

# Census 2021

## Your questions answered



## The census is here

It informs decisions about the things that matter to your community.

In this leaflet, you will find the answers to commonly asked questions about Census 2021 .

It's important to fill in your census questionnaire because it gives us the most detailed information we have about our society. You must complete the census by law.

Census data helps inform funding decisions on public services in your area. Whether it's planning new schools, doctors' surgeries or bike lanes, the information you share has an impact on the lives of everyone living in England and Wales.

## When should I fill in my census questionnaire?

Census Day is Sunday 21 March – but you can fill yours in as soon as you get your access code in the post.

Your answers should be about the people who usually live in your household on this date – even if you're filling it in before then.

If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let us know.

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If you need help, visit  
**[www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)**

    
**@Census2021**

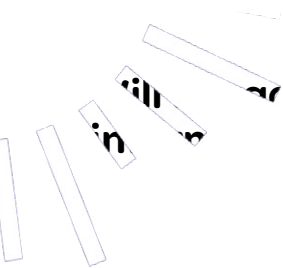
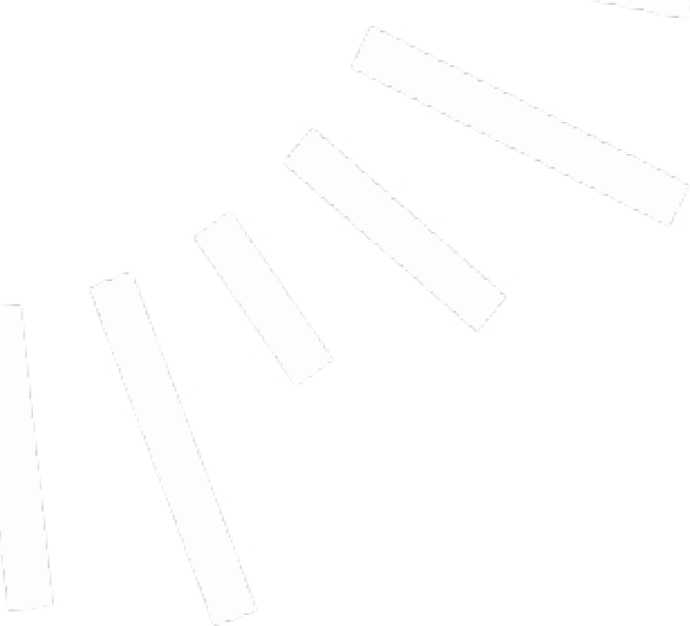
## What is the census?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it would be much more difficult to do this.

## Do I have to take part?

If you live in England and Wales, you must take part in the census. Census information helps inform how billions of pounds of public funding is spent. By taking around 10 minutes per person to fill in the census questionnaire, you will help make sure your community gets the services needed now and in the future.





## How will the census make a difference to me?

The census makes a difference to everyone. It's a once-in-a-decade chance to have your voice heard and help inform the future of your local area.



## What if I do not identify with the census options?

The census asks you about your ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, religion and national identity. It's up to you to decide how you would like to answer each question. Do it in the way that you feel best represents you.

## Could information I share affect my benefits or immigration status?

No. The information you share in the census cannot be used to influence benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or your taxes.

The ONS is independent from government. This means officials dealing with payments or services you receive cannot see your census information.



## What if I cannot fill in my census questionnaire online?

We know there are some people who will find this challenging. That's why we're here to help with a wide range of support services. We will make it easy for you, whatever your needs.

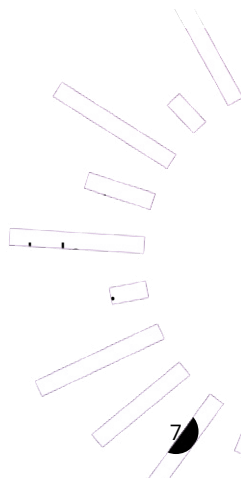
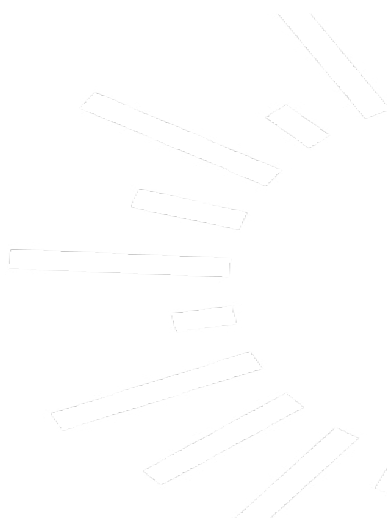
### Services include:

- guidance and support in many languages and formats
- help over the phone, in a web chat or on social media
- a paper version of the questionnaire, if you prefer
- accessible census guidance, for example, in braille

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# Census Day is Sunday **21 March**

It's easy to take part. If you need help  
to fill in your form, we've got it covered.

**We will send you a letter  
with an access code.**

**Visit our secure website  
and enter your access code  
to get started.**

If you, or anyone you know, needs help,  
a wide range of support services are available.

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