

# census 2021

## **The Census is Coming**

Households across England and Wales will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

## **What is the census?**

The census is a count of all people and households in England and Wales. It is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and happens only once every 10 years. It's been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

## **Why does the census matter?**

The information collected in the census is used to help make decisions about how vital public services, such as education, transport and health, are planned and funded.

Census 2021 data will help to shape many different aspects of life in our communities over the next 10 years including:

- Hospital beds
- emergency services
- support for the elderly
- local schools
- bus routes and new roads
- housing
- rural support programmes

That's why getting a complete census count is so important and your response is required by law.

## **What happens next?**

Census day is Sunday 21 March 2021. However you can complete your census as soon as you receive your invitation pack in the post. Your pack should be with you in early March. This pack is really important as it will explain how to complete your census online or on paper if you prefer.

## **What if I need help?**

There will be a dedicated freephone helpline. There will also be comprehensive guidance and support available in many languages and formats, such as braille, large print, etc..

## **What questions does it ask?**

The census asks questions about who usually lives in your household and the accommodation, as well as individual questions about health conditions, employment and qualifications among others. For the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

### **How can I help?**

Tell everyone. Tell your friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues that you'll complete the census and that they should too.

### **How secure is my data?**

The census asks questions about you, your home and the people who live in it. The information given is kept safe and confidential by law for 100 years.

When the ONS publishes statistics they're completely anonymous. They don't include any personal information and you cannot be identified via census data. Your personal census information is protected by law and it's a crime for anyone to share it. This means government departments dealing with any applications you've made or any payments or services you receive cannot see your census information. For example it cannot be used to influence benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or taxes. Private organisations and individuals such as landlords will not have access to your personal information. ONS will never sell your data.

All census records are kept secure for 100 years and only then can they be viewed by future generations, for example, by those interested in family history.

**Please visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) for more information**