

The Equality Impact Assessment provides an update to the interim assessment that was published alongside the consultation. The update reflects the responses we received through the consultation and provides an update on how we plan to produce statistics in the future.

1.2 Background

We held a consultation on proposals for the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales between 29 June and 26 October 2023. The consultation sought views on how our proposals to create a sustainable system for producing essential, up-to-date statistics about the population would meet needs. To do this, the proposed system would primarily use administrative data, collected by government for operational requirements, such as tax, benefits and migration data. As and when needed, we would complement this administrative data with survey data and a wider range of data sources. This approach has the potential to increase the timeliness and accuracy of population and migration statistics that we produce each year, and the frequency of population characteristics.

This approach aims to replace the current reliance on collecting this data through traditional surveys, such as the census every ten years.

We use the terms 'timely' or 'timeliness' in this context to refer to the delay between the collection of data and its availability to users. 'Frequency' refers to the increase in data availability or outputs.

This paper provides:

- an analysis of the consultation responses received
- findings from mixed methods analysis, including both quantitative counts and qualitative Natural Language Processing (NLP) with thematic analysis
- results presented by theme and user group (sector), or sector

It is important to note that in this report we have used the language of the respondents to stay true to the responses received. The terms and sentiment outlined in the text, such as 'concern' or 'issue', are the respondents' view. We are listening to the feedback and will respond to the user needs stemming from the consultation feedback in developing our future analysis plans to deliver the recommendation.

The results in this report were presented to the UK Statistics Authority Board as evidence in the development of a recommendation to government on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales.

Methodology

2.1 Data collection

We asked users to submit their feedback to the consultation:

- through a questionnaire
- in a consultation response
- by email, through the consultation inbox

There were 14 questions which invited feedback on our proposals.

The consultation questionnaire was available to complete in Welsh. All responses received in Welsh were translated by an external translator.

The consultation required a range of different response types (Annex A). These included:

- yes and no responses
- multiple-choice responses
- open responses

2.2 Analysis

We engaged extensively with a wide range of audiences. We included both formal consultation responses and informal feedback obtained from stakeholders in the analysis.

Quantitative data

This includes numerical data, such as breakdowns of responses, the number of responses received and representation by user group. We used these numerical data to support the qualitative analysis by providing information on the respondents. It is important to note that the number of responses received were not equally distributed across the user groups, therefore numerical counts should be treated accordingly. See Annex C for a summary of the quantitative analysis undertaken.

Qualitative data

Qualitative data is the text data we received, which include in-depth feedback on our proposals. We analysed the data to primarily understand the extent to which users considered whether the proposal would meet their current and future needs.

This text data was thematically analysed by a team of analysts with the support of a Natural Language Processing (NLP) tool. We attributed themes to each response that encompassed the sentiment respondents had conveyed.

Much of the detail presented within this report was provided by feedback received from open-ended questions.

Within this report, messaging and sentiment have been presented for each user group. Section 3.1 'Reporting qualitative analysis' provides more detail on how this process was undertaken. The analysis presented aims to capture the broad sentiment and themes from each user group, but in some cases, there was conflicting messaging.

Please see Annex B for more detail on the methodology.

Findings

3.1 Respondents

Both prior to and during the consultation, we engaged extensively with a larger audience than those who responded formally to the consultation. We did this to promote the consultation to a wide range of users. These included:

- government departments
- local government
- academia
- the private sector
- individual respondents

We engaged with users through meetings with external and internal stakeholders, webinars, social media, articles, and conferences. We will continue engaging with a wide range of audiences about the future of population and migration statistics.

We received a total of **706 responses.**

Table 1 shows how respondents represented themselves based on the categories provided in the consultation questionnaire. See Annex C for more quantitative analysis.

Table 1. Number of responses by user group

User group*	Total respondents
Individual response	366
Local government	147
Charity or voluntary	52
Central government	34
Other public body, for example health, transport, or emergency services	31
Business, industry or commercial	21
Academia or research	18
Religion or faith	8
Devolved government and associated bodies	9
Other**	20
Total	706

*Response to question "what sector does the organisation belong to?"

**Other includes responses from user groups such as Think Tanks, Journalism or Media; which have been combined to avoid disclosure.

Note - Responses with more than one named author have been included in this table as a single response

Reporting qualitative analysis

Statistical inferences and quantitative reporting are not the purpose of qualitative research. Therefore, we have not included numbers, percentages and proportions in the main section of the report.

Findings that arose from several groups are indicated by words such as 'widespread', 'repeated' and 'recurring' in this report. However, there were many unique or rarely mentioned findings. Where possible we have grouped these with related findings, as being one aspect or example relating to a theme, or an item in a list. Some completely unique responses, despite appearing only once, might be significant and have wider resonance. As such, they should be considered on their own merits in terms of feeding into policy initiatives. We have also included these in the analysis in the report.

The aim of this report is to provide the detail and insight contained within the responses we received, which the UK Statistics Authority used as the evidence to guide their recommendation. It is not an evaluation of the merits of the needs identified by respondents, and we do not assign importance to one response over another.

Feedback missing from the findings

Whilst considering these findings, it should be noted that respondents were self-selecting, and willing and able to complete the questionnaire or provide a response. Moreover, participation in the consultation process was voluntary and respondents were not obligated to answer all the questions. We do not know how representative the responses are of user groups in their entirety, nor of all stakeholders who access and use our data. We can be confident that many areas for investigation were addressed, particularly those that recurred widely. However, we cannot assume that all related themes or aspects of a theme were raised. It is possible that other data users might have alternative opinions or offer different requirements for the proposed new system. Equally, where the number of responses within a user group are low for certain questions, this should not imply a lack of relevance to that group. As we continue to explore the use of administrative data, we will continue to engage further with users of our population and migration statistics to gain insight into their needs.

3.2 Analysis of sentiment around the proposal's methodology

This section outlines the general points that respondents made about the proposal's methodology. The main findings included:

- respondents asking for assurance around the sustainability of the administrative data sources from across government that feed into the statistical models outlined in the proposal
- concern around the risk to data quality when relying on administrative sources related to data collection methods and potential biases and increasing inaccuracy of data over time
- the need for further assurances regarding the availability of data below Local Authority level
- concern around whether the proposed system would be able to provide statistics for all the characteristics that we currently produce through traditional data collection methods
- the risk of inconsistent approaches to data collection from the four nations of the UK, particularly for those who continue with a census in 2031
- the increased frequency of characteristics data and timeliness of population estimates being welcomed if the current levels of detail and geography are available

- positive sentiment around the increased ability to link datasets, to provide new insights such as adding income data

Respondents noted that detail in the proposal was not sufficiently clear about our plans for individual-level data in the future. The proposal focused on the models and methods for producing typical outputs, such as estimates of the population's size and its characteristics, in both univariate and multivariate form. However, it did not provide sufficient assurance that individual-level anonymised data are also a priority for us to produce and make available to accredited researchers and analysts. Respondents have outlined in their submissions that individual data is an important requirement.

3.2.1 Data sustainability

Data availability

Respondents broadly welcomed the initiative to use data collected across government to support the creation of future population and migration statistics. The proposal outlined that the statistical models we have developed to produce these statistics will rely on administrative data sources produced by other government departments. They are therefore not solely owned or maintained by the ONS. Respondents asked for assurance around the sustainability of this approach. They raised issues regarding what would happen to the quality of the statistics if something were to change. For example, if a data source stopped being collected by another government department, or if the data collection methodology for a data source significantly changed.

Respondents also asked what the governance process would be for maintaining the data flow from across government. This would help to ensure the long-term sustainable production of population and migration statistics based on administrative data. Respondents noted that production of administrative data could change as a result of budgets, changing needs or operational changes. They needed assurances around the continuation of administrative sources to ensure comparability over time.

Respondents highlighted that the current administrative data sources we have acquired to produce experimental population and migration statistics do not provide the breadth of coverage that a traditional census currently provides. Respondents sought assurance regarding how we would fill these data gaps.

Importance of individual level data collection

Broadly, respondents stated that increasing the use of administrative data in population and migration statistics will contribute to improved timeliness of estimates, frequency and characteristics data. Its use also improves data availability through linkage of administrative datasets, such as income and employment.

The availability of an individual-level dataset, such as a traditional census provides, remained an important requirement for many respondents. Currently, the majority of respondents regard the benefits of an administrative system as more significant when used alongside the census, particularly with its ability to improve data accuracy and availability between census years. For example, respondents noted that in the years after census day, the census data becomes outdated and does not present an accurate picture of the population. Administrative data-based estimates can provide more insights into the changes of the population between censuses.

Researchers and public sector organisations in particular required individual-level data. They noted that a traditional census provides detailed characteristics data at this level and were uncertain whether administrative data could deliver the same detail. Specific examples include:

- disability and self-reported health data
- unpaid care
- Welsh language
- households and living arrangements

Data quality

Respondents noted that we would not have control over the administrative data collection process and subsequent data quality for administrative data sources collected by other government departments. They raised that currently there are no central mechanisms for administrative data owners to be held accountable for the quality of their data.

They highlighted that outdated data sources could also affect the quality of the subsequent estimates produced by the proposed system. These data sources could include current addresses or harmonised standards. It could also create challenges in establishing whether a person lives in a communal establishment or a household. Respondents wanted assurance as to how we would maintain the production of high-quality population and migration estimates in the proposed new system.

Respondents were concerned that the proposal did not demonstrate how we could maintain the accuracy of population estimates using only administrative data. Without a traditional census every ten years, it would be more difficult to calibrate population estimates. They sought assurance around how the population estimates created in the new system would be checked to ensure the trends accurately reflect the changing pattern of the population over time.

They raised further concerns regarding census 2021 being used as a foundation for the new system, with it being conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, potentially causing an "abnormal year".

Data coverage

Respondents raised issues about data coverage under two broad areas; geographical granularity and data coverage for all population characteristics currently covered by the census.

Respondents said that they require statistics produced in the new system at levels below Local Authority (LA) geography to meet the majority of users' needs.

> "Local Authorities need small area data for many purposes as outlined previously, in particular to ensure we target all of our services and resources effectively."
> (Local government)

Respondents told us that low level Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Output Area (OA) data are essential for understanding topics such as deprivation, inequality, and health across areas. Geography levels below LA would enable users to build unique geographies, such as parish, health geographies and national parks. The loss of detailed geographic data would greatly impact users of this data.

> "Small area geography LSOA / OA is essential for many of our routine statistics - used in our JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) to understand inequalities in health, used to evaluate services, to create statistics for local geographies / neighbourhoods which are built from LSOAs."
> (Local government)

Respondents stated that the proposal does not currently cover all characteristics that the traditional census currently provides. Users noted that there was no plan in the proposal for how and when these statistics would be produced going forward. They also outlined the importance of a number of characteristics, including Welsh language, disability and unpaid care.

Respondents were concerned around the limited administrative sources identified for some of the characteristics covered by census, such as country of birth and main language. Users noted that administrative sources in place of a traditional census could lead to unreliable and inaccurate data, particularly in relation to protected characteristics.

Some issues would be difficult to capture without a census. These include individuals not wishing to disclose personal information to service providers and individual characteristics changing over time, such as religion or gender identity. Respondents wanted more information and reassurance regarding the coverage of data sources for small communities and populations who may otherwise be overlooked.

> "We have concerns about whether 'hard to reach' people would be included or accounted for in the proposed methods – for example homeless people and asylum seekers or refugees."
> (Local government)

Data harmonisation and comparability

Our proposal relates to the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales only. Respondents were clear that there is a need for population and migration statistics to be comparable and harmonised across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Respondents were concerned about the comparability of administrative data and harmonisation between the four UK nations. Especially if England and Wales adopted the proposal and other nations continued to collect population data using a census.

> "We are unclear how these developments will be integrated with those of National Records for Scotland, and what would be done in the event that Scotland decides to continue with a decennial census while England and Wales does not?"
> (Other public body, for example, health, transport or emergency services)

Respondents note the current difficulties with harmonisation across the UK, despite all countries conducting a census. However, moving to an administrative-based approach, where there are differences in how administrative data is collected across the four nations, could increase difficulties in producing coherent UK data.

Overall, there was support for a statistical system centred around administrative-based statistics if it was aligned with the four UK nations.

Data linkage

Respondents welcomed improvements in linked datasets to support research in areas where there is currently limited data. This will lead to the ability to potentially produce statistics that have not been historically available.

Although improved data linkage was welcomed, users of the data need assurances around the quality of administrative data and the robustness of data collection processes. Respondents welcomed further research into data linkage to increase confidence in available data.

3.2.2 Quality of statistical outputs

Frequency and timeliness of outputs

Overall, respondents were generally positive around the increased timeliness of population and migration estimates in the proposal. The improvements offered would allow users to be more responsive to population changes. This would support:

- research
- quarterly reports
- statutory requirements
- funding bids
- service delivery

> "To have both estimates and projections more quickly...and to not need a ten year rebasing would be a definite help."
> (Central government)

However, respondents note that the proposals do not provide enough detail on the characteristics and geography levels that would be available. Overall, users prioritised the level of detail and low-level geography over the timeliness of population estimates.

> "I am fully supportive of having more frequent and contemporary data provided by the ONS - this would be excellent for [the] Council and be incredibly useful. However, if the range of data provided by the census cannot be repeated even on a ten year basis then this does not meet all our needs and would prove problematic."
> (Local government)

Respondents welcomed improvements in timely population estimates. However, respondents believed that in the current format, administrative sources do not cover all characteristics needed. They noted that there was still a clear requirement for a traditional census if these data cannot be collected by other data sources.

Accuracy and reliability of statistical outputs

Respondents told us that a move to an administrative data-centred system is premature. Particularly when they believe many of the characteristics covered by an individual-level dataset, such as those in the traditional census, are underdeveloped or unavailable under the new system. Respondents told us data collected by a traditional decennial census cannot currently be matched by administrative data sources, such as self-reported data, detailed characteristics and geography down to Output Area.

Furthermore, respondents noted the importance of census data in maintaining quality of estimates every 10 years. The proposal did not provide users with assurance that the accuracy of estimates would not decline over time.

> "A decennial census provides a guard against this loss of accuracy and reliability over a long period".
> (Local government)

The concerns around accuracy were widespread from respondents, but often the reason centred on the loss of detailed characteristics at low-level geographies. Respondents also raised concerns around data collection methods and potential biases, with some groups in the population being overlooked.

> "We have further reservations about the accuracy of administrative-based methods, given that some of the most isolated community members may have limited engagement with public services. Others may not record their ethnicity on certain data sources if provision of this information is voluntary."
> (Charity or voluntary)

3.2.3 Broad uses of statistics

Statistical outputs use in government funding calculation

Although many local governments noted that more frequent characteristics data could support funding allocation, there was concern that they may lead to an inaccurate picture of the population. Concerns included a loss of detail and granularity in administrative sources, along with the reduced ability to cross-tabulate characteristics. It was stated that the potential under-counting of subpopulations within a community may lead to underfunded services for those most in need.

> " ...population figures based on the census, directly or indirectly currently influence around £6.5 billion grant funding received by London local government."
> (Local government)

Furthermore, users raised over potentially inaccurate population estimates used in devolved government funding formulas across the UK.

Personal use

We received many responses from individuals who use population and migration statistics for their personal use. We received positive sentiment about the increased frequency of characteristics data and timeliness of population estimates from respondents with a general interest in what we produce.

Genealogists and family researchers told us that the detailed data currently provided by a traditional census is essential for future generations to understand their ancestry. They noted that the use of administrative data will likely not capture adequate detail required about household structure and family relationships.

> "My main concerns are not for my own needs, but future generation's needs. In 100 years' time family historians will no longer have the information I am able to access now to discover who their great, great grandparents were, where they lived and what work they did."
> (Personal response)

3.3 Analysis by theme

This section focuses on the main themes which have come through in our analysis of the consultation responses. These include:

- population
- population characteristics
- measuring equalities

The themes that have emerged are representative of the sentiment received across all user groups who responded to the consultation.

3.3.1 Population

Key findings included that:

- people primarily use population and characteristics data to understand the current trends of the population, and how these change over time
- increased timeliness of migration data would better support understanding of internal and international migration patterns
- respondents need detailed, granular data and low-level geography at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) or lower
- the proposal did not provide enough detail as to whether administrative data can provide the required granularity and geography
- new administrative data sources around specific subpopulations, such as students, could provide more valuable insights

The population theme encompasses topics such as:

- demographics
- migration
- subpopulations
- communal establishments
- households

Population demographics

Respondents told us that they needed detailed breakdowns of population data at low-level geographies such as LSOA or lower. Local governments outlined the reason why small area analysis of communities is needed to support policy development, service planning and statutory obligations such as the Equality Act 2010.

> "A detailed understanding of our population's demographic characteristics, at a very local level, is a critical component in helping understand and tackle health inequalities within the city's population."
> (Local government)

Respondents stated that they require the same level of detail for population demographics at the same low levels of geography that a traditional census currently provides. Anything less could have a major impact on the work undertaken across a range of organisations.

> "The fundamental problem with the proposals is, as ONS acknowledges, the new data are unlikely to replicate all the detail we currently get from the decennial census, certainly not in the medium term. We require data that allow us to explore diversity within groups."
> (Local government)

Many respondents were positive about the increased timeliness of estimates compared to a traditional decennial census for understanding the population and better meeting their user needs.

International and internal migration

Respondents expressed a need to monitor population movement to better understand international migration trends and provide appropriate services. There was support for a system that would better monitor the flow of new international arrivals. Positive feedback was provided about the proposals to use administrative data to supply 'real time' short-term migration data.

Respondents raised concerns around the coverage gaps and accuracy of administrative-based migration statistics (ABMEs). They said this would lead to insufficient data on economically inactive individuals, migrants under the age of 16 and student populations. Furthermore, respondents felt the traditional census is important for our ability to rebase its migration statistics every 10 years and that without it, quality and accuracy may diminish over time.

The availability of more frequent and timely internal migration data was welcomed by respondents. They said this data would better support the understanding of the flows of people in and out of specified areas.

> "Providing population estimates for different reference periods (daytime and by weekday or weekend) will help us to better understand our daily and seasonal population change, in particular, work, tourism, and student flows. It may also help us to better understand the use of second homes."
> (Local government)

Respondents were positive around the potential for the proposal to provide additional alternative definitions of the population.

This allows users of the data to better understand the changing trends of internal migration at specified times. The ability to provide data against different definitions would allow users to understand seasonal, weekday or weekend changes in the population. This could include data on 'population present', which are estimates of populations based on different reference periods. For example, daytime populations.

Administrative population data could help users to understand 'temporary' residents more accurately, such as students, or work-day populations. Understanding these populations could allow service providers to consider demand of services at different times of the year.

Subpopulations

Detailed characteristics data allow us to identify subpopulations within the overall population. Respondents identified groups of particular interest, including:

- unpaid carers
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities
- children and young people
- veterans

Detailed data are essential for understanding these populations and ensuring the correct service provisions are available. It also helps to understand any disadvantage experienced by groups within a community.

Increased frequency of population characteristics data was welcomed by users as these data quickly become outdated between census years.

Respondents noted that the traditional census is currently the only available source of data for some populations:

> "Concerns about the lack of LSOA level data and the ability
> to crosstabulate / examine detailed data about specific populations
> such as carers / disabled which can be done from the census.
> Such information is not available from other sources such
> as administrative data as this tends to only cover users or those
> engaged with services."
> (Local government)

There was concern that it may not be possible to identify specific subpopulations in administrative data. Characteristics information used to identify them may not be collected in these data, effectively making some groups invisible. Respondents highlighted that the potential groups this could impact includes:

- children and young people
- disabled people
- women in pregnancy and maternity
- people with caring responsibilities

Respondents noted that administrative data do not currently have the level of detail or granularity needed for ethnic groups, which can limit insights into certain areas such as health disparities.

> "...the NHS data dictionary does not recognise Roma therefore there
> could not have been any targeted messaging to this community
> during the pandemic because we have no substantial measure
> of their health outcomes."
> (Charity or voluntary)

Consequently, respondents noted concerns that a system relying on administrative data only would not provide essential detailed demographic data that meets their needs.

They also raised concerns regarding potential biases in an administrative data approach to data collection, where some subpopulations are less likely to be included in important data sources. For example, some individuals in specific subpopulations may not regularly respond to government surveys or have contact with government services and are therefore not included in the administrative data.

Respondents raised that there is a risk that these groups may not appear in the data or only be partially captured, causing underrepresentation of subpopulations within administrative data.

Communal establishments

Users need data on communal establishments to understand the characteristics of individuals living in them. Having detail on specific groups such as those in care homes, supported accommodation and children's homes is essential, as well as accurate data on living arrangements.

Respondents expressed that the proposals had limited information on how we would collect accurate and detailed communal establishment data. They also wanted to know how we would maintain the accuracy without using a traditional census as a benchmark. They noted that our research on these areas is currently exploratory.

Respondents noted the complex challenges associated with determining whether a person is resident in a communal establishment, since communal establishments are not always readily available in administrative datasets. This could potentially reduce the availability of data for those population groups most likely to live in communal establishments, such as veterans, homeless individuals or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Households

There was a clear user need for data about household composition and relationships. Users of this data were unclear whether administrative sources could provide the same level of detail about the relationship between members of a household as an individual-level dataset. Such data is needed to facilitate the construction of household type or composition. The proposal replaces the current population base of households in occupied addresses. Users expressed that this could reduce the ability for users to understand key issues such as overcrowding and multi-family households.

> "Households will be replaced by addresses, which are not synonymous. This will lead to a small reduction in the number of entities, and a large spurious increase in the number with 5+ people."
>
> (Individual response)

There was support for our ambition to incorporate the use of more administrative sources in household data. Users stated that more timely data reflecting the present population could provide better insight into children who live between two households, for example.

Users noted that not only are accurate household-level data required, but that these data need to be cross-tabulated across many other variables to be of most use. These variables could include ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and low-level geographies.

3.3.2 Population characteristics

Respondents to the consultation expressed the following requirements and concerns:

- self-reported data are essential for accurately identifying and understanding the most vulnerable groups in the population
- detailed and granular data are important in understanding deprivation and inequality experiences by different groups, particularly in relation to those with protected characteristics
- a move to an administrative data-based system would mean losing detailed and granular information

The theme of population characteristics includes topics relating to housing, employment, income and education.

Housing

Users explained the need for data around housing availability, heating sources and car ownership. This level of detail is essential for understanding housing issues within communities, and currently provided by the census.

Respondents raised concerns that administrative datasets may present a misleading picture of housing availability, particularly in relation to second home ownership, short-term lets and homeowners living abroad. Some areas, such as rural areas, may be impacted more by second home ownership and as a result, low housing availability and high accommodation costs. This evidence is used to inform policy at both the national level, such as the UK Housing Review, and local government level.

Respondents raised concerns around the lack of clarity on what information may be available from administrative sources.

> "We are concerned that there is no mention of overcrowding in the plans. We would be alarmed if there are no plans to produce local data on overcrowding."
>
> (Charity or voluntary)

Housing data are also used in multivariate analysis to understand other topics, such as health and disability, deprivation, education and income. Users were clear on the need for accurate and detailed housing data to identify and address potential inequalities faced by different groups and communities.

Employment

Employment data are used to understand the characteristics of those who are employed or unemployed, as well as those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). They can also relate to other characteristics, such as ethnicity or education.

Users of employment data were positive around the increased frequency of data that the proposals allow, as it would better support the understanding of trends over time. They raised concerns around how administrative sources could accurately account for groups who do not regularly respond to government surveys or have any contact with local services.

> "There are known hard-to-reach groups such as young men and those who are economically inactive - both genders, where little is known which activities they are actually engaged in, or not. Neither will likely appear in other admin record... Without a census-type data source any population level information attributed to them will likely to be unreliable."
>
> (Individual response)

It was noted that the employment market is ever-changing and fluid, and that it is unclear how administrative sources could capture this rapid change. This particularly relates to more complex issues such as multiple-occupations, self-employment and unpaid work.

Income

Respondents were positive about the availability of income data through administrative sources. These data are not currently widely available. Detailed income data would help support policy and service delivery in a more meaningful way, as well as the understanding of more deprived geographical areas.

> "...not had income data before and this would be really interesting to look at particularly in our local population who live in ... deprived local authorities in England and many are struggling following COVID and cost of living crisis, with probably a too-high percentage of the population having low income / negative incomes in relation to their fixed household outgoings."
> (Individual response)

Education

Users of education data need detailed characteristics data by educational qualification to understand the differences in educational attainment between groups. Some respondents noted that it is unclear whether this granular data would be available through an administrative data-based system.

Users needed assurances around the geographic availability of education data through administrative sources. Respondents expressed a need for Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) data.

The improved timeliness of estimates would better meet the needs of many respondents as this would enable them to be more efficient and responsive when making policy decisions.

The proposed Longitudinal Population Dataset (LPD) was also regarded as a positive addition to our outputs.

> "The proposed Longitudinal Population Dataset (LPD) would allow Ofsted and our research partners to conduct rigorous longitudinal analysis of children and learners. The scope to link this population data asset to other administrative data sources across government would enable analysis of educational or early life experiences and associated long term outcomes in the entire resident population."
> (Central government)

Welsh language

Users noted that a traditional census is an important source of Welsh language data. Respondents told us that, currently, administrative sources had limited coverage for Welsh language data and can only partially cover Welsh language skills for some segments of the population. They noted that the Welsh Government's School census could not be used as a proxy to produce estimates on the whole of the Welsh population.

Data on Welsh language are essential for understanding the health of the language and are important in the context of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers' strategy. Local governments also use the data extensively to plan for and promote the Welsh language. The Welsh language is also recognised as one of the protected characteristics under Welsh equalities and diversity legislation. The traditional census is the main source of data for the population as a whole at present.

> "The number of speaker data is used in planning, housing, economy and democracy. The Council is statutorily required to assess the impact of policy decisions on the Welsh language, which would not be possible without census data as the only consistent and comprehensive evidence base."
> (Local government)

It was also noted that a traditional census is the only source of data on whether Welsh language skills are passed on through generations within the same households.

> "The importance of language transmission in the home to language viability is acknowledged and the Welsh Government has a National policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families. The census data about language transmission in families will have important implications for the trajectory to 1 million speakers."
> (Devolved government and associated public bodies)

3.3.3 Measuring equalities

The main findings were that:

- self-reported data are essential for accurately identifying and understanding the most vulnerable groups in the population
- detailed and granular data are important to understanding deprivation and inequality experienced by different groups, particularly in relation to those with protected characteristics

- a move to an administrative data-based system would mean losing detailed and granular information

The theme of measuring equalities includes topics relating to health and disability, unpaid care, ethnic group and deprivation. These data include, but are not restricted to, data to support the reporting of protected characteristics.

Health

Respondents told us that self-reported health data are important to understanding the differences between groups in society. These data refer to a health status reported by the individual rather than a medical professional in administrative data. They raised concerns around the accuracy and availability of self-reported health status data when using an administrative data based system.

> "The public health approach is to apply interventions before an issue gets worse i.e., in a preventative manner which frequently requires identifying cohorts that are not at the extreme end of most needy; this could require more detail that is available from administrative data sources."
> (Local government)

Respondents told us that moving to administrative data sources could potentially mean losing the ability to identify and monitor the most vulnerable groups in the population. This would affect the ability to help those who are most in need. For more information, see the subpopulation section of this document.

Our work during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic helped to identify the significant impact on specific groups in society, such as black ethnic groups and those with a disability. We were told that this would not have been possible without ethnicity data from the census.

> "The pandemic demonstrated that different groups are affected differently by diseases, and without the detailed demographic statistics we currently get from ONS to base our calculations on, we cannot get a true understanding of these differences."
> (Central government)

Unpaid care

Respondents wanted more information about how the proposal would provide data on unpaid carers. They noted that a traditional census is currently the only reliable and detailed source of data on unpaid care, and that administrative sources are underdeveloped to meet their needs.

For the users of the data, losing detailed data would negatively impact strategic planning and service delivery for unpaid carers. This is especially important because these unpaid carers are regarded as at risk of inequality compared to other groups in the population.

Disability

The traditional census captures self-reported disability status, which may not align with the definition of disability defined within administrative data. Detailed disability data regarding condition type are not currently available through the census.

Users of disability data noted that the proposals are unclear about what administrative data can offer in terms of providing data about disability characteristics. Data on disability needs to be detailed, however there is concern that detail and granularity may be lost in the new system.

> " …our pressing need is for data that shows people's disability status and their impairment status. This is a significant gap in the evidence base. The underlying issue is how we measure health and disability using administrative data."
>
> (Central government)

Sexual orientation

Respondents to the 2023 consultation on the future of population and migration statistics were positive about the inclusion of sexual orientation questions in census 2021. Users of the data noted that these questions provided a unique insight into groups that has not previously been available.

In response to the proposals, data users expressed concern that progress in obtaining sexual orientation data through administrative data is exploratory. Respondents therefore are unclear about how and whether administrative sources can capture data on sexual orientation.

> "ONS's population and migration statistics are used for a variety of purposes including prioritising our services and funding. While the provision of income data is welcomed, concerns are raised regarding the loss of OA level geographies and the loss of characteristics such as language, caring responsibilities and sexual orientation".
>
> (Local Government)

Additionally, respondents raised concerns about the availability of detailed, multivariate data at low-level geographies, noting that the current format of administrative data does not gather data on sexual orientation.

Gender identity

Respondents were similarly supportive of including gender identity questions in the 2021 census to provide insights not previously available.

However, users working with gender identity data from census and from other sources highlighted that administrative sources, such as Gender Recognition Certificates, do not fully capture the transgender population. Data on how individuals self-identify may also be limited, and respondents considered this essential for understanding the experiences of populations with different gender identities.

> "The lack of protected characteristic data in administrative data… in particular the protected characteristics of sexual orientation, gender reassignment/identity and faith, religion and belief will mean that communities will continue to be treated less favourably and at risk of discrimination as the data will not reflect the reality for many people from minoritised and marginalised communities."
> (Other public body, for example health, transport or emergency services)

As with sexual orientation data, respondents were uncertain about the availability of detailed, multivariate gender identity data at low-level geographies, observing that current administrative data does not capture gender identity information.

Ethnic group

Respondents told us that they were concerned about the limited availability of data from administrative sources, which they believe are likely to be incomplete and variable due to the inconsistencies of data collection. For example, for ethnic groups, it was noted that many health organisations do not consistently collect data on ethnicity.

Respondents were also concerned around the reduction in ethnic group breakdowns as it would make the data less useful for identifying minority ethnic groups. This could lead to under-estimating the number of people in minority ethnic groups and reducing the ability to capture and monitor protected characteristics and vulnerable groups.

> "We note with concern that administrative-based methods enable the collection of data on only 19 ethnic groups, compared with 287 on census returns. We have long campaigned against the aggregation of statistical data in this way because public policy and service provision must be tailored to meet the needs of each specific community."
> (Charity or voluntary)

Religion

Respondents told us that they were concerned about the availability of religion data through administrative sources. It was noted that we were not clear about what data we would be able to provide on religion and did not provide any plans for future developments. Respondents also noted that administrative sources may not provide adequately accurate data that is needed by users.

> "We have concerns about the accuracy of recording of ethnicity and religion as we move away from collecting this information through the census. Many of the administrative sources, such as health records, only collect ethnicity and not religion."
> (Charity or voluntary)

There was concern that a loss of detailed data on many protected characteristics, including religion, may negatively impact understanding of minority groups in the community. This could lead to service provision and support not reaching those who potentially face discrimination or inequalities.

Respondents also noted the importance of having self-identified data, particularly for characteristics such as religion, which may change over time. It was unclear how administrative data sources could capture changes in an individual's religion.

Deprivation

Respondents highlighted a lack of clarity on whether the new statistical system can produce data on deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) incorporates data from multiple sources, including some census data. It is unclear whether administrative sources can provide the baseline data for this indicator.

To produce data on deprivation, respondents told us that they need detailed characteristics data and low-level geographies.

> "LSOA estimates at the very least would be required in order to produce analysis on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, as well as producing analysis for bespoke area."
> (Local Government)

Users wanted more information around how we can maintain accuracy and reliability when there may be a lack of detail and granularity in administrative data.

3.4 Analysis by user group

We asked respondents answering on behalf of an organisation to identify which sector their organisation aligned to. We have used this information to group respondents into the following user groups.

Response options included:

- central government
- devolved government
- local government
- other public body, for example health, transport or emergency services
- academia or research
- religion or faith
- charity or voluntary
- business, industry or commercial
- journalism or media
- think tank
- no sector, I am responding in a personal capacity
- other

Across all user groups, respondents expressed the following needs consistently:

- **more timely population and international migration estimates** would provide an improved supporting base for service provision and delivery
- **detailed characteristics data are essential** for many users and organisations to function effectively, and to fully understand the needs of specific populations
- **data at granular geographic areas** are needed to understand differences between communities, particularly in relation to inequalities or deprivation
- **certainty is needed around the sustainability of underlying administrative sources,** ensuring full coverage of characteristics data, reliability of data supply and data quality, and harmonisation and coherence across sources and different parts of the UK
- **the collection of data at an individual level** is essential to enable bespoke aggregation into outputs to meet a wide range of needs
- **better monitoring of internal migration** through the proposed alternative definitions, allowing users to better understand changing trends at specified times

3.4.1 Central government

Central government departments welcomed the potential for improved data quality from the proposals. They particularly welcomed the ambition outlined in the proposal for more frequent characteristics data and more timely population data. This improvement would allow central government to support:

• delivering and planning services

• better forecasting of the population trends

• shaping and evaluating policy development

• understanding demographic trends over time

Broadly, there was support from central government departments on a system centred on administrative data. Respondents asked for additional information and assurance around whether there would be sufficient safeguards for the reliance on administrative datasets. They also asked for an option of a traditional census if these safeguards are not met. Users specifically requested more detail on the trade-offs between accuracy and frequency of outputs from the new system. They noted that confidence would be lost if the statistical picture is constantly changing.

Respondents needed assurance on the geographic breakdowns available through an administrative system. It was noted that generally Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), and in some cases local authority (LA) level, were sufficient for the needs of central government. However, data at Output Area (OA) level would enable local governments to be more flexible for changing needs.

Respondents asked for more detail on how issues around comparability and harmonisation would be dealt with under a new statistical system. They noted that using different estimates could lead to conflicting statistics between nations.

Respondents needed more detail on which population characteristics would be available under a new statistical system, particularly in terms of protected characteristics and underrepresented groups in administrative data.

They raised that a traditional census is currently the only source of data for many of these groups, with administrative sources not yet available. Users of the data need assurances that a new statistical system would be able to cover all characteristics.

Respondents were interested in the improved ability to link administrative datasets. For example, there was positive feedback around the use of employment and income data, and the ability to link to other equalities data sources. Furthermore, the Longitudinal Population Dataset (LPD) was seen as a welcome addition to our population and migration statistics.

3.4.2 Local government

Local authorities primarily use population and migration statistics to:

- understand the demographics of their local area
- plan and deliver services
- shape policy
- support funding bids and applications

Increased timeliness and frequency would be beneficial to local governments' work if geography levels and detailed characteristics are maintained. Respondents recognised that census data can quickly become outdated. More accurate population data from administrative sources would improve the quality of their work, as well as their ability to support policy decisions and service delivery.

Local authorities asked for additional information and assurance around:

- how the accuracy of population estimates can be measured without a traditional census as a 'benchmark', and without causing a reduction in accuracy over time
- the loss of census data possibly causing a significant drop in comparability of demographic data over time, impairing the ability to monitor long-term demographic trends
- the robustness and reliability of survey data with small sample sizes and low response rates
- how administrative data is collected
- the availability of low-level geographies at ward, parish and Output Area

Respondents noted that there are limited details on what characteristics the new system will provide. Respondents need detailed characteristics at low geography levels are needed to understand local areas and support statutory requirements. For example, Neighbourhood Plans and Public Sector Equality Duty.

Local governments are reliant on population demographic and movement data to understand the changing make-up of the local areas. Respondents stated that understanding daytime versus night-time populations and weekday versus weekend populations would support planning services based on the present population.

They would also welcome an understanding of seasonal variations in the population.

3.4.3 Academic or research

Respondents told us they need access to geographically detailed population data for their research projects. They needed assurance around the continuation of detailed and granular data under the proposal.

Respondents emphasised that the proposals do not address potentially limited or missing data within the administrative data systems.

These included various self-reported variables, such as relationships within a household and health. Respondents need these data to understand the impacts of policies, and to measure and evaluate their effectiveness. Examples of limited or missing data include main language, pregnancy and method of travel to work.

There was positive feedback regarding the increased ability to link administrative data sets. For example, income and NHS data. This would support their understanding of different dimensions of the population that a traditional census currently does not provide. Based on the current evidence from the proposal, users of the data noted the continued need for a traditional census to enable triangulation of estimates and ensure quality is maintained over time.

Respondents welcomed more timely estimates as it would allow for a better tracking of population trends over time. However, this was only seen as a positive addition to population and migration statistics if the same level of detailed characteristics and geography are available.

3.4.4 Charity or voluntary

Within this user group, there was a specific need for detailed data on all protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010. These data are used to understand specific communities, inequalities faced by groups and to identify pockets of deprivation within small areas.

There was support for a system that would better monitor the movement of new arrivals around the country. This includes refugees and usual residents who move due to university or employment.

However, respondents needed assurance around the gaps in data availability through administrative sources. They noted that some populations are not covered under the proposal, which would hinder the ability to understand important issues. These included overcrowding, second home ownership and those who live outside of the UK.

There was concern about the potential loss of accuracy due to:

- inconsistent administrative data collection methods
- a loss of detailed granularity
- limited engagement with public services from underrepresented groups in administrative data

Respondents raised the loss of detailed ethnic group data as a specific concern because variation within broad ethnic groups is often wider than between high-level groups.

3.4.5 Other public body

This user group welcomed the potential improvements around insights into population movement and migration through the proposal. It was noted that additional reference periods such as seasonal, overnight population and weekend population allow for a better tracking of local population trends. This is further supported by more timely data being delivered quarterly or annually.

The ONS need to maintain lower-level geographies, such as OA, to meet this user group's needs. These levels of geographies are required to understand:

- healthcare provision
- equalities characteristics
- inequalities
- deprivation in local communities

Further assurances were asked for on the potential coverage gaps and accuracy of administrative-based migration statistics (ABMEs). The user group noted that there could be insufficient data on students, child migrants and economically inactive individuals. Respondents believe that the accuracy of immigration statistics would diminish over time without a traditional census as a benchmark.

Respondents needed more detail on the availability of demographic characteristics. For example, detailed ethnicity and religion data help support the understanding of prejudice or disadvantages that some groups face.

3.4.6 Business, industry or commercial

Respondents highlighted the new system's potential for greater confidence in data accuracy, including a better breakdown of occupation and economic activity of those arriving in the country. However, respondents needed assurances that non-compulsory survey data would be sufficiently accurate and reliable to act as a benchmark for administrative sources. Some respondents were unclear whether this was possible without a decennial census.

Respondents noted that some topics needed further developments to be confident that administrative sources could meet their needs. For example, household composition and communal establishments are still in the exploratory stage. They also needed more detail on the availability of detailed characteristics and low-level geographies.

There was positive feedback from respondents on improving data collection in longitudinal studies. However, it was noted that this would be reliant on the availability of detailed characteristics.

The respondents also expressed concern that the proposed system would rely on cross-government data sharing and saw agreement and practicalities around data sharing as a potential risk.

3.4.7 Devolved governments and associated public bodies

Respondents emphasised the importance of having a consistent set of population estimates across the UK. They also highlighted the need for quality, comparability and accuracy of statistics within and across the devolved nations.

Organisations stated the need for detailed data on population groups to be able to create an inclusive statistical system. Intersectional analysis by protected characteristics would be highly valuable to improve the knowledge on vulnerable groups' issues. Furthermore, detailed population data provided by us supports the allocation of resources and funding for devolved nations.

There was a strong need for data on Welsh language, which is currently provided by the census. This would help to support and monitor progress towards the Welsh Government policy Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers. Respondents noted that there is a lack of administrative data sources about Welsh language ability and inter-generational language transference. While there are some administrative data sources, they are not representative of the whole population in Wales.

Respondents felt that household surveys alone may not be able to provide the detailed information required about Welsh language ability below local authority level.

Users of Welsh language data require the ability to cross-tabulate against a variety of demographic characteristics, and at low level geographies, to understand the health of the Welsh language.

Respondents needed assurances that the development of surveys to provide estimates of population characteristics, where administrative data are not available, must be considerate of the smaller size of subpopulation groups in Wales relative to England, and the necessity to ensure that the data quality for estimates for Wales is of equal quality to the estimates for England and its constituent regions.

Respondents raised concerns around the current level of research by the ONS into administrative-based statistics for protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and associated characteristics. Therefore, there is a need to have a robust adjustment method to capture these groups and ensure the new system creates high quality estimates. Respondents needed assurances that users of ONS data are fully supportive of a new statistical system.

3.4.8 Religion or faith

This user group noted that research into the availability of religion and faith data in administrative sources is currently not available or is limited. They currently use census data to understand the changing characteristics of religious communities across the UK, which in turn influences service planning and decision making. Users need further information and assurances that administrative data could adequately capture detailed data on religion and belief.

3.4.9 Other

This user group comprises of 'Journalism and Media' and 'Think Tanks', as well as those who ticked "Other" in 'What sector does the organisation belong to?'.

Within this user group, respondents stated a need for consistent, accurate and quality population and migration statistics. Respondents needed assurances around their main concerns, which included the:

• loss of standardised definition

• comparability of data over time

• loss of population coverage and low-level geography under the new statistical system

They regarded the continuation of detailed variables that are available through a traditional census as essential to ensure the effective delivery of services and policies.

To fully understand the unique characteristics of small areas, they expressed a strong need for local area geography, as low as ward level, alongside detailed variables.

Respondents highlighted the proposal's potential to improve the timeliness of population estimates. This improvement would allow users of the data to understand real time changes in the population, and how events such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affect different groups.

3.4.10 Individual responses

Individual respondents used our population and migration data for personal interest and genealogical research. Users of this data needed assurances that there would be a system in place to preserve data for future generations.

Individual-level data, such as the traditional census, are valued for their rich and detailed insight into the population once every decade. Individual respondents were concerned over the loss of a census, with reasons suggesting that administrative sources would currently be an insufficient replacement. Similar to other users, individual respondents were concerned around a loss of detailed characteristics at low-level geography. Respondents highlighted the importance of preserving these details for future family historians.

Conclusion

The ONS invited feedback on our future of population and migration statistics proposals in relation to geographic detail, statistical granularity, and the increased flexibility of our outputs. There was widespread support of the continued development of a system that increasingly utilises administrative data. Respondents sought further assurances on the technical details of an administrative system and its delivery.

Broadly, respondents were supportive of a system centred on administrative data. Respondents asked for additional information and assurance around whether there would be sufficient safeguards for the reliance on administrative datasets, and for an option of a traditional census if these safeguards are not met. Users specifically requested more detail on the trade-offs between accuracy and frequency of outputs from the new system. They noted that confidence would be lost if the statistical picture is constantly changing.

The main conclusions were that:

- **more timely population and international migration estimates** would provide an improved supporting base for service provision and delivery
- **detailed characteristics data are essential** for many users and organisations to function effectively, and to fully understand the needs of specific populations
- **data at granular geographic areas** are needed to understand the differences between communities, particularly in relation to inequalities or deprivation
- **certainty is needed around the sustainability of underlying administrative sources,** ensuring full coverage of characteristics data, reliability of data supply and data quality, and harmonisation and coherence across sources and different parts of the UK
- **collection of data at an individual level** is essential to enable bespoke aggregation into outputs to meet a wide range of needs
- **better monitoring of population movements is needed** through the proposed alternative definitions, allowing users to better understand changing trends at specified times

Questionnaire

This annex provides the questionnaire that respondents answered and is the basis of the analysis in this report.

General information

Our transformation plans

At the Office for National Statistics (ONS), we want your views on our ambitious plans for the transformation of our population and migration statistics. These statistics cover a wide range of areas, including household characteristics, employment, health, religion, and international migration.

High-quality, timely population statistics are essential to ensure people get the services and support they need within communities and nationwide. We are consulting to ensure that the population and migration statistics and analysis we produce continue to meet the changing needs of policy makers, citizens, and other data users. Our statistics should give you frequent, clear, timely and detailed insights into society. We also want to improve the coverage and accuracy of our statistics over time. To make sure that we meet your needs, we need your feedback on our proposals.

The consultation document explains the ONS's proposals to create a sustainable system for producing essential, up-to-date statistics about the population. To do this, the system would primarily use administrative data such as tax or benefit data, complemented by survey data and a wider range of data sources. This could radically improve the statistics that the ONS produces each year and could replace the current reliance on the census every ten years. This consultation is seeking views on how these proposals meet the needs of users of ONS statistics compared to a system based on a census.

Learn more about how we will deliver population and social statistics in the future by watching our transformation journey video.

Who should take part?

We welcome contributions from all users. This includes those who are experienced users of ONS's statistics, through to those who are looking to use ONS population and migration data for the first time. We value everyone's feedback.

How to take part

When you complete the questionnaire, only the first section, 'About you' is mandatory, all other sections are optional. This means that you can choose what you comment on.

We ask you to consider our proposals and respond to this consultation before 11:59pm on Thursday 26 October 2023. A better understanding of your needs and priorities will help us shape our plans for these important statistics.

You can contact the ONS for help or further information about this consultation at **2023consultation@ons.gov.uk**

Thank you.

About you

The ONS needs your name and email address to use your consultation response. We may contact you about your response to the consultation. We aim to be as open as possible in our decision-making process. As part of this, we plan to publish an anonymised summary of the responses we receive. We will not publish names or other personal data of any individual respondent. However, the names of all organisations and groups responding to the consultation will be published in a list of respondents. Names of organisations and groups will not be linked to any comments given.

Please be aware that, as a public authority, we are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and can never completely guarantee that names and responses will not be published. To find out more, read our Privacy Policy: Privacy – Office for National Statistics – Citizen Space (ons.gov.uk)

Full name
Required

....

Email address
We will use this to confirm your response has been received.
Required

....

Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation?
Required

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation:
What is the name of the organisation?
Required

....

....

....

....

What sector does the organisation belong to?
Required

☐ Central government

☐ Devolved administration

☐ Local government

☐ Other public body, for example health, transport, or emergency services

☐ Academia or research

☐ Religion or faith

☐ Charity or voluntary

☐ Business, industry or commercial

☐ Journalism or media

☐ Think tank

☐ No sector, I am responding in a personal capacity

☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please provide your organisation's sector below.

....

....

....

....

In the last 12 months, approximately how often have you used or referred to statistics from the ONS?

☐ Daily

☐ A few times a week

☐ A few times a month

☐ A few times a year

☐ Less frequently than a few times a year

☐ Never

What do you currently use the ONS's population statistics for?

☐ Academic research

☐ Service provision or business planning

☐ Personal use

☐ Public policy

☐ Other

....

....

....

....

Your population and migration statistical needs

1a. Please explain how you currently use ONS population and migration statistics.

....

....

....

....

1b. Throughout the consultation document we have outlined our proposals for changes to our population and migration statistics, with detail provided in Section 3.

To what extent do these proposals meet your needs?

☐ The proposals meet all of my needs

☐ The proposals meet some of my needs

☐ The proposals do not meet any of my needs

1c. We have outlined the potential benefits of the transformed system within Section 6 of the consultation document.

Are your current information needs better met by these proposals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'No', please go to question 1d. If 'yes', please continue.

Which of your information needs are better met by these proposals? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

....

....

....

....

1d. Would these proposals allow you to do anything new that you have not previously been able to do?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

☐ I have no need to do anything new

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

....

....

....

....

See Section 6 of the consultation document for further detail

If you answered 'These proposals meet all of my needs' in question 1b, please go to Section 3. Otherwise, please continue.

1e. Which of your current needs would not be met by these proposals?
Please include reasons for your answer. For example, information around levels of detail, accuracy, timeliness or geography.

....

....

....

....

Impact on your information needs

We are interested in how our proposal will impact your information needs.

2a. In the consultation document we have outlined our ambition to deliver characteristics estimates at Local Authority level, with some being available at lower levels (for example Lower Super Output Area). See Section 3.3.3 of the consultation document for further detail.

Do the proposed levels of geographic breakdown meet your information needs?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

What additional geographic breakdowns would you need?
Please explain the reasons for your answer.

....

....

....

....

2b. The use of administrative data could result in less detailed breakdowns for characteristics being available, particularly where more detailed breakdowns are collected in the census beyond standard tick-box options. See Section 3.3.3 of the consultation document for further detail.

Would this change in available detail still meet your needs?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

What impact would this change in available detail have on your use of our population and migration statistics?
Please explain your answer.

....

....

....

....

Population definitions and estimates

3a. Section 3.1.1 of the consultation document explains that we will continue to produce population and migration estimates based on our current 'usual resident' definition but are exploring alternative definitions.

Do you need definitions for population estimates other than 'usual resident'?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'No', go to question 4a. If 'Yes', please continue.

3b. Section 3.1.1 of the consultation document outlines the potential to also provide estimates of populations based on different reference periods, these are termed "population present".

For population present estimates, what is of interest to you? Please select all that apply and explain the reason for needing each definition.

☐ Overnight

☐ By day of week

☐ Daytime

☐ By weekday or weekend

☐ Average

☐ As a weekly average

☐ Other

☐ I don't need data on "population present"

Please explain why you need this definition of "population present".

....
....
....
....

3c. What, if any, other definitions could we use to estimate population and migration that would better meet your needs?

Please explain the reasons for needing any additional definitions.

....
....
....
....

Delivering future population estimates

4a. Section 3.1 of the consultation document sets out our plans for future population estimates. **For the usual resident population how frequently would you like population estimates?**
Please select the most important frequency for you.

☐ More frequently than once a year

☐ Annually

☐ I don't use population estimates

☐ Other

If you ticked 'Other', please specify.

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Please explain the reasons for your selected frequency and how it would meet your needs.

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4b. Section 3.1 sets out our plans for delivering provisional and final estimates. **How timely would you like population estimates to be?**

☐ Early provisional estimates, followed by updated estimates 12 months after the reference period

☐ Final estimates only, 12 months after the reference period

☐ I don't know

☐ I do not use population estimates

Please explain the reason for your answer.

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....

Data needs for historical purposes

5a. Section 3.5 of the consultation document outlines the potential to securely retain personal information obtained from administrative data used to create our statistics, for historical purposes.

What details from population and social characteristics data do you see as being important to be preserved for future generations, if any?
Please explain why this data is important to be preserved.

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Other comments

6a. Is there anything else about the transformation of population and migration statistics proposal that you wish to add to your response?

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....

This consultation relates to ONS population and migration statistics for England and Wales, which contribute to the production of UK statistics.

Which of these geographies do you mainly use ONS population statistics for? If you use more than one, please select all that apply.

☐ England and Wales

☐ Wales only

☐ England only

☐ UK-wide

☐ None of these

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation.
Can ONS contact you for further information on your answers?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Methodology detail

Much of the detail and insight presented in this report was provided by analysis of qualitative, open-text questions. Where appropriate, quantitative questions were included to gather numerical counts and contextual information on responses. The questionnaire was designed to capture the needs of users whilst not being burdensome for the respondent. The number of responses received are not equally distributed across the user groups, therefore numerical counts should be treated with caution.

The information presented here may or may not represent the views of all users who responded to the consultation. The ONS engaged extensively with a larger audience than those who responded formally to the consultation. The ONS will continue engaging with a wide range of audiences about the future of population and migration statistics.

Quantitative descriptives

A number of questions in the consultation questionnaire were closed, meaning questions were a single or multiple tick box. This includes, for example, the number of responses and representation of sectors.
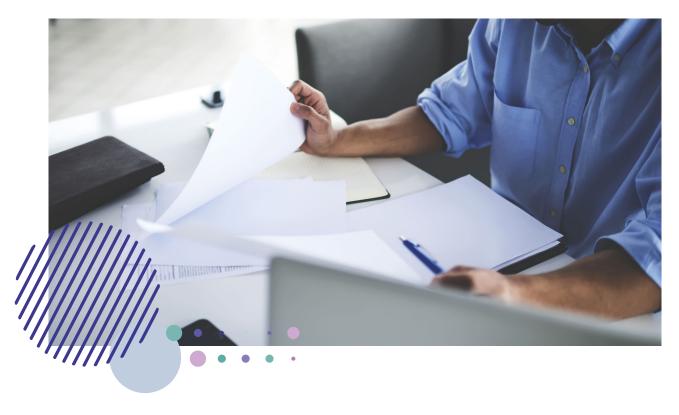
Qualitative analysis

Consultation responses were analysed by thematic and sentiment analysis methods using the Government Internal Audit Agency Insights Engine. The tool uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) to summarise consultation responses at speed by summarising, collating and analysing content. NLP works by identifying recurrent words, terms and phrases occurring within text. The Insights Engine is able to:

- Identify key themes from network analysis of the documents.
- Extract the most relevant paragraphs of text for a given topic.
- Produce interactive reports which summarise the findings.

Thematic analysis was conducted by analysts to understand the context surrounding terms that were identified via NLP, allowing identification and analysis of patterns or themes within the data.

Analysis was carried out for each response as a whole and also question by question. This approach improved understanding of the position of each stakeholder regarding the impact the transformed system will have on their needs as well as enabling analysts to identify key issues from the proposals that would impact users' needs.

Quality assurance

To ensure our qualitative analysis methods generated the highest quality analysis, an expert review of the methodology was undertaken prior to and during the analysis period.

Once analysis of consultation responses was finalised, analysts completed a quality assurance (QA) checklist. The QA checklist covered:

i. Themes correctly identified.

ii. A check on the analysis matrix which was used to code the themes present in each individual response.

iii. Check quotes have been attributed to their correct user group.

iv. Themes found in analysis were compared to those identified by NLP.

The QA process ensured the analysis was as rigorous and standardised as possible in the time allowed, according to best practice. All interpretation of responses were quality assured by another analyst to ensure consistency.

In addition to the QA process, analysis was reviewed by a series of moderation panels. These panels ensured the emerging narrative based on the analysis of the consultation responses was correct, unbiased and of good quality. This rigour provided assurance to the National Statistician of the impartiality of the analysis. The panel provided a forum for discussion and sign-off of the analytical findings determined from the consultation responses. The panel's membership was taken from a broad range of ONS senior analytical leads, statisticians from Welsh Government and the Office for Statistics Regulation.

Exclusion criteria

In a very small number of cases, it was necessary to omit responses from the analysis, either in their entirety or a response to a question. All responses were assessed against the following two exclusion criteria:

1. Relevance: has the respondent provided information that is relevant to the question being asked? This should include the rationale to explain why their specified requirements for the transformed system will meet their needs or not. Repeated responses across questions where the response was not relevant to the question asked were removed.

2. Quality: is the content of the response sufficient, in that it includes impact and evidence of proposals on user needs, related to the questions that are being asked?

Where a response was found to have no relevance to the consultation and was of such a low quality as not to offer information to aid the analysis, it was then assessed and discussed with the moderation panel prior to their approval for exclusion.

Confidentiality

To preserve the confidentiality of participants, no names or information that could lead to identification by deduction is included in this report. Where examples are provided to illustrate the user need, the user group is displayed. The name of the individual who responded on behalf of the organisation is not shown.

Counts derived from quantitative questions

On the following page are counts derived from the responses to the quantitative questions asked within the online consultation questionnaire. A total of 706 responses were received by the close of the consultation. Table 2 shows how respondents represented themselves based on the categories provided in the consultation questionnaire.

It is important to note the following when interpreting the tables below:

- It is important to note that the number of responses received were not distributed evenly or relative to the size of those groups. Therefore, numerical counts should be treated accordingly and careful consideration is needed of potential biases.

- Some questions allowed respondents to choose multiple answer options and the total number of responses for these questions may be more than number of respondents that took part in the consultation.

- A number of questions only applied to specific groups of respondents, dependent upon their answer to previous questions, and in these instances the "no answer" category includes those who were not routed to the question.

Table 2. Number of responses by user group

User group[*]	Count of question "What sector does the organisation belong to?"
Individual response	366
Local government	147
Charity or voluntary	52
Central government	34
Other public body, for example health, transport, or emergency services	31
Business, industry or commercial	21
Academia or research	18
Devolved government and associated bodies	9
Religion or faith	8
Other[**]	20
Total	**706**

[*]Response to question "what sector does the organisation belong to?"

[**]Other includes responses from user groups such as Think Tanks, Journalism or Media; which have been combined to avoid disclosure.

Note - Responses with more than one named author have been included in this table as a single response

Table 3. Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation?

Option	Total
Yes	344
No[*]	372
Not answered	0
Total	**706**

[*]6 responses were from organisations but responded "No" to the question "Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation?"

Table 4. In the last 12 months, approximately how often have you used or referred to statistics from the ONS?

Option	Total
Daily	132
A few times a week	186
A few times a month	173
A few times a year	138
Less frequently than a few times a year	40
Never	24
Not answered	13
Total	**706**

Table 5. What do you currently use the ONS's population and migration statistics for?

Option	Total
Academic research	159
Service provision or business planning	321
Personal use	223
Public policy	292
Other (please state below)	152
Not answered	13
Total	**1,160**

Table 6. To what extent do these proposals meet your needs?

Option	Total
The proposals meet all of my needs	159
The proposals meet some of my needs	426
The proposals do not meet any of my needs	84
Not answered	37
Total	**706**

Table 7. Would these proposals allow you to do anything new that you have not previously been able to do?

Option	Total
Yes	221
No	100
I don't know	290
I have no need to do anything new	60
Not answered	35
Total	**706**

Table 8. Are your current information needs better met by these proposals?

Option	Total
Yes	356
No	299
Not answered	51
Total	**706**

Table 9. Do the proposed levels of geographic breakdown meet your information needs?

Option	Total
Yes	169
No	190
I don't know	143
Not answered	204
Total	**706**

Table 10. Would this change in available detail still meet your needs?

Option	Total
Yes	91
No	214
I don't know	189
Not answered	212
Total	**706**

Table 11. Do you need definitions for population and migration estimates other than 'usual resident'?

Option	Total
Yes	319
No	343
Not answered	44
Total	**706**

Table 12. For population present estimates, what is of interest to you? Please select all that apply and explain the reason for needing each definition.

Option	Total
Overnight	128
By day of week	95
Daytime	136
By weekday or weekend	131
Average	91
As a weekly average	104
Other	67
I don't need data on 'population present'	32
Not answered	398
Total	**1,182**

Table 13. For the usual resident population how frequently would you like population estimates? Please select the most important frequency for you.

Option	Total
More frequently than once a year	118
Annually	448
I don't use population estimates	80
Other	27
Not answered	33
Total	**706**

Table 14. How timely would you like population estimates to be?

Option	Total
Early provisional estimates, followed by updated estimates 12 months after the reference period	273
Updated estimates only, 12 months after the reference period	225
I don't know	90
I don't use population estimates	90
Not answered	28
Total	**706**

Table 15. Which of these geographies do you mainly use ONS population statistics for? If you use more than one, please select all that apply.

Option	Total
England and Wales	239
Wales only	71
England only	331
UK-wide	390
Non of these	21
Not answered	20
Total	**1072**

List of organisations that responded

A Future for the Language

Academy of Social Sciences

Action with Communities
in Rural England

Age Cymru

All Party Parliamentary Group
on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

Alzheimer's Research UK

Analysis and Insight for Finance
in NHS England

Arun District Council

Association for Real Change

Association of Directors of Public
Health North East

Babergh and Mid Suffolk
District Councils

Barnet Council

Barnsley Metropolitan
Borough Council

Basingstoke and Deane
Borough Council

Bassetlaw District Council

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Bedford Borough Council

Bedfordshire Police

Bevan Foundation

Big Issue Group

Blackburn with Darwen
Borough Council

Blackpool Council

Blaenau Gwent County
Borough Council

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Bolton Council

Bournemouth, Christchurch
and Poole Council

Brent Council

Brian Debnam and Associates Ltd

Brighton and Hove City Council

Bristol City Council

British American Tobacco

British Broadcasting Corporation

British Polling Council

British Ravidassia Council

British Sikh Report Team

British Society for Heart Failure

British Society for Population Studies

Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Local
Enterprise Partnership

Cabinet Office

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Calderdale Council

Cambridge City Council

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Public Service Board

Cardiff Council

Carers UK and Carers Wales

Carmarthenshire County Council

Castor Parish Council

Centre for Ageing Better

Centre for Longitudinal Study
Information and User Support

Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity

Ceredigion County Council

Chartered Institute of Housing

Cherwell District Council

Cheshire East Council

Cheshire West and Chester Council

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

City of Wolverhampton Council

Coleford Town Council

College of Paramedics

Continuous Mortality Investigation

Council of Somali Organisations

Cyngor Gwynedd

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

Dartford Borough Council

Data Cymru and Welsh Local Government Association

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Education

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Department for Transport

Department for Work and Pensions

Department of Business and Trade

Department of Health and Social Care

Derby City Council

Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group

Destination for Education

Devon County Council

Disabled Children's Partnership

Dorset Council

Durham County Council

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

East Suffolk Council

East Sussex County Council

Edge Analytics Ltd

Educational Facilities Management Partnership Limited

Electoral Calculus

Enfield Council

Environment Agency

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Eryri National Park Authority

European's Welfare Association Community Interest Company

Fair Play for Women

Family History Federation

Figura Planning Ltd

Financial Conduct Authority

Financial Services Skills Commission

Food Standards Agency

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Friends, Families and Travellers

Frodsham and District History Society

Future4Fairgrounds

Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd

Gloucestershire County Council

Government Actuary's Department

Greater London Authority

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Halton Borough Council

Hampshire County Council

Haringey Council

Havant Borough Council

Health and Care Jewish Staff Network

Health and Safety Executive

Health Education and Improvement Wales

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales

Healthwatch Staffordshire

Hertfordshire County Council

Higher Education Statistics Agency

Hindu Council UK

Hindu Forum for Britain

History and Policy

HM Prison and Probation Service

HM Revenue and Customs

HM Treasury

Home Office

House of Commons Library

Hull City Council

Humanists UK

Huntingdonshire District Council

Independent Age

Independent Higher Education

Institute for Jewish Policy Research

Institute of Jainology Limited

Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas

Intergenerational Foundation

Ipsos

Ipswich Borough Council

Iraqi Community Association

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Isle of Wight Council

Joint Industry Committee for Population Standards

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Kantar Public

Kashmir Development Foundation

Kent County Council

KeyRing Living Support Networks

Latin American House

Learning Disability Wales

Leeds City Council

Leicester City Council

Leicestershire County Council

Lewisham Council

LGB Alliance UK

LGBT Foundation

Lichfields Planning and Development Consultancy

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Local Government Association

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

London Borough of Bexley

London Borough of Bromley

London Borough of Camden

London Borough of Croydon

London Borough of Enfield

London Borough of Hackney

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

London Borough of Hillingdon

London Borough of Hounslow

London Borough of Newham

London Borough of Redbridge

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

London Councils

Luton Council

Maidstone Borough Council

Manchester City Council

Marie Curie

Market Research Society

Medway Council

Migration Advisory Committee

Migration Observatory

Migration Yorkshire

Minchinhampton Community Library Trust

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Justice

Mobilityways

Mole Valley District Council

Monmouthshire County Council

Muslim Council of Britain

National Church Institutions of the Church of England

National Disease Registration Service, NHS England

National Records of Scotland

National Secular Society

New Forest National Park Authority

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Newchurch Parish Council

Newport Pagnell Town Council

NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS England

NHS Greater Manchester

Norfolk Constabulary and Suffolk Constabulary

Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Office of Data & Analytics (joint response)

North Lincolnshire Council

North Norfolk District Council

North Wales Regional Project Board

North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Northumbrian Water

Nottingham City Council

Office for Budget Responsibility

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

Office for Students

Office for Veterans' Affairs

Office of the Children's Commissioner

Official Statistics Section, Committee of the Royal Statistical Society

Oldham Council

OnePoll

Opinion Research Services Ltd

Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Pendle Borough Council

People Matter Isle of Wight

Polish Language School (in Llanelli)

Post Office Limited

PRD

Public Health Scotland

Public Health Wales NHS Trust

QED Foundation

Queen's University Belfast

Race Equality Foundation

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Research Data Scotland

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Richmond and Wandsworth Councils

Romani Uniti din Anglia

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Royal Association for Deaf people

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Royal British Legion

Royal College of General Practitioners

Royal Geographical Society

Royal National Institute for Deaf People

Royal National Institute of Blind People

Royal Statistical Society

Runnymede Borough Council

Rushmoor Borough Council

Rutland County Council

Sail4Kashmir Ltd

Salford City Council

Sandwell Council

Save Greater Manchester's Greenbelt

Scottish Fiscal Commission

Scottish Government

Sex Matters for Everyone Ltd

Sheffield City Council

Shelter

Shire Hill Capital

Shropshire Council

Sikh Federation (UK)

Somerset Council

Southend City Council

Southampton City Council

South Staffordshire District Council

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Sport England

St Albans City and District Council

St Helens Council

Stockport Council

Study Group

Surrey County Council

Sussex Police

Swansea Council

Swindon Borough Council

Tees Valley Combined Authority

Tesco Stores Limited

The Bank of England

The Bell Foundation

The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (University of Cambridge)

The Diversity Trust Community Interest Company

The Health Foundation

The Hereford Food Bank

The Housing Forum

The Place, Settle, Community Anchor Project

The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain

The Traditional Britain Group

The Traveller Movement

Tichborne Parish Council

Torfaen County Borough Council

Torridge District Council

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Transport for the North

Trinity Safe Space

UK Council for International Student Affairs

UK Data Service

UK Geographics Ltd

UK Health Security Agency

UK Housing Review

Understanding Patient Data

United Kingdom Council on Deafness

Universities UK International

Wakefield Council

Wales Safer Communities Network

Welsh Government

Welsh Language Commissioner

Welsh Parliament

West Lindsey District Council

West Midlands Police

West Northamptonshire Council

West Suffolk Council

Westminster City Council

Which?

Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan Review Group

Wigan Council

Wiltshire Council

Wrexham County Borough Council

Yate Town Council

Yorkshire Cancer Research