

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of
publication date

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Many thanks. Mr Robertson has noted. SpAds will be able to suggest an MSP for the
GIQ.

Kind regards
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs
and Culture CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | T: [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)] | [REDACTED UNDER FOISA SECTION.38 (1)(B)]



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terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>;
Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Spads Admin
<Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of
publication date

Thanks, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].

Ewan / Davie – very grateful for a suggested MSP to ask the census GIQ on 14 September?

Thanks,
Matt

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
National Records of Scotland
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of publication date
Importance: High

Morning all,

We plan to submit the pre-release census briefing on Friday (8 September), including the GIQ question and answer. Grateful for nomination of an MSP to ask on 14 September?

PO – we would also be keen to offer the Cab Sec a pre-release briefing meeting. Happy for this to be virtual. Is there a time that would be best w/c 11 September?

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:43 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of publication date

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:30 AM

To: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of publication date

Thanks, Davie.

Cc: Parly Clerk box for awareness.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:19 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; PDR Portfolio Management <PDRPortfolioManagement@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Census Comms SLT <CensusCommsSLT@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAlliste[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of publication date

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please note that Mr Adam will need to clear the GIQ so grateful if you could forward on please, if the question and answer have been drafted.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[REDACTED UNDER FOISA SECTION.38 (1)(B)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] E: MinisterforPB@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1
3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:48 PM

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

<CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees

<MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development

<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary

<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Culture

and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers

<Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; PDR Portfolio Management

<PDRPortfolioManagement@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine

<Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-

Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under

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[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford

<Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin

McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of
publication date

Thanks, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – we agreed handling via a
separate email.

For the benefit of the copy list, a submission containing the GIQ will be sent later this
week.

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of ParlyClerk
Scotland
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:20 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet
Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers
<Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; PDR Portfolio Management
<PDRPortfolioManagement@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine
<Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-
Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Census Comms SLT <CensusCommsSLT@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk
Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of
publication date

Hello

I note [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]– who shall I allocate the template of
the GIQ to to complete on the PQ Tracker. It will need to be done by COP today and
returned to the Private Office for answering at 09:30 tomorrow.

Kind Regards
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Parly Clerks Office

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:35 PM
To: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for
Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers
<Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; PDR Portfolio Management
<PDRPortfolioManagement@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine
<Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-
Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
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FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Routine submission - Scotland's Census 2022 - Announcement of
publication date

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

I'll be working tomorrow so happy for it to be sent to me.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

1.A.

[redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]
Census and Statistical Policy
National Records of Scotland
17 August 2023

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION DATE AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

1. Priority and Purpose

4. **Routine.** To inform you that NRS will announce the publication date for the first outputs (1A) from Scotland's Census 2022 tomorrow, Friday 18 August 2023. The announcement will confirm a publication date and time of 09:30 am, Thursday 14 September 2023.
5. To provide you with information on handling for both the announcement of the publication date and the 1A outputs release.
6. To seek your nomination for an MSP to ask a GIQ on Thursday 14 September.

2. Recommendation

7. Recommends that you:
 - A. Note the process for announcing the publication date.
 - B. Note the approach to on-going awareness raising with key stakeholders.
 - C. Note the proposed handling on the day of publication.
 - D. Nominate an MSP to ask a GIQ on the day of publication.

Context and Issues

Background

8. First results of the 2022 census will be published on Thursday 14 September 2023. This first release will cover the following information:
 - A. Population by age and sex at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded); and,
 - B. Number of households at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded).
9. In line with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Statistics (section T3.1), National Records of Scotland (NRS) are required to publish the specific release date and time for each statistical publication at least four weeks in advance. NRS will publicly announce on 18 August 2023 that the 1A release from Scotland's Census 2022 will be published on 14 September 2023. NRS were granted dispensation by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to delay the announcement by one day to allow for an internal review meeting with the SG Chief Statistician to be held.

Announcement of publication date – 18 August

10. In addition to ongoing communications (stakeholder newsletters, social media, internal comms), proactive communications activity is planned for the announcement of the date of publication (18 August 2023). This will include a news release (Annex A, for information), social media activity and social media assets provided for stakeholders. Key messages will be to highlight the date of publication, what data will be published in phase 1A and the importance of census statistics.

Pre-publication engagement

11. As noted in a submission of 14 June, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. Given the on-going political interest in the final return rate of the census collect phase, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

NRS officials met with you on 20 July 2023 to provide an overview of the methodology enhancements used to secure high quality census outputs. Upon your recommendation, NRS approached the four cross-party spokespersons (via your office) on w/c 7 August, with the offer to provide a similar update ahead of first outputs. As with the media briefing, the objective will be to explain the ground-breaking work undertaken since the collect phases and answer any queries. A meeting took place between NRS Officials and Donald Cameron MSP on 16 August 2023. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

Publication day – 14 September

12. On publication day, NRS will issue a news release and social media content at 9.30am to time with the publication of the statistics. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. As in previous censuses and in other countries, we propose holding a photo call with broadcast opportunities for media on the morning of publication. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)] Traditionally these events have been held in schools or similar locations. As with other NRS statistical publications, we are working closely with SG News who plan to issue a proactive comment on the day in response to the statistics.

13. There is a statutory requirement to print and lay all census outputs before Parliament. In line with the code of practice, the 1A outputs will be laid before parliament on 14 September shortly after publication at 09:30. The publication will be made available to MSPs via the daily Business Bulletin.

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. NRS will also write directly to the conveners of both Constitution and FPA Committees. Both committees have an ongoing interest in census operations. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

3. Options Considered and Advice

14. We are currently working in partnership with Local Authorities under the strict pre-release conditions of the code of practice so they can directly contribute to our quality assurance (QA) processes. NRS is also engaging with local authorities via broader groups and networks such as the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

15. Following the conclusion of the QA engagement, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)] Following this, on w/c 4 September, we will share with you the draft GIQ and a SCANCE note for approval. We will also share a copy of the convener(s) letter and FMQ note for information.

16. NRS will provide you with pre-release access to the 1A outputs publication w/c 11 September. We will engage with your office ahead of time to ensure you are able to access the full functionality of the online publication. Update briefing will also be provided.

4. Assessment of Options

17. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

5. Bute House Agreement Implications

18. Not applicable.

6. Financial and Legal Considerations

19. Not applicable.

7. Sensitivities

20. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. NRS communications and policy leads continue to working closely to establish robust lines to take and Q&A. We will continue to engage with SG comms and SpAds throughout.

21. In April 2023, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published their second assessment report for Scotland's Census. Whilst OSR recognise that NRS has completed all activities (noting the excellent progress that has been made), we have been asked to submit a briefing in relation to the completed QA process for Scotland's Census prior to any recommendation regarding accreditation. This means that the publication date will be announced prior to confirmation of National Statistics accreditation for Scotland's Census 2022. NRS are confident that this will be awarded prior to publication on 14 September and do not foresee any issues. We continue to engage closely with OSR.

8. Quality Assurance

22. This Submission has been approved by Janet Egdell, Interim Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland.

9. Conclusions and next Steps

23. You are invited to:

- A. note the external confirmation of the publication date for 1A outputs;
- B. note the broad approach being taken to engage with relevant audiences pre-publication and on the day of publication;
- C. nominate an MSP to ask a GIQ on 14 September; and,
- D. note that NRS will seek your approval for various material w/c 4 September and provide you with pre-release access to 1A outputs w/c 11 September.

[REDACTED UNDER FOISA SECTION.38 (1)(B)]

NRS: Census and Statistical Policy

17 August 2023

| Copy List: | For Action | For Comments | For Information | | |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Portfolio Interest | Constit Interest | General Awareness |
| Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice | | | X | | |
| Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees | | | X | | |
| Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development | | | | | X |

Permanent Secretary
 DG Strategy and External Affairs
 DG Education and Justice
 Director of Culture and Major Events
 Director of Performance, Delivery and Resilience
 Janet Egdell, CE NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 Census Comms SLT
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 NRS Census Policy
 Ally McAlpine, Chief Statistician
 Ewan Crawford, Special Advisor
 David Hutchison, Special Advisor
 Colin McAllister, Special Advisor
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG

Scotland's Census first outputs results

The first results from Scotland's Census 2022 will be published by National Records of Scotland (NRS) on Thursday 14 September 2023.

These results will include estimates of the total population of Scotland and the population size in every local authority area, including a breakdown by five year age groups and sex.

There will also be figures showing the change in population since the last census in Scotland in 2011 – both at national and local authority level – as well as population density and household numbers.

For more than 200 years Scotland has used the data the census provides and it remains the best way to gather vital information about Scotland's people which local and central government, the NHS and a range of other data users in the public, private and third sectors need.

NRS Chief Executive Janet Egdell said:

“The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations. The results on 14 September are the first step in publishing a wide range of unique data that will be used by government and other public bodies to plan vital public services and infrastructure across Scotland in the years to come.”

Following the first population estimates released in September, NRS will publish further results from the census from spring 2024 onwards. This will include detailed population data which supports community planning.

In summer 2024, a series of topic data will be published, providing new insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including data on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing.

For the first time, it will also include information on armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Background:

There has been a census in Scotland every 10 years since 1801, except 1941. The 2021 census in Scotland was moved to 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Access more information](#) about the release schedule for census data.

Since the census collection period in 2022, NRS has been working closely with the International Steering Group (ISG). The ISG, made up of census and statistical experts from across the world, was established to provide independent external

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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David
Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken
<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted
under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics -
Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: Contains pre-release statistics. Not for sharing with others until after 9:30 a.m. on Thursday 14 September 2023.

**PS/Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
PS/Minister for Parliamentary Business**

24. I attach in Word a submission for “urgent” attention (10 pages total, including annexes) providing you with pre-release access to first outputs from Scotland’s Census. The full publication is available in the html file attached (Annex C)
25. We are also seeking clearance from you and the Minister for Parliamentary Business on the GIQ (Annex A) to be asked by Keith Brown MSP on Thursday 14 September.
26. NRS are also seeking clearance on a SCANCE contribution (Annex B) for Cabinet on Tuesday 12 September.
27. Finally, NRS would recommend a further face-to-face briefing meeting early next week to discuss key points from the publication. We will work with PO to find a suitable time and date.

Kind regards,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
National Records of Scotland
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 9:57 AM

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary

<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;

Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>;

Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken

<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics -
Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. Contribution attached.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]t@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet
Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 11:08 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet
Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>;
Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet
Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
<CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
<MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>;
Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-
Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David
Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], with Mr Robertson for clearance and copying in Cabinet Secretariat

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 12:10 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]t@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Thanks for taking the SCANCE contribution forward.

On point 4 from the submission email – can I check Cab Sec's availability to meet this week for a face-to-face briefing?

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 2:04 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;

Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Good afternoon [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Many thanks again for the submission and enclosed documents. Mr Robertson has noted and is content with all of the recommendations including the SCANCE note, GIQ and request to meet.

Kind regards
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 5:34 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Cc: Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] & [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Fully appreciating that NRS sits with Cab Sec, Ms Roddick wonders if Mr Robertson would consider allowing her to join the meeting with them given her portfolio interests on the population/migration front with the population issue being a headline here. Grateful if Mr Robertson could consider if he would be content with this. If not possible, Ms Roddick would appreciate being sighted on the readout for her interests.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees – Emma Roddick
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: ministeremr@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Of course, Mr Robertson is more than happy for Ms Roddick to join. [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – if fine with you we'll forward on the invite?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Thanks for this, appreciated. This will be one of those moments where we then find it clashes but will see how we get on and let Minister make the call. Appreciate that super speedy reply and for Mr Robertson's consideration.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees – Emma Roddick
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: ministeremr@gov.scot

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture; Angus Robertson; Robertson A (Angus), MSP; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]Janet Egdell; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]Ewan Crawford; David Hutchison; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
Cc: NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Roddick E (Emma), MSP <Emma.Roddick.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Emma Roddick
Subject: 12:30 - 13:15 Meeting with officials - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022
When: 12 September 2023 12:30-13:15 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agenda:

- Welcome – Janet Egdell (5 mins)
- Key points and engagement – [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (10 mins)
- Publication overview – [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (5 mins)
- SG Policy implications – [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (5 mins)
- Comms handling – [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (10 mins)
- Questions – All (10 mins)

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[redacted under FOISA Section.30 (1)(c)]

Meeting ID: [redacted under FOISA Section.30 (1)(c)]

Passcode: [redacted under FOISA Section.30 (1)(c)]

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

SCOTS Connect - Please note - You must have the explicit permission of the organiser to record this meeting and its attendees, using any technology.

[Learn more](#) | [Help](#) | [Meeting options](#)

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:06 AM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees

<MinisterEMR@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Absolutely, great timing - my intention was to offer Ms Roddick a meeting following Cab Sec approval.

Many thanks for reaching out.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:14 PM

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development

<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>;
Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-
Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David
Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken
<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted
under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics -
Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

As you are aware, this was discussed at Cabinet. DFM would like to see the latest
Census data and is especially interested in the inward migration figures.

Grateful if this information could be sent by COP on Thursday 14 September.

Much appreciated

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew’s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>; Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Thanks for clarifying the ask.

The HTML link is the publication. This includes all census data being released at the first outputs stage:

- Population by age and sex at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded), and;
- Number of households at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded).

From summer 2024, our release schedule will focus on topic data, published as univariate tables. This will be a phased release and will include topic data such as “demography and migration”. Further detail on the future releases can be found here: [Census outputs schedule | Scotland's Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](https://scotlandscensus.gov.uk).

I hope this is helpful.

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:01 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Cab Sec could be available for a virtual meeting on Thursday if this is ok ? at 1415 ?

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:03 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics -
Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – we met with Cab Sec today at 12:30 to discuss Census. I think that covers the actions, but let me know if Cab Sec would like a further meeting.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy
First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:23 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Deputy First
Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>;
Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
<CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
<MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>;
Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-
Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

DFM has noted.

Much appreciated

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: DFMCSF@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:00 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

<CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees
<MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development
<MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities
<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot>;
Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine[redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under
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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David
Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister
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ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
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Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken
<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted
under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics -
Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I can confirm the Minister for Parliamentary Business is content with this GIQ, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

I note that the stats will be published at 09:30 tomorrow so the GIQ should also be published at 09:30. Please also ensure that any letters or comms are issued after the GIQ is answered.

<ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: Interview requests and proactive comment - AR - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

PO/ Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

As discussed yesterday, we're planning to issue a proactive statement from Mr Robertson following the publication of the statistics. We've drafted the below with officials and SpAds – grateful if you can advise if Cab Sec is content.

We've also had two interview requests from ITV Border and GMS – set out in the table below.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

| WHO | OUTLET | TIME | LIVE/PRE-REC | INTERVIEWER | TOPICS | Recommendation | Other details (if required) |
|-----|---------------|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| AR | BBC GMS | Between 08:00 and 08:30 | Live | Laura Maxwell and Lucy Whyte | Census stats | [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)] | The first tranche of info is released at 0930 tomorrow so ahead of that, we would ask him about the census exercise, how the info was collated, what it will be used for in the future. We also have someone from the NRS (Director of Census Statistics) to us tomorrow morning on this topic. Can do this via BBC studio, Zoom or Whatsapp. |
| AR | ITV Border | Mid- morning (preferably between | Pre-rec – as live | Peter MacMahon | Census stats | [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)] | Want to speak mid-morning following the publication of the |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 10:30 - 11:30) | | | | | <p>stats. How the info will be used? Is there enough here to be used by SG for creating policy? Questions on migration.</p> <p>He said he might get clip from NRS.</p> <p>In person – Garden Lobby (preferably between 10:30 - 11:30)</p> |
|--|--|----------------|--|--|--|--|---|

Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Angus Robertson said:

“Today’s publication represents a historic moment with the largest population ever recorded by Scotland’s Census of 5.4 million, an increase of 2.7% since the previous census in 2011.

“It confirms this growth has been driven by inward migration, demonstrating that Scotland is an attractive place to come to live and work.

“We know however that Scotland faces an ongoing population challenge with fewer births than deaths registered in Scotland since 2011, which reinforces just how damaging Brexit will be to Scotland with the loss of freedom of movement.”

“As outlined in the Programme for Government, the Scottish Government is taking action: we will publish an Addressing Depopulation Action Plan which will set out the first phase of our response to population decline occurring in some of Scotland’s communities. We will also introduce a Talent Attraction and Migration Service to support more people to live and work here.

“We have also called on the UK Government to devolve immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament and work with us to deliver our proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot to enable rural and island communities to attract migrants in line with local needs.

“The census also shows that in common with many countries our population is aging. Understanding these changes in the population will allow local authorities, businesses and the government to adapt vital public services to better meet the needs of those living and working in Scotland – including our large, established migrant community, whose contribution we greatly welcome.

“Today’s results also show a trend towards smaller households and more households overall, which further demonstrates the importance of our strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness through stronger social connections, and our continued funding for organisations working to address this issue.

“Following the collection of Scotland’s Census 2022, NRS updated its statistical methods to ensure outputs represent 100% of Scotland’s population. This approach has been commended by the independent Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) who have awarded Scotland’s census outputs National Statistics designation based on the high quality and good practice of the statistics.

“The updated methodology was supported by a panel of independent international census and statistical experts, who have worked closely with NRS since the collection period.”

Background

- Following today’s publication, NRS will publish further results from Scotland’s Census 2022 from spring 2024 onwards. In summer 2024, a series of topic data reports will provide new and unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland’s people, including information on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. For the first time, it will also include data on armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and trans status or history.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029

www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:03 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]g@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken

<ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Interview requests and proactive comment - AR - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

PO – apologies but I've just had an email from ITV Border asking if the Cab Sec could speak to them later today? Perhaps after FMQs as their cameraman will be at the NRS briefing. Would this be possible?

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029

www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:03 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]g@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; John Burns <John.Burns@gov.scot> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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<ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Alison Byrne <Alison.Byrne@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol
<Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Interview requests and proactive comment - AR - Pre-release statistics
- Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – [redacted under FOISA
Section.30(1)(b)]

We've issued the lines below

Following the publication of the first outputs from Scotland's Census 2022, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Angus Robertson said:

"Today's publication represents a historic moment with the largest population ever recorded by Scotland's Census of 5.4 million, an increase of 2.7% since the previous census in 2011. It also confirms this growth has been driven by inward migration, demonstrating that Scotland is an attractive place to come to live and work. However we know Scotland faces an ongoing population challenge with fewer births than deaths registered in Scotland since 2011, which reinforces just how damaging Brexit continues to be for Scotland with the loss of freedom of movement.

"The census also shows that, in line with many other countries, our population is aging. Understanding these changes in the population will allow local authorities and the government to adapt vital public services to better meet the needs of those living and working in Scotland – including our large, established migrant community, whose contribution we greatly welcome. As outlined in the Programme for Government, we will publish an Addressing Depopulation Action Plan which will set out the first phase of our response to population decline occurring in some of Scotland's communities.

"We will also introduce a Talent Attraction and Migration Service to support more people to live and work here. We have also called on the UK Government to devolve immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament and work with us to deliver our proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot to enable rural and island communities to attract migrants in line with local needs.

“The Census also shows a trend towards smaller households and more households overall, which further demonstrates the importance of our strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness through stronger social connections, and our continued funding for organisations working to address this issue.”

Background

Following the collection of Scotland’s Census 2022, National Records of Scotland updated its statistical methods to ensure outputs represent 100% of Scotland’s population. This approach has been commended by the independent Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) who have awarded Scotland’s census outputs National Statistics designation based on the high quality and good practice of the statistics. The updated methodology was supported by a panel of independent international census and statistical experts, who have worked closely with NRS since the collection period.

Following today’s publication, National Records of Scotland will publish further results from Scotland’s Census 2022 from spring 2024 onwards. In summer 2024, a series of topic data reports will provide new and unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including information on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. For the first time, it will also include data on armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and trans status or history.

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News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300
244 9029

www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:20 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]g@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health &

Subject: RE: Interview requests and proactive comment - AR - Pre-release statistics
- Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

Thanks for confirming 😊

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:16 PM

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities, Migration & Refugees <MinisterEMR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development <MinisterforCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary

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<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

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<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; Lynne Nicol <Lynne.Nicol@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

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Subject: RE: Interview requests and proactive comment - AR - Pre-release statistics
- Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

For the benefit of the copy list – please find a transcript of Cab Sec’s interview with
ITV Border yesterday.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300
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www.gov.scot/news



3.A.

SCANCE CONTRIBUTION

[redacted under FOISA Section.30 (1)(a)]

3B.

Scotland's Census 2022

First Outputs

Core Brief

Contents

FIRST RELEASE STORY

Scotland

5,436,600 Scotland's population.

Up 141,200 (2.7%) since last census.

Slower rate of growth than 2001 and 2011 (233,400 / 4.6%).

Since 2011 Scotland's population would have got smaller if it wasn't for migration as there were more deaths than births.

When the first census was taken in 1801 Census the population was 1,608,420.

Since then there have been two periods of change i) rapid growth to 1911 ii) less pronounced change since then but with increases since 2001.

Ageing Population

The gap between the number of people aged under 15 and those aged 65 and over is now much higher than it was at the last census. There are now over a quarter of a million more people aged 65 and over than those aged under 15.

As context, in 1971 there were twice as many people aged under 15 than there were aged 65 and over.

There are implications not only for the type of services that older people tend to use but also the role that older people play in society as volunteers, employees or carers for example.

Understanding these changes in the population allow local authorities, businesses and the government to adapt vital public services to better meet the needs of those living and working in Scotland.

Future census publications will give us new insights as we start looking at topics like ageing by housing, employment or veterans status.

Compared to the last census, there were 22.5% (200,700) more people aged 65 and over in 2022. There were similar increases in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland between the census in 2011 and 2021. In England & Wales the increase was 20.0% and Northern Ireland 23.8% (2011 to 2021).

People living longer is important for ageing. However previous birth rates are the key factor. We are now seeing people born after the second world war reaching retirement age.

When discussing the results with colleagues it was apparent just how many of our parents had retired since the last census and who were part of the post-war baby boom.

Local area change

We see there has been substantial growth in the big city council areas of Edinburgh and Glasgow (7.6% and 4.6%). Aberdeen city council by contrast has shown minimal change. The area with the biggest increase was Midlothian.

Migration is a key driver of population change in urban areas and we know that people move for different reasons be it employment, study and joining family. We'll get a deeper understanding of these drivers when we publish more data next year.

Future census publications will give us a deeper understanding of population change over time not just for cities but for the communities within them and across Scotland.

Most of the council areas in the Central Belt saw increases in their populations, particularly those around Edinburgh. These increases were driven by migration from within Scotland and from elsewhere.

Most of the council areas that saw a decrease in population are in the west or south west. These decreases were driven by a higher number of deaths than births between censuses.

Two council areas elsewhere in Scotland saw a decrease in population. In Angus the decrease was also driven by a higher number of deaths than births. But in the Shetland Islands the decrease was driven by migration.

Household numbers

There were 2,509,300 households with at least one usual resident. An increase of 5.8% since the last census (136,500) this is clearly higher than the increase in the population (2.7%).

We know the population is ageing and older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households. There is a related trend towards smaller households and more households overall.

KEY FINDINGS

On Census Day, 20 March 2022, the population of Scotland was estimated to be 5,436,600. This is the largest population ever recorded by Scotland's Census.

The population grew by 141,200 (2.7%) since the previous census in 2011. This is a slower rate of growth than between 2001 and 2011, when the population grew by 233,400 (4.6%).

Since the 2011 census there were around 585,000 births and 634,800 deaths registered in Scotland. Without migration the population would have decreased by around 49,800. But the population has grown because more people moved to Scotland than moved out.

Scotland's population is ageing. There are more people in the older age groups than ever recorded in Scotland's Census. There are now over a quarter of a million (258,700) more people aged 65 and over (1,091,000) than under 15 (832,300). In Scotland the 65 and older age group (65+) saw a large increase compared to 2011:

- 0 to 14 year old population decreased by 21,800 (down 2.5%)
- 15 to 64 year old population decreased by 37,700 (down 1.1%)
- 65+ population increased by 200,700 (up 22.5%)

The population increased in 17 council areas between 2011 and 2022. The population decreased in 10 council areas over the same period. There were 5 council areas that saw minimal change. The council area that saw the largest increase was Midlothian (up 16.1%) while Na h-Eileanan Siar saw the biggest decrease (down 5.5%).

Most of the council areas in the Central Belt saw increases in their populations, particularly those around Edinburgh. These increases were driven by migration from within Scotland and from elsewhere. Most of the council areas that saw a decrease in population are in the west or south west. These decreases were driven by a higher number of deaths than births between censuses.

On census day there were 2,509,300 households with at least one usual resident. This is up 136,500 (5.8%) from the 2011 census. The increase in the number of households (5.8%) is higher than the increase in the population (2.7%). We know the population is ageing and older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller

households. There is a related trend towards smaller households and more households overall.

SUPPORTIVE QUOTES

| Who? | What? | When? |
|--|---|---|
| OSR | - | - |
| Professor James Brown , chair of ISG on behalf of the group. | “The International Steering Group commends NRS for its systematic and robust application of the <u>census estimation methodology</u> that has led to today’s published estimates.” | To accompany first release |
| | “These decisions were made on a sound methodological basis, providing NRS with a strong position for the statistical processing phase.” | 8 June 2023, foreword to methodology paper |
| Ally McAlpine, SG Chief Statistician , on behalf of group reviewing the coherence assessment for first outputs. | “I am therefore satisfied...that the outputs will provide the robust population statistics to support the wider statistical system and that analysts and the general public can have confidence in the outputs, and that they can be published on 14 September 2023.” | 24 August 2023 |
| Janet Egdell, NRS Chief Executive | "Information on Scotland’s population is vital for planning health services, education and transport. Census data paints a detailed picture of how Scotland and our communities are changing." | To accompany first release |
| | "This is an exciting milestone for Scotland's Census. Over the coming months we will provide more fascinating and wide ranging data on Scotland’s people." | |
| | "The detailed population data we will publish in spring is vital for community planning right down to neighbourhood level. The topic data we will publish in summer will provide amazing insights into the characteristics of Scotland's population. This includes important new data on sexual orientation, trans status or history and veterans." | |
| | “The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations. The results on 14 September are the first step in publishing a wide range of unique data that will be used by government and other public bodies to plan vital public services and infrastructure across Scotland in the years to come.” | 18 August, in support of first outputs release date |
| | “I am delighted to have seen the ground-breaking work that NRS has carried out to enhance our approach to producing census statistics. We have worked closely with international experts on our International Steering Group (ISG) to make greater use of administrative data than initially planned.” | 8 June 2023, press release for methodology paper |

LINES TO TAKE

The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations and is an asset for Scotland.

- Scotland has relied for more than 200 years on the information the census provides. It remains the best way to gather vital information which government, councils, the NHS and a range of users in the public, private and third sectors need.
- The results help local authorities, businesses and the government plan a wide range of vital public services, to improve the lives of those living and working in Scotland.

Since completion of the collection phases of Scotland's Census 2022, NRS has been processing and quality assuring the data, and making use of other administrative data sources.

- This builds on the almost 90 % national return rate achieved through collection and enables robust, reliable estimates for the whole population to be provided.
- The innovative statistical approaches applied have been steered by a group of international experts, who see the use of administrative data as the way forward for future censuses.
- The Office of Statistics Regulation has been following progress and has provided Scotland's Census outputs with National Statistics accreditation.
- NRS engaged extensively with stakeholders to ensure users of the data can have confidence that the updated methodology provides full population coverage.
- The timetable for publishing results is:
 - Population estimates at local authority level provided 14 September 2023;
 - Local area statistics (c50 households) being provided in spring 2024; and
 - Detailed household characteristics, such as information on ethnicity, employment, education, sexuality, carers and veterans, from summer 2024 onwards.

The national return rate for the census was 89.7 % which equates to more than 2.3 million household returns. 30 of the 32 Local Authorities achieved return rates of more than 85%. No authority was less than 83%. 19 of those Local Authorities achieved a return rate greater than 90%.

- Last year, the then Registrar General established an International Steering Group (ISG) tasked with providing external advice on the quality of the census and planned statistical methods.
- In June 2022, the ISG stated the data collected were a 'solid foundation' on which to build.
- An evaluation of Census 2022, with a focus on lessons learned for any future Census and other complex programmes, will be prepared for Ministers and provided to Parliament by the end of 2024.

Statistical methods were already in place to produce estimates for the whole population, rather than just those who completed a questionnaire.

- In response to lower than planned for return rates from the collection phase, NRS have made innovative changes to our approach to securing high quality Census outputs and population estimates

- In partnership with the ISG, NRS have developed ground-breaking enhancements to our census methods making far greater use of administrative data than originally planned. This innovative research has been globally recognised and will help to inform future international approaches to census collections.
- Our updated methodology has been guided by world leading experts in their respective fields. The International Steering Group (ISG) are confident that the statistical methods and their implementation provide Scotland's Census with a sound basis for producing accurate census statistics.
- The updated methodology is part of NRS's wider strategic approach to demonstrating confidence in the census data that will be produced, beginning with the first outputs, published 14 September 2023.
- As noted by Professor James Brown, Professor of Official Statistics Sydney, Chair of the International Steering Group: "These decisions were made on a sound methodological basis, providing NRS with a strong position for the statistical processing phase."

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) have award Scotland's Census outputs with national statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of the statistics.

- Scotland's Census forms an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. Achieving national statistics designation means the expert independent UK regulator has confidence in the statistics we have produced.
 - The International Steering Group and the Office for Statistics Regulation agree that our updated statistical methods deliver high quality population estimates and census outputs, covering all of Scotland.
 - The statistics will be used directly to inform decision making across our economy and society. They will also be used as the basis for updating annual population statistics and for weighting social surveys.
 - Through data linkage, government and academic users will be able to derive new insight into Scotland's population, and the information will support the provision of effectively targeted, person-centred services.

Q&A

1. Census Collect Phase

How many households completed the census?

The national return rate for the census was 89.7 % which equates to more than 2.3 million household returns. 30 of the 32 Local Authorities achieved return rates of more than 85%. No authority was less than 83%. 19 of those Local Authorities achieved a return rate greater than 90%.

What happened to those that did not complete the census?

A multi-faceted public awareness campaign was developed to reach as high a proportion of the adult population across Scotland as possible. This included extensive TV, radio, print and physical advertising and engagement with a range of partner organisations to use their communication channels.

Prosecution and the involvement of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) impact those who expressly refused to take part in the census.

In line with previous censuses, anyone who directly refused to fill in the census was written to and given a final opportunity to do so before NRS began the process of referring them for potential prosecution.

Non-compliance teams also visited addresses to offer help and support to households to complete their census.

Seven cases of refusal to complete Scotland's Census 2022 were submitted to the COPFS. Decisions regarding prosecutions are a matter for COPFS. Payment of fines for all seven cases have now been agreed.

Why did you not get a similar result to ONS or NISRA?

NRS is keen to reflect any lessons learned and will do this upon conclusion of the census programme in 2024. The evaluation report will be laid before Parliament.

Was it the wrong decision to delay the census given the different response rates to ONS? Did delaying the census impact the response rate?

The decision to delay was taken in July 2020, at the time of the global pandemic. In making the decision to move the census to 2022, NRS and Scottish Ministers considered the balance of risks around delivering a census in 2021 and the long term impact of this on data users.

Due to wider NRS COVID-19 priorities at the time, a significant number of NRS staff refocussed their time to the COVID-19 response for the Registration System and the production of COVID-19 related statistics.

This decision remains appropriate given the situation at the time.

Although Scotland's Census is separate from other censuses in the UK, NRS continues to work closely with the Office for National Statistics and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to ensure outputs are harmonized wherever possible.

Does the lower return rate mean you have missed particular communities, people with vulnerabilities and areas of deprivation across Scotland?

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we have adapted internationally recognised statistical methods to deliver estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population.

This has included increased use of administrative data. Administrative data is data held by local and national government or other public bodies. They use it to support their own day-to-day activities.

The focus has been on admin data sources which had full population coverage. This information has been used alongside the Census Coverage Survey to help estimate how many people did not respond to the census. No admin data is used in the census dataset.

This updated methodology has been, and continues to be, guided by world leading experts in their respective fields. The International Steering Group (ISG) are confident that the statistical methods and their implementation provide Scotland's Census with a sound basis for producing accurate census statistics.

The statistics regulator, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), have confirmed they are satisfied that the outputs meet the standard of National Statistics status and that these figures are a sound basis on which to plan future services.

What was the cost of the census? Does this demonstrate value for money?

The census provides unique data which helps local authorities, businesses, charities and central government plan a wide range of vital public services, to improve the lives of those living and working in Scotland. No other survey provides the range of information that the census does.

Estimates from censuses elsewhere have shown that for every £1 spent on census, returns around £5 in economic benefit. Whilst much of the costs of the census are focused on key delivery years, most long-term benefits are felt throughout the extended programme life-cycle, after the collection phases. NRS has continued to ensure we only spend what we need to deliver a census and its associated benefits. Where efficiencies can be made they have been to ensure we maintain value for public money.

The lifetime cost of the 2022 census is £140m. For less than £3 per year for each person in Scotland we will deliver statistics which will be used directly to inform decision making across our economy and society for the next decade.

The additional expenditure of £6m for the May 2022 Census extension increased the lifetime cost of the census to £140m. Ministers took the decision to extend the census collect period by one month to maximise response rates and secure the full benefits of Census.

Does an extension to the collect phase impact the quality of the data?

Worldwide, censuses take many different forms. The time-period of a census is not the measure of its quality.

Implementing a short extension to a census collection period is not an unusual decision to take. England and Wales extended their enumeration of certain types of communal establishments for a period of 3-4 weeks in their 2021 census and Northern Ireland continued to accept returns after their deadline.

Other countries including the United States of America, Poland, and Japan have all extended their census collections recently to ensure maximum participation.

Due to the low response rate is the data gathered by the census “worthless”?

The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations and is an asset for Scotland. It remains the best way to gather vital information which government, councils, the NHS and a range of users in the public, private and third sectors need.

The results help local authorities, businesses and the government plan a wide range of vital public services, to improve the lives of those living and working in Scotland. The methodology behind census outputs has been reviewed and enhanced in response to lower than planned for return rates from the collection phase. This includes increased use of administrative data information (created when people interact with public services) to support the 89.7% national return rate achieved through collection.

Alongside the Census Coverage Survey which was carried out immediately after the main census collection period, this enables us to understand and adjust for coverage patterns and accurately estimate for the whole population. No administrative records are used in the census dataset itself.

Our updated methodology has been, and continues to be, guided by world leading experts through the International Steering Group (ISG). Census outputs have achieved national statistics designation from the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). This means the expert independent UK regulator has confidence in the statistics we have produced.

Both the ISG and OSR have confirmed that our updated statistical methods will deliver high quality population estimates and census outputs, covering all of Scotland.

Did the issues raised by whistleblowers during the collect phase about the delivery of the census affect the return rate?

Census field force staff worked extremely hard, making almost 1.7 million visits across Scotland to support people to complete the census and to meet their legal responsibility. This drove significant improvements in returns, particularly in key areas, and led to a reduction of non-responding households.

Field force visits were only one of many forms of contact with the census. Over the course of the programme approximately 8.9m letters and postcards were issued to households. In addition, the helpline handled more than 750,000 calls and responded to more than 60,000 emails and webchats. This was supported by a comprehensive communications and marketing campaign.

XX Local Authority has criticised the published figures? Response?

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we have adapted our original statistical methods, and are confident the estimates represent 100% of Scotland's population, including in XXX.

This includes increased use of administrative data from a range of sources. Alongside the Census Coverage Survey which was carried out immediately after the main census collection period, this enables us to understand and adjust for coverage patterns and accurately estimate for the whole population. No administrative records are used in the census dataset itself.

Our updated methodology has been guided by world leading experts through the International Steering Group (ISG), which was established in May 2022.

The statistics regulator, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), have confirmed they are satisfied that the data meets the standard of National Statistics status and that these figures are a sound basis on which to plan future services.

We offered to engage in detail with each individual local authority as part of our quality assurance process for first outputs, meeting with XX local authorities. We were keen to assess comparable locally held data to further enhance census outputs.

Background:

Professor James Brown, ABS Professor of Official Statistics at University of Technology and Chair of the International Steering Group said:

“The International Steering Group commends NRS for its systematic and robust application of the census estimation methodology that has led to today's published estimates.”

2. Census Topics

Were the questions in Scotland's Census too controversial, did this impact uptake?

The question set for Scotland's Census was finalised following cross-party approval of the census legislation by the Scottish Parliament. Scrutiny by the previous cross-party

Culture Committee was welcomed throughout the legislative process. NRS engaged extensively with stakeholders over many years to develop questions and guidance.

The aim for the census was to deliver a set of questions and associated guidance that enabled all of Scotland's people to access, understand and complete the census.

NRS consulted extensively with groups all over Scotland to develop and test questions to ensure they were acceptable to the public and collected the data required by the data users.

Sex question guidance

Scotland's Census 2022 asked a binary sex question, 'what is your sex?'

The guidance accompanying the question advised those respondents who were unsure how to answer, that they could answer in a way that differs from their birth certificate, and they do not need a Gender Recognition Certificate to do so.

If answering on behalf of someone else, people were advised to select the answer they thought that person would choose.

Following a legal challenge, this guidance was found to be lawful. Following an appeal, this decision was upheld.

A very low proportion of people accessed the guidance for the sex question (around 0.13%).

In line with the recommendations from OSR, NRS have published quality information on item level non-response for the sex question. We have also noted key comparisons and provided a statement on comparability with previous censuses and the rest of the UK.

Ethnic group / national identity questions

Scotland's Census asked 'What is your ethnic group. Choose ONE section from A to F, then tick ONE box which best describes your ethnic group or background.' An almost identical question was asked by the Office for National Statistics during the 2021 Census in England and Wales.

An additional question on National identity was also asked in both Censuses. In Scotland, this question asked "How would you describe your national identity?" rather than "What do you feel is your national identity".

Respondents could confirm their national identity at individual question 22, where it was possible to select all that apply (including Scottish and British). Respondents could also select the 'Other' tick-box where they could write in the identity they wished to state.

The national identity question asked in the 2022 census was asked in the same way in the 2011 census, when it was introduced to complement a separate question which asks about ethnic group.

National identity and ethnicity are complex and sensitive concepts, and what a person feels is a representative descriptor is entirely up to them. If the options presented did not describe what a person felt was either their national identity or ethnic group, they could describe this in their own words.

Both the Scotland and England and Wales Censuses asked for a single response on ethnicity and allow for multiple responses on national identity.

3. Census Outputs

When will the census outputs be made available?

The first release of census data were on 14 September 2023. This release included:

- Population estimates by age and sex – Scotland and Local Authority
- Number of households estimates – Scotland and Local Authority

When will you make [insert topic report] available?

The second release of census outputs will be in spring 2024. This release will include:

- Population estimates by age and sex – All standard geographies down to output area
- Number of households by household size – All standard geographies down to output area
- Estimates of the usually resident population by whether living in a household or communal establishment - Scotland and Local Authority

The next phase in our release schedule will focus on topic data, published as univariate tables. This will be a phased release and we aim to start publishing tables in summer 2024.

What topic reports will you publish?

The following topics will be published from summer 2024:

- Demography and migration
- Education
- Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion
- Health, disability and unpaid care
- Housing
- Labour market and travel to work
- Sexual orientation and trans status or history
- Veterans

What analytical reports will you publish?

We will produce analytical reports on a variety of topics where we identify a strong user need through this consultation and other stakeholder engagement.

So far we have identified the following topics for analytical reports:

- Equalities
- Gaelic
- Health
- Inhabited Islands
- Sexual Orientation
- Trans status or history

- UK Armed Forces Veterans

These reports will enable us to give further insight in to the data from the 2022 census and they help to provide evidence for policymakers across Scotland and the UK.

Do outputs reflect the needs of data users?

We published our plans for Scotland's Census 2022 outputs. This included what data we will publish and the tools we will use. These plans were built on previous stakeholder engagement held by NRS. We asked users to provide feedback on these plans, to help us to align them with users' needs.

We received 146 responses to the consultation from a range of organisations and individuals.

The overall response to the consultation was positive and users were happy with our plans for publishing outputs. However, some of the feedback did highlight changes we could make or investigate further.

We reviewed all feedback received through the consultation to determine if any changes are required to our plans. Where necessary we prioritised responses by considering how we maximise the value and public benefit gained from census outputs.

You can read more detail on the response to the consultation in the [Scotland's Census 2022 - Outputs consultation report](#).

Where can I find more information on upcoming outputs?

To keep users informed we will publish updates on our [census outputs schedule page](#). This will include any changes to plans shared as part of this consultation.

Why are you publishing so little data today (14 September)?

Data from the census is published as soon as it is available. Valuable up to date population data has been released today and balances timely release against ensuring estimates for all areas are robust.

The approach for first outputs is the same as for the 2011 census and also contains similar detail to that published by ONS and NISRA for their first outputs. The methods used are complex and it takes time to ensure that the estimates cover the whole population. This is especially true for smaller geographical areas.

Why are the census estimates different to the mid-year population estimates?

The mid-year population estimates use the latest census as the starting point, then each year births are added onto the population and deaths taken off and adjustments are made for people migrating to and from Scotland. Birth and death data are very high quality due to the statutory registration system, measuring migration is more challenging. Over time the mid-year estimates drift away from the actual population of

Scotland and therefore the census is key to rebasing the mid-year estimates to correct for any measurement error since the last census.

4. Updated Estimation Methodology

Does the lower response rate impact population estimates?

Prior to the census, NRS developed an assured statistical methodology which was designed to take the census returns from around 94% of Scotland's population, and 85% in each council area, and deliver population estimates representing 100% of Scotland.

We have adapted this original approach by extending the use of administrative data and evolving our statistical estimation methodology so that we deliver high quality estimates from the lower return rate base.

What is administrative data?

Administrative data is information created when people interact with public services, such as schools, the NHS, the courts or the benefits system, and collated by government.

These public bodies must keep records of these interactions for operational purposes: to enable them to carry out their day-to-day work, to monitor and improve their performance, and keep providing services in an effective way.

This information has been used alongside the follow up Census Coverage Survey to help estimate how many people did not respond to the census. No admin data is used in the census dataset.

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we adapted internationally recognised statistical methods to deliver estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population

Which administrative data sources did you use?

At the direction of the International Steering Group (ISG) we performed a review of UK data sources to identify which would be most appropriate to meet the specific needs of Scotland's Census 2022.

ISG said there were essential and desirable sources. All sources deemed as essential by ISG were obtained. We also obtained two desirable sources: council tax exemption data from all council areas and combined aggregate information from DWP and HMRC.

Essential

| Data name | Description |
|-----------|-------------|
|-----------|-------------|

| | |
|---|---|
| NHS Central Register | People who are or have been registered with a GP in Scotland, or whose birth was registered in Scotland |
| Health Activity | Patients who have interacted with selected NHS services in the previous 3 years |
| School Pupil Census | People enrolled in state funded schools in Scotland |
| Electoral Register | People registered to vote in Scotland |
| Higher Education Statistics | Higher education students studying or domiciled in Scotland |
| Vital events (births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships) | Birth, death, marriage and civil partnership registrations |

Desirable

| Data name | Description |
|-------------|---|
| Council tax | List of occupied or unoccupied properties in local authority (residential properties that have council tax exemptions or discounts because they are unoccupied) |
| DWP | Aggregated tables with people who have interacted with DWP or HMRC |
| HMRC | Aggregated tables with people who have interacted with DWP or HMRC |

Did you get administrative data from all areas of Scotland?

Admin data was obtained for all areas across Scotland. We focused on sources which had full population coverage and also coverage for certain population groups e.g. children.

How can council tax information make up for the lack of an entry for someone who would have been asked for information in over 40 questions?.

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we have adapted internationally recognised statistical methods to deliver estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population. This includes increased use of administrative data.

A range of administrative data sources were obtained. We focused on sources which had full population coverage and also coverage for certain population groups e.g. children.

Alongside the Census Coverage Survey, this enables us to estimate how many people did not respond to the census and deliver accurate estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population.

For example. council tax exemption information was used to identify unoccupied addresses. This information was then used with other information to create an

alternative household estimate. It was only used to create this alternative household estimate and for quality assurance.

Other methods, the same as those used in 2011 and used internationally, filled in any missing characteristic information through edit and imputation.

What is the Alternative Household Estimate?

The alternative household estimate (AHE) provides an independent alternative approach to estimating the number of occupied households for Census 2022. It utilises census responses alongside other data sources to calculate a probability of occupancy for each non-responding address.

The AHE was used to increase the estimated number of occupied households from the dual system estimation (DSE) in just over 1% of local authorities (LAs).

This increased the estimated number of occupied households by 3,200 in total, with the percentage increase attributed to the AHE of 0.01%.

The AHE was also used as an important validation tool to compare against the household estimates; it helped inform decisions and aided in quality assuring the estimates as well as being a useful comparator during discussions with LAs

How will you fill in for missing characteristic information?

A statistical process known as edit and imputation is used to iron out inconsistencies and fill in gaps in census data.

We use editing and imputation where:

- people have not answered individual questions
- there are inconsistencies between answers

[More information on this process is published on our website.](#)

Have people given consent for their data to be used this way, some people didn't take part in the census on purpose?

Organisations do not always need consent from individuals to share data. They can share it without consent if there is a valid reason. These reasons are known as a 'lawful basis' under data protection law. Providing administrative data to help us to conduct the Census is one of those reasons.

We have put in place data sharing agreements with each of the public services that has provided administrative data for the Census. The agreements set out the lawful basis for sharing administrative data with us and how we are allowed to use it. The data sharing agreements make sure we use data in the way people would expect based on the privacy information provided to them by each of the public services data providers.

No admin data makes its way into the census dataset. People who did not respond to the census will still be treated as non-response in the census processing. The admin data was used to supplement the CCS to help estimate how many people did not respond to the census.

Who do I complain to about my data being used without my consent?

No admin data is used in the census dataset.

There is no right to object to data sharing arrangements involving administrative data under data protection law. It was essential to use administrative data to deliver high quality statistical estimates from the census. There is an exemption under data protection law from the right to object to data processing in these circumstances.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer for a fuller explanation of the way the legal exemption applies. The Data Protection Officer's contact details are published in the privacy information on our website.

Should I be concerned that my data has been shared?

Security and confidentiality are of critical importance and we have taken action to ensure that personal information is safe. Access to census return data is strictly limited and directly identifying data is removed as soon as is practically possible.

Personal information, such as names and addresses, are kept strictly confidential and are not shared with anyone. They are used solely for the purpose of statistical processing, and no records of individuals, addresses or households are created, maintained or updated.

All staff are required to sign the appropriate confidentiality undertakings and have received training on their obligations. Unauthorised disclosure of census data is an offence under the Census Act 1920.

How did you evolve your methodology? How can you be sure this has been robust?

Our updated methodology has been, and continues to be, guided by world leading academics who are experts in their respective fields. The International Steering Group (ISG) are confident that the statistical methods and their implementation provide Scotland's Census with a sound basis for producing accurate census statistics.

How did you source the relevant administrative data?

NRS worked closely with partner organisations to secure a range of administrative data. All data obtained have Data Sharing Agreements and the use was agreed by the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel who ensured that all legal, privacy and ethical standards were met for the research.

The purpose of these datasets is to provide high quality information on the presence of a household and individual who is missing from the census datasets, for use in the estimation and adjustment methodology.

How do you know this approach will work?

NRS continues to work with a number of statisticians and global experts in census and administrative data to help steer the statistical and methodological work of NRS over the next few months.

With support from the International Steering Group, NRS have worked at pace to secure the necessary access to key administrative datasets for the purpose of census estimation and adjustment.

How will you ensure the people of Scotland are confident in the figures you produce?

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we have adapted internationally recognised statistical methods to deliver estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population.

In support of the recommendations made by Audit Scotland and the Office for Statistics Regulation, NRS published an updated methodology document in June 2023.

The updated methodology included making greater use of administrative data. This allows NRS to provide high quality estimates for the whole of Scotland's population from a slightly lower census return rate.

The updated methodology is part of NRS's wider strategic approach to demonstrating confidence in the census data.

In partnership with the ISG, NRS have developed ground-breaking enhancements to our census methods making far greater use of administrative data than originally planned.

The International Steering Group and the Office for Statistics Regulation agree that our updated statistical methods have delivered high quality population estimates and census outputs.

Why did you need to run a census if you are now using administrative data?

Like many modern censuses, Scotland's Census will bring together high quality census returns, peer reviewed statistical techniques to build on these returns, and high quality administrative data to produce census outputs.

None of the admin data makes its way into the census dataset. Admin data is only used to assist cleansing (as planned) and to assist estimation (following the lower than expected response rate). Out of the three components feeding in to estimation (census, CCS and admin) admin data is the smallest.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Welsh Government are responsible for producing statistics about the population in the UK.

Each of us is investigating alternative data sources and methods, in particular by making best use of the administrative data that is available to us.

It is our priority to produce population estimates that are accessible, timely, and coherent, and which our users understand.

We each have different research timelines for this work, and separate decisions will be made by our respective governments, based on our advice. NRS will make recommendations to the Scottish Ministers in 2024 following the conclusion of the current census programme.

Will you replicate this approach for the next census?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Welsh Government are responsible for producing statistics about the population in the UK.

Each of us is investigating alternative data sources and methods, in particular by making best use of the administrative data that is available to us.

It is our priority to produce population estimates that are accessible, timely, and coherent, and which our users understand.

We each have different research timelines for this work, and separate decisions will be made by our respective governments, based on our advice. NRS will make recommendations to the Scottish Ministers in 2024 following the conclusion of the current census programme.

How will this impact output areas with the lowest response rates (thinking of specific areas in Glasgow)?

Working closely with a group of international census experts, we have adapted internationally recognised statistical methods to deliver estimates which represent 100% of Scotland's population

Our updated methodology has been guided by world leading census experts who are experts in their respective fields. The International Steering Group (ISG) are confident that the statistical methods and their implementation provide Scotland's Census with a sound basis for producing accurate census statistics.

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is satisfied that the outputs meet the standard of National Statistics status so the public can be confident these figures are a sound basis on which to plan future services.

Won't that mean some topic reports are estimates and not accurately representative of certain areas?

All census outputs are estimates and this is the same as for the 2011 census outputs and the same as the census estimates produced by other countries including ONS for England and Wales.

Our methods take the census count and estimate to cover 100% of the population in all areas.

Can you harmonise Scotland Census data with data in England and Wales given the different methodology? How will this impact UK level data?

NRS has worked closely with ONS and NISRA to harmonise on questions, methods and outputs. UK data will be published in due course which will allow comparisons to be made and robust decisions to be made on the data.

Did any organisations refuse to share data? If so, why?

All data deemed essential by the International Steering Group was obtained.

Are people aware you have used their personal data in this way?

The use of administrative data was approved by the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel. As condition of the approval, NRS have engaged with a range of people and groups to explain how the data will be used. A Data Protection Impact Assessment was also carried out.

What are the privacy implications to you accessing my data?

We respect the confidentiality of administrative data at all times to respect your privacy. The data sharing agreements with each of the public services providing us with administrative data allow us to use the data only for our own statistical purposes. We are not permitted to share your data with any other organisations or to use the data for any other reason.

Any statistics we publish cannot be used to identify anyone, whether or not they draw on administrative data.

You say the work has been innovative and ground-breaking – what was innovative and ground-breaking about it?

Using linked administrative data using a strength of evidence score to improve the coverage of our Census Coverage Survey has not been carried out before for census estimation. The use of administrative data in this way is innovative and adds to the body of research for how best to estimate populations.

The census collect phase ran during the Covid-19 pandemic. Does this have any impact on the data collected?

At the time of the 2022 census the majority of all COVID restrictions had been lifted. All legal restrictions, including the wearing of face coverings, ended on 21 March 2022.

We are currently quality assuring the data and in the event that any COVID related quality issues are found these will be explained to users in our Statistical Quality Assurance report.

Why has it taken you so long to process census data?

Data from the census is published as soon as it is available. Valuable up to date population data has been released today and balances timely release against ensuring estimates for all areas are robust.

The approach for first outputs is the same as for the 2011 census and also contains similar detail to that published by ONS and NISRA for their first outputs. The methods used are complex and it takes time to ensure that the estimates cover the whole population. This is especially true for smaller geographical areas.

What does this mean for my community?

Our methods take the census count and estimate to cover 100% of the population in all areas. Therefore robust estimates for your community will be available as they have been for previous censuses.

5. Lessons learned

When will you publish lessons learned from the 2022 census?

NRS has committed to set out these lessons upon conclusion of the census programme in an evaluation report, laid before parliament, in 2024. This was welcomed by the Auditor General for Scotland in the 2021/22 audit.

The intention is for the lessons learned and evaluation of Census 2022 to cover the full lifecycle of the programme, reflecting on what worked well and the required lessons learned. From the initial Collect phase of the Programme, NRS have collated over 400 individual lessons learned which cover both project and cross cutting lessons.

What have you done in the short term to improve outputs?

There have been important lessons learned through the statistical modelling phases of the work, in particular, with the complementary use of other sources of administrative data to ensure robust population estimates. We will also want to reflect on any lessons learned and feedback from users through the outputs and dissemination phase of the work. First outputs were published 14 September, and outputs for local areas and detailed topics will be provided through 2024.

The Auditor General for Scotland noted a high spend on temporary staff for the census, how will you address this in the future?

One area of focus throughout the census programme has been on knowledge transfer and building skills and capability into NRS. This has included specific business case skills, digital first skills, benefits management and project and programme management skills.

With many of these skills, specialists were brought in for a defined period within a specific work package, to work alongside NRS colleagues to support, upskill and develop capabilities for the future. This is one example of a pragmatic approach that has been taken to transitioning lessons learned from the census programme into ongoing NRS delivery.

How can the public trust the findings of the lessons learned process?

In addition to NRS' own reflections on lessons learned, the evaluation will draw on the various assurance reviews undertaken, including under the Technology Assurance Framework and a benefits realisation gateway review planned for late 2023. It will also be informed by evaluation work undertaken by the office of the Chief Statistician and feedback from the Office for Statistics Regulation.

6. Future of the census

Will the next census be in 2031?

A recommendation will be made to Scottish Ministers on future census statistics in 2024.

What approach will you take to gather census data?

A recommendation will be made to Scottish Ministers on future census statistics in 2024.

Will this use predominantly admin data sources as ONS are proposing?

A recommendation will be made to Scottish Ministers on future census statistics in 2024.

3.D.

Census launch lines

What's the story?

Scotland's population is the largest and the oldest it's ever been.

Since the previous census there were more deaths than births so the increase has been driven by migration.

The pattern of where people live in Scotland is continuing to shift. Some areas, like the south and south west have seen population decline, while Edinburgh, the Lothians and Glasgow have seen some of the biggest increases. The biggest increase was in Midlothian.

Some of the migration will be from the rest of the UK, and some will be from abroad. What's clear from today's figures is that Scotland's population is the largest it's ever been and without migration it would have fallen. We know migration is driven by people moving for work, family reasons or study.

No other survey provides the range of information that the census does.

Census information is hugely important as it provides a wide range of unique data used by government, businesses and charities to plan vital public services such as roads, schools and hospitals and infrastructure.

Just how much older are we and why are we seeing a swing towards more people being in the older age groups?

There are many more older people than there were at the last census. In 1971 the youngest, those under 15, outnumbered the oldest, those 65 and over, by two to one. We now have more than quarter of a million more people aged 65 and over than we have under 15.

Just over 20% of the population is 65 or older – one in five of us are in that age group. That's a massive change in the shape of Scotland's population.

The ageing population is part of a longer term trend. The main driver of this trend is the generation of babies born post-war moving into the oldest age groups.

Is Scotland's population "older" than the rest of the UK?

People aged 65 and over make up 20% of Scotland's population, almost 19% of the people in England and Wales and just over 17% of the population in Northern Ireland so Scotland does have a slightly older age profile than the rest of the UK. However there are much bigger differences between local authority areas within Scotland. The four largest cities in Scotland were amongst the areas with the lowest proportions of people aged 65 and over. The council area with the lowest proportion of people aged 65 and over was Glasgow City (14.0%). The council areas with the lowest percentage of people in the 65+ group also have higher proportions of young adults. These council areas tend to have large student populations.

This could be bad news for public finances, doesn't it cost more to look after older people?

Ultimately, this is a matter for decision makers such as local and central government who plan and deliver services. It is our role as statisticians to collate and deliver the numbers.

Didn't the census go badly wrong last year - are you now able to say why so many didn't fill it in and who they are?

As with every census there will be an evaluation. We will send a report on lessons we can learn to parliament next year. Today's estimate covers the whole population of Scotland. We've been able to do that thanks to the millions of households who filled in the census and by adapting our methodology. The priority right now is to start getting this vital data out to the people who will use the figures to plan services.

(If pushed re delay, if next one will be 2031 or at all)

That's an important question and it will be dealt with in our report to parliament next year and in subsequent recommendations. But these statistics are at the heart of the statistical system in Scotland and we have to concentrate on getting them out to those who need them now.

Today our focus is on publishing our first results which show how Scotland's population is the largest it has ever been, how we have seen a swing more towards the oldest age groups in comparison with the youngest and how migration is not just driving population growth but preventing it from declining.

But is this data any good?

We can be confident that this data is of high quality. We've worked with the best and brightest experts in the field of census data to amend our methodology and have achieved accreditation by the independent regulator, the Office for Statistics Regulation. These are National Statistics based on their high quality and good practice and we're proud of the huge amount of work that has gone in to meeting that very high standard. It's an extremely rigorous process that we have gone through and people can have confidence in the numbers.

So if you were able to crunch the numbers anyway, did anyone need to fill in the census at all?

We absolutely needed all the responses we got last year. Almost 90% of households filled it in and we thank them for doing it. Their responses gave us a good foundation on which to move to the processing stage.

Can we compare these statistics to figures for England and Wales or Northern Ireland?

NRS has worked closely with ONS and NISRA to harmonise on questions, methods and outputs.

From these results today we can see some broadly similar results to those for England and Wales where the population grew and there was a significant jump in numbers of people in the older age groups.

And can we now say what the population of the UK is?

NRS will continue to work with ONS and NISRA to produce UK level statistics.

The figures today include a breakdown by sex but in the guidance people were advised to give the sex they identify as and not what they were assigned at birth. How can we be sure the figures are accurate for say providing health services?

On this point the guidance was consistent with what we did in 2011. In addition, the breakdown between male and female, is similar to previous years and in line with the results in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Next year we will release data on trans status. This is the first time this question was asked in response to the need for data on the size and location of the trans population in Scotland.

3.C.

14 SEP: Publication of first outputs from Scotland's Census 2022 at 09:30, 14 September 2023. A media event was held at a local Edinburgh primary school for broadcast journalists and news photographers. This was led by NRS. Cab Sec CEAC to notify Parliament via a GIQ and the public via a Ministerial statement.

14 SEP: Office for Statistics Regulation to publicly confirm census outputs are to be designated as National Statistics and will therefore form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK.

14 SEP: [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)].

16 AUG: [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

14 AUG: [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

Today's publication represents a historic moment with the largest population ever recorded by Scotland's Census of 5.4 million, an increase of 2.7% since the previous census in 2011.

- In common with many countries, our population is ageing, with over one million people aged 65 and over (1,091,000). This is over a quarter of a million higher than the number of people under 15 (832,300).
- Understanding these changes in the population will allow local authorities, businesses and the government to adapt vital public services to better meet the needs of those living and working in Scotland.
- The number of people in older age groups (65+) increased by 22.5% since 2011.
- In England and Wales the 65+ population increased by 20.0% between 2011 and 2021. In Northern Ireland the 65+ population increased by 23.8% over the same period.
- On census day there were 2,509,300 households with at least one usual resident. This is up 136,500 (5.8%) from the 2011 census. The increase in the number of households (5.8%) is higher than the increase in the population (2.7%).
- Today's results further demonstrate the importance of our strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness through stronger social connections, and our continued funding for organisations working to address this issue.

Without migration the population of Scotland would have decreased by around 49,800 since 2011.

- It confirms this growth has been driven by inward migration, demonstrating that Scotland is an attractive place to come to live and work.
- Scotland faces an ongoing population challenge with fewer births than deaths registered in Scotland since 2011, which reinforces just how damaging Brexit will be to Scotland with the loss of freedom of movement.

- As outlined in the Programme for Government, the Scottish Government is taking action: we will publish an Addressing Depopulation Action Plan which will set out the first phase of our response to population decline occurring in some of Scotland's communities.
- We will also introduce a Talent Attraction and Migration Service to support more people to live and work here.
- We have also called on the UK Government to devolve immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament and work with us to deliver our proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot to enable rural and island communities to attract migrants in line with local needs.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Following the collection of Scotland's Census 2022, NRS updated its statistical methods to ensure outputs represent 100% of Scotland's population.

- This approach has been commended by the independent Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) who have awarded Scotland's census outputs National Statistics designation based on the high quality and good practice of the statistics.
- This builds on the almost 90 % national return rate achieved through collection and enables robust, reliable estimates for the whole population to be provided.
- The innovative statistical approaches applied have been steered by a group of international independent census and statistical experts.
- Professor James Brown, ABS Professor of Official Statistics at University of Technology and Chair of the group said: "The International Steering Group commends NRS for its systematic and robust application of the census estimation methodology that has led to today's published estimates."
- NRS has engaged with stakeholders to ensure users of the data can have confidence that the updated methodology provides full population coverage.

VALUE OF CENSUS

The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations and is an asset for Scotland.

- Scotland has relied for more than 200 years on the information the census provides.
- It remains the best way to gather vital information which government, councils, the NHS and a range of users in the public, private and third sectors need.
- The results help local authorities and the government plan a wide range of vital public services, to improve the lives of those living and working in Scotland.
- The timetable for publishing all the results is:
 - Population estimates at local authority level today (14 September 2023);
 - Local area statistics (c50 households) being provided in spring 2024; and
 - Detailed household characteristics, such as information on ethnicity, employment, education, sexuality, carers and veterans, from summer 2024 onwards.

POSTPONEMENT TO 2022

The decision to move the Census to 2022 was not taken lightly

- The twelve months leading up to a census are vital in planning and testing the effectiveness and safety and security of census systems and collection processes to ensure these are ready.
- COVID-19 restrictions prevented these key activities from progressing.

- NRS conducted a comprehensive options assessment on the risks of COVID-19 to the delivery of the census in March 2021.
 - The priority and responsibility of National Records of Scotland (NRS) was to put in place a Census that enabled everyone across Scotland to participate, so that information collected can be used to produce high quality outputs and deliver the benefits required by the people of Scotland.
 - In making the decision to move the census to 2022, NRS and Ministers considered balancing the risk of delivering a Census in 2021 during the pandemic and the long term impact of this on data users.

An evaluation of Census 2022, with a focus on lessons learned for any future Census and other complex programmes, will be prepared for Ministers and provided to Parliament by the end of 2024.

- A recommendation will be made to Scottish Ministers on future census statistics in 2024.

3.D.

Angus Robertson MSP
Scotland's Census
Representing Border
14Sep23
07m10s

Presenter

Cabinet Secretary, can we start with the returns on the census? Why, from the facts you've been given, was the return so much lower in Scotland than it was in England and Wales?

Angus Robertson

Well, there's a few things I think to bear in mind about the different way in which the census was conducted and the different times in which they were conducted. For a start, the census in England was conducted during Covid and lockdown, whereas in Scotland it was later, and in Scotland it was, significantly, a digital census where people were doing their census returns online rather than the traditional methods. So, there's a difference in methodology and time. And, I think, obviously, there's questions to learn about a return rate in a census but I think from the from the context of why do we have a census at all and why is the information so important, I think what we can be very confident about is that the statistical outputs from the census in Scotland are the high standard which are required statistically for a census.

Presenter

Do you regret deciding to have it separately from the census in the rest of England and Wales because it has been argued that if you'd done it together, the same

methodology, you would have got a better result and you wouldn't have had to set up... [CROSSTALK] ..the group to do the statistics?

Angus Robertson

Nobody can prove that. You're trying to prove something which is unprovable, but I'd also make... [CROSSTALK]

Presenter

You could argue it the other way, with respect.

Angus Robertson

But I'd also say, do you really seriously think that you'd be asking me a question about being sensible of conducting a census during a Covid outbreak? I don't think so.

Presenter

But they did it in England and it was successful.

Angus Robertson

Feel free to ask a politician in the rest of the UK why they were... [CROSSTALK]

Presenter

But I'm asking you. [CROSSTALK]

Angus Robertson

..why they were conducting... [CROSSTALK]

Presenter

I'm asking you about your responsibilities.

Angus Robertson

Well, my public responsibilities, I think, when you're sending people to people's doors, which is what we were doing as part of the census, is not doing that within a Covid outbreak circumstance, that is definitely the sensible thing to be doing. Are there issues that need to be learned about conducting a census from now on? Yes, absolutely, because the trend that we saw in Scotland is the same that's replicated around the world, which is that there's a lower return rate in censuses. It's not a unique Scottish situation. That is something that's happening internationally.

Presenter

On the statistics, population growth is higher in Northern Ireland, in England and in Wales. You said one of the problems for Scotland is Brexit, but the whole of the United Kingdom left the European Union, so it can't just be Brexit, can it?

Angus Robertson

Yeah. So, let's go back a couple of steps. The first thing to say is that we know that the long term population projection for Scotland is for population decline. We are the only part of the United Kingdom which is facing a longer term reduction in population.

What we know from the latest census details is that that hasn't yet happened because our population is the highest that it's ever been. But we do also know that the only significant statistical element which is ensuring the population is still going up relates to migration; migration from elsewhere in the UK, migration from the European Union, migration from the rest of the world. So, it's really important that Scotland is able to see people move here, to live here, to contribute to the economy, to be part of the country. **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

But the figures don't prove it's Brexit, do they? You've said, in your release from the Scottish Government, Brexit is to blame for at least some of this. The figures don't prove that, do they?

Angus Robertson

Well, firstly... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

You can't say it from the figures we got today, can you?

Angus Robertson

Well, it is unanswerable that Brexit has had an impact on the number of people that have been able to come to this country. Why? Because you cannot simply move here in the way that you did previously, there was free movement of people while the UK was in the European Union. **[CROSSTALK]** Well, these... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

The statistics don't look at that, do they?

Angus Robertson

These statistics do prove that migration is the biggest single factor in maintaining Scotland's population numbers, and that should lead all political parties to think long and hard about what is it that we need to do to make sure that we can stave off population decline, because we require a growing population, we need people to work here. We need people to stay in Scotland who are from here. We also need people to move here and to make sure that we can help the economy grow.

Presenter

We know from the figures that in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, there's a significantly high, higher proportion of people over 65 than there is, say, in the cities of Scotland. Now, that has obvious consequences and we've heard this this week from the Scottish Borders health authorities that they will have to deal with that ageing population and a declining younger population. What can the Scottish Government do to help them with that?

Angus Robertson

The Scottish Government asked the UK Government to look positively at a suggestion that we had for a rural visa scheme that would help people move to parts of the country which are... have a population challenge, so that we can specifically deal with downward trends in population. So, yes, there are answers. We need others to work with us. So far, the UK Government has not looked positively on that suggestion, which I think is a shame. But all of this underlines the importance of the census, the importance of understanding the answers that people give to the census and to make sure that, as we move forward, that we are able to operate the census in the way that gives us the high quality data that we know we got from the 2022 census. **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

The trend is for a rising, significantly rising, population of people over 65, older people as we would put it, but still people who are very fit and healthy. Those people will be claiming state pensions. Doesn't the census, and the comparison with previous census and what people predict is going to happen, show that we just cannot sustain the triple lock for pensions in the UK and possibly in an independent Scotland.

Angus Robertson

Well, the first thing I would say is that it is just a basic fact that the pension in the UK is amongst the lowest in Europe, so... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

Can the triple lock be sustained, Minister?

Angus Robertson

Well, of course it can be sustained and it should be sustained.

Presenter

Even with a growing elderly population and a lowering population of young people providing taxes.

Angus Robertson

So, yes, is the answer, but we have to... what we have to ensure is that the economy is growing to be able to pay for these things. But should people who have paid their taxes throughout their working lives suffer as a consequence of population trends? No, I don't. I think what we should do in the first instance is understand the trend to think about the policy interventions that we can make to ensure that we can afford public services and also provide the public pension that we should be paying to our older population. The rest of Europe can do it, I don't see why the UK can't.

Presenter

Angus Robertson, thank you very much indeed.

Angus Robertson

Thank you.

[END]

4.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:48 AM
To: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: Scotland's Census - FMQ

Ewan,

A copy of the census FMQ note. This will need updated post 09:30 tomorrow with lines on figures. I will circulate the updated version.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
National Records of Scotland
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:22 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; David Hutchison
<David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scotland's Census - FMQ

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks – grateful for updated brief with figures as soon as you can.

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

(adding Davie and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)])

Ewan

Ewan Crawford
Senior Special Adviser to the First Minister,

EU affairs and the constitution.
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Mobile [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information.

5.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (Private Office) <[\[redacted under FOISA Section.38 \(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot)> On Behalf Of ParlyClerk Scotland
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:39 PM
To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: GIQ

Hi

Grateful if you could allocate S6W-21406 to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (National Records of Scotland)

This will be answered by Angus Robertson on Thursday at 09:30

To ask the Scottish Government what it considers the first outputs from Scotland's Census 2022 indicate regarding Scotland's population.

Thanks
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 5:21 PM
To: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GIQ

Hi all,

Thanks, the PQ has now been completed and returned to Private Office.

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 5:47 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterforPB@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GIQ

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Don't worry we do not send our GIQs until the exact time that's been agreed.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Scottish Government
T4.01
Scottish Parliament HQ

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

6.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of First Minister FMQs
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:53 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; FMPU : FMQ Team <DLMPOBFMPFMS@gov.scot>
Subject: Census FMQ

Good Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Noting your email last week that you would be providing an FMQ brief on the Census – would you be able to share a first draft of that with us today please ? And if so what time would you be able to share it with us? Maddie will be taking responsibility for the brief this week so have included her in this chain for awareness.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | She/Her | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Scottish Government | 4th Floor, St Andrew's House [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

----- [Preparing First Minister's Questions \(FMQs\)](#) -----

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:28 AM
To: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: FMPU : FMQ Team <DLMPOBFMPFMQS@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Census FMQ

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Scotland's Census 2022 FMQ note, attached.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:59 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>
Cc: FMPU : FMQ Team <DLMPOBFMPFMQS@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Census FMQ

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Long time no speak – hope you've enjoyed your FMQs reprieve!

Thanks for this. When the final version is shared this morning (ideally before 10am please), grateful if it could also include lines on our reasoning for delaying the census ([redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]), and include a reference to the below BBC story in the background – don't think we need lines on this.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[No prosecutions for failing to complete Scotland's census - BBC News](#)

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (She/Her)
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:48 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: FMPU : FMQ Team <DLMPOBFMPFMQS@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Census FMQ

Thanks, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

See attached. Adding SpAds and PO.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:05 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; First Minister
FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>
Cc: FMPU : FMQ Team <DLMPOBFMPFMS@gov.scot>; David Hutchison
<David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs &
Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Census FMQ

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – I've made some minor changes
just to reduce to 2 pages and put UKG comparison stats in background, [redacted
under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (She/Her)
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

7.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>;
Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution,
External Affairs and Culture
<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE - Media inquiry: NRS follow up, Daily Mail

PO/Cabinet Secretary,

We have had a media inquiry from the Daily Mail following today's publication of the initial Census 2022 results and the NRS media briefing. Two questions:

1. What does the First Minister or Cabinet Secretary think the reason was for the lower uptake in Scotland v rUK.
2. Does the Scottish Government have plans for realignment with rUK for next census.

A suggested response, as agreed with officials and SpADs, is below. Is Cab Sec content to clear?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The decision to move the Census to 2022 was not taken lightly, however it was necessary following a comprehensive assessment on the risks of Covid-19 to the delivery of the Census.

“Following the collection of Scotland's Census 2022, National Records of Scotland updated its statistical methods to ensure the Census represents 100% of Scotland's population, an approach which was commended by the independent Office for Statistics Regulation.

“An evaluation of Census 2022, with a focus on lessons learned for any future Census, will be prepared for Scottish Ministers and provided to the Scottish Parliament by the end of 2024. A recommendation will be made to Scottish Ministers on future census statistics in 2024.”

Gerard also feedback from the bid from ITV Border that [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]. We will provide the following links which has the info Cab Sec flagged.

[Data Collection Exercises – reasons for not yet completing Scotland's Census and CCS hard refusals | Scotland's Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](#)
[Key facts and figures | Scotland's Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](#)

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

www.gov.scot/news



From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:07 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE - Media inquiry: NRS follow up, Daily Mail

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Mr Robertson is content

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE - Media inquiry: NRS follow up, Daily Mail

Thank you. Will issue now.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
News | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

www.gov.scot/news



8.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:57 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]r@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Scottish Islands

<info@islandsteam.scot>; Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; Kate

Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>;

David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,

Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>

Subject: Media bid - census and depopulation of islands

PO / Cabinet Secretary CEA&C,

We have received a request from STV North to interview a Minister to discuss the latest census findings - specifically the depopulation of Shetland and the islands.

They have requested an interview ASAP this afternoon.

STV would like to ask what the census shows about depopulation on the islands and what the Scottish Government is doing to tackle island depopulation.

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]

As outlined in the Programme for Government, the Scottish Government is taking action:

- We will publish an Addressing Depopulation Action Plan which will set out the first phase of our response to population decline occurring in some of Scotland's communities.
- We will also introduce a Talent Attraction and Migration Service to support more people to live and work here.
- We have also called on the UK Government to devolve immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament and work with us to deliver our proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot to enable rural and island communities to attract migrants in line with local needs.

They can do via Zoom or in person, depending on the location of the Minister.

Comms and SpAds recommend accepting the bid. I'd be grateful if you could let me know if Mr Robertson is available?

Relevant briefing documents attached.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Communications: News (Net Zero, Just Transition, Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands)

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [\[redacted under FOISA Section.38 \(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot)

m: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 1:14 PM

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

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(1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
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[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
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[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Scottish Islands
<info@islandsteam.scot>; Alastair McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; Kate
Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>;
David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,
Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media bid - census and depopulation of islands

Will do, thanks.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Communications: News (Net Zero, Just
Transition, Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands)
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot
m: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]