

2011 Census

Ethnic group, national identity, religion and language consultation

Experts, community and special interest
group responses to the 2011 Census
stakeholders consultation 2006/07

Experts, Community and Special Interest Group Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales.

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Data Conventions

Rounding of figures

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Units in tables

Figures are shown in italics when they represent percentages.

Summary of Findings from Experts, Community and Special Interest Groups

The 2006/07 Census Stakeholders Consultation was held to provide a detailed picture of user needs for information on ethnic group, national identity, language and religion to help decide which questions should be asked in the 2011 Census. The Experts, Community and Special Interest report summarises the responses from community based organisations, academia, private companies, private individuals and special interest groups.

More than four-fifths of respondents (87 per cent) stated that they needed information on ethnic group, 57 per cent on national identity, 78 per cent on religion and 88 per cent stated that they had a requirement for language information from the 2011 Census.

Ethnic group

The consultation looked at several aspects of ethnicity. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 2 of this report.

Additional information required

Few expert and community and special interest group respondents (14 per cent) said they were satisfied with the combined ethnic group categories and a similar proportion (13 per cent) were satisfied with the single ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test question. Respondents required more information, either by refining the existing categories or including new categories, on the following groups:

- 'Other White Background' - more specific information, for example, on eastern European identities
- 'Asian' – more specific information, for example, on East African Asian, Indonesian, Siberian, Sri Lankan and Vietnamese identities
- 'Arab' – more specific information, for example, on Arab-North African, Arab-Iraqi and Arab-Other
- 'Black African' – more specific information, for example, on Nigerian, Somali, and Sudanese identities
- Indian category should be subdivided to reflect different Indian cultures
- Sikh

- Kashmiri
- White Cornish/Cornish
- Jewish
- Sudanese

Acceptability of terminology

Of the expert, community and special interest group respondents who needed ethnic group information, more than seven in ten were satisfied with the combined ethnic group categories of 'White' (76 per cent), 'Mixed' (75 per cent) and 'Black or Black British' (73 per cent), while a lower proportion (54 per cent) were satisfied with the 'Asian or Asian British'. More than one-half (52 per cent) found the single ethnic group categories acceptable.

Respondents who were unsatisfied with the terminology used raised concerns about the following:

- colour terminology – some expressed the opinion that colour terminology, or a mix of colour and geographical terms, was not acceptable
- Welsh should be recorded as an ethnic group and not as a sub-group of 'White'
- unable to identify British Irish and second generation Irish
- 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' – some expressed the opinion that these groups should have separate categories
- use of geographic regions to define ethnic groups
- the term 'Mixed' – some expressed the opinion that this was not an acceptable term and that 'Multiple Heritage' was preferable.
- combination of ethnic group and national identity categories – only people with a 'White' ethnicity can identify themselves as British, Welsh or Irish.

Comparability over time and across the UK

More than one-half (54 per cent) of expert, community and special interest group respondents who needed ethnic group information needed to compare information on single ethnic groups from the 2011 Census with data from the 2001 Census. A smaller proportion (37 per cent) needed to compare information on combined ethnic groups. The main reasons given were to monitor trends and to analyse change both locally and nationally.

Some groups suggested it would be regrettable if comparisons between census figures from different parts of Great Britain were not possible. Most respondents either did not comment on a loss of UK comparability or said that a small or large loss would make little difference.

Multiple response ethnic group information

In general, expert, community and special interest group respondents recognised that multiple response ethnic group information could improve the accuracy and reliability of ethnic group information, which would enable more effective service provision. However, some respondents were concerned that the question would be complicated to code and interpret.

National identity

A question on national identity has not been asked in previous censuses and this consultation investigated what users would need from such a question. The rationale for including a separate question on national identity is to make the census form more accessible and clearer. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 3 of this report.

Among expert, community and special interest group respondents, 57 per cent said they needed data on national identity so that they could distinguish between non-British and British ethnic minority groups, encourage members to take up a British identity and identify markets. This information would also complement ethnic group information.

Around four in ten (39 per cent) of respondents who required information on national identity thought the 2007 Census Test question would meet their needs. A further 46 per cent thought it would partially meet their needs. The main requirement for those who thought that it would not meet their needs was for information on additional national identities to those listed in the question.

Religion

Following the introduction of a voluntary question on religion in the 2001 Census, the consultation looked at user needs in this area. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 4 of this report.

More than three-quarters (78 per cent) of expert, community and special interest group respondents required information on religion. This information would help them to understand the size of different religious populations, promote legal obligations to prevent discrimination, promote equality, and to plan and deliver services. Of these respondents, 65 per cent thought the religion question in the 2007 Census Test (a repeat of the 2001 Census question) would meet their needs.

Respondents whose needs were not met required the following additional information:

- accurate measurement of non-religious beliefs
- distinction between religious affiliation or identity and active religious practice
- details of religious denominations, for example within the Christian and Muslim categories
- requirement for information on additional religions

Around two-thirds (69 per cent) stated the need to compare information on religion in the 2011 Census with data from the 2001 Census. Many of them used this information to monitor trends for policy evaluation and service provision, and to gain a better understanding of specific religious groups.

Language

Proficiency in languages (apart from Welsh) has not been included in previous censuses in England and Wales. Key findings are presented below and full details can be found in Section 5 of this report.

Almost nine in ten (88 per cent) of expert, community and special interest group respondents stated that they had a requirement for a language question on the 2011 Census. The main purposes were to facilitate service provision and provide suitable translation services, and to enhance information from the ethnicity and religion questions.

Several different aspects of language information were identified. The strongest requirement was for information on 'Main language (spoken at home)' and 'Mother tongue or first language', considered 'Very important' by 83 per cent and 82 per cent respectively of respondents from this group.

The proposed language question included categories for the ability to understand, speak, read and write for English, Welsh and one other language (to be specified by the respondent). Categories for the ability to understand and sign British Sign Language were also included. Two-fifths (39 per cent) of respondents in this group thought that the 2007 Census Test question on language would provide the information they required. The principal problems identified were the lack of space for recording languages other than English and need to gather information on different levels of ability.

1. Introduction

The census is carried out every ten years and provides vital information about the UK population. As part of the preparations for the next Census in 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed a programme of consultations to help inform the question development for the 2011 Census and to gain a better understanding of user and stakeholder requirements. The first consultation was held in 2005¹ and in March 2006 ONS published a summary of user requirements for each topic.

This consultation builds on the 2006 summary assessment of initial user requirements on ethnicity, identity, language and religion² and aims to provide a detailed view of user needs for information on these topics in England and Wales. It took place between December 2006 and March 2007.

Comments from interested people and organisations were gathered so that ONS could:

- gain a better understanding of key data requirements
- gain an awareness of the range of views held on these topics
- identify the relative priorities for this information given the constraints of space on the census form

Details of the consultation were published on the National Statistics website, www.statistics.gov.uk, and were also sent to recognised stakeholders. Respondents to the consultation were required to complete a questionnaire, see Appendix (A.5). Expert, community and special interest group respondents participating in the consultation are listed in Appendix (A.2).

**Table 1: Number of respondents: by organisation type
England and Wales**

	Number of respondents	Number of respondents (excluding repetitions and non-questionnaire responses)
Central & devolved government	27	23
Experts, community & special interest groups	441	139
Local & regional government	92	89
Local service providers	46	46
All respondents	606	297

There were 606 responses to the consultation (Table 1). For reporting purposes, respondents have been grouped into four stakeholder types:

- central and devolved government – includes central government departments and agencies and devolved government
- expert, community and special interest groups – includes community based organisations, special interest groups, academia, private companies and individuals
- local and regional government
- local service providers – includes organisations providing services at the local level, such as the police, fire service and primary care trusts

Some community organisations and special interest groups arranged for copies of their response to be sent in by individuals as well, resulting in some duplication. This occurred particularly among organisations representing Sikh, Kashmiri and Cornish interests. As the main purpose of the consultation was to identify the range of views held, the responses presented in this report are based on the 297 unique responses received, without the duplicates. In addition, while respondents were invited to submit their responses using the questionnaire, some supplied their views by correspondence. As the data in the tables are derived from the responses to specific questions in the questionnaire, the data presented in the reports includes questionnaire and unique responses only.

Findings from the consultation have been published in five reports. A summary report conveys the main messages from the consultation from all the respondents. The other four reports summarise the key findings from the different stakeholders consulted and this report summarises responses received from experts, community and special interest groups.

1. *Consultation Summary Report of Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
2. *Central and Devolved Government Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
3. ***Expert, Community and Special Interest Groups Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales***, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
4. *Local and Regional Government Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]
5. *Local Service Providers Responses to the 2011 Census Stakeholders Consultation 2006/07: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Religion and Language, England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, 2007 [web address]

2. Review of Requirements for Information on Ethnic Group

The consultation asked about seven different aspects of ethnicity:

- requirements for information on concepts of ethnicity
- suitability of ethnic group categories and suggested changes
- requirements for comparison with 2001 ethnic group information
- requirements for comparison between UK countries
- acceptability of ethnic group terminology
- advantages and disadvantages of multiple response ethnicity data
- comments on the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

2.1 Requirements for information on concepts of ethnicity

Although the census question has always used the term ‘ethnic group’ rather than ‘race’ the current legal framework (as set out by the Race Relations Act) is phrased in terms of race. However, the Act protects people from discrimination on the grounds of several related factors: colour, race, nationality, or national or ethnic origins.

The majority of expert, community and special interest group respondents (87 per cent) require information on ethnic group from the 2011 Census (Table 2).

Table 2: Requirements for information on ethnic group from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales

Percentages

Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	96	4	23
Experts, community & special interest groups	87	13	130
Local & regional government	97	3	86
Local service providers	93	7	44
All respondents	92	8	283

Users were invited to consider whether their need is for information on ethnic group (a cultural characteristic), or if they require information on other related concepts as well as, or instead of, ethnic group, for example race, visible minorities, non-White groups and ancestry. Classifications of race are generally based on a set of physical characteristics. Visible minority status is related to having a different appearance from the majority. Ancestry relates to historical information about where an individual's forebears come from, though it also has a subjective element in deciding how many generations of ancestry to consider. A relatively low proportion of respondents needed information on concepts related to ethnicity (Table 3).

Table 3: Requirements of information for concepts related to ethnicity from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages				
	Visible minority population	Non-White population	Ancestry	Race	Base ^{1,2} = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	32	41	27	27	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	54	27	28	28	113
Local & regional government	48	57	23	46	83
Local service providers	27	32	22	46	41
All respondents	46	39	25	37	259

1 Respondents could respond to more than one category.

2 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Visible minority population

Information on visible minority populations was required by 54 per cent of respondents. This information is required to monitor the incidence of discrimination based on physical appearance. A number of Sikh organisations required data on visible minorities.

'Visible minorities have recently been facing greater challenges and experiencing greater discrimination ... Sikhs are probably the largest and most visible minority locally.'

(The Awaze Qaum International)

Some respondents questioned the term 'visible minority' pointing out that it is not only based on skin colour, and that it is context specific. For example:

'Visibility is not a matter of skin colour alone – there are many factors that make minorities noticeable – that is visible. These include the public use of a language other than English, accent, and culturally specific practices such as eating kosher or halal, or interrupting other activities for regular prayers, as well as dress and skin-colour. It is evident that many Jewish people suffer from discrimination and racism as a result of their visibility, and the Council's role in combating these is enhanced by access to reliable statistical information.'

(The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities)

'In certain urban areas in England, the English themselves are a visible minority population.'

(Steadfast North East)

' [We do not] subscribe to concepts such as visible minority population as it is simplistic and meaningless since no one is invisible ... also do not agree with the concept of a non-White population as "white" is not a skin but is racially colour coded by Europeans to exercise the theory of superiority. Similarly [we] do not agree to the use of "Black" as it is an ascribed racially colour coded symbol that has been used to oppress Africans, based on the amplification of difference between Europeans and African complexions. [We] do not agree with the concept of "race" due to its dubious and racist roots as it uses pseudo-science to magnify differences between people of different cultural and ethno geographical backgrounds. The term also homogenises and ranks people on the basis of their physical appearance and pays little or no attention to their diversity or common humanity.'

(The African Women's Group Aberdeen)

Ancestry

Some experts, community and special interest groups specifically required data on ancestry. These included The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Cornish Ethnicity Data Tracking Group, Cornish Language Fellowship, MEWN (Minority Ethnic Women's Network), Cymru (Wales), the National Association of British Arabs, and Plaid Cymru

London Branch. Reasons for requiring this information were:

'It is useful to consider the degree to which ethnic identity is affected by ancestry, such as the decline of the affiliation to an identity with each subsequent generation, for example comparing Welsh with Irish communities.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

Other concepts relating to ethnicity

Many of the experts, community and special interest group respondents requested other concepts relating to ethnicity, including culture and place of origin. For example:

'We require data on ethnicity and other concepts related to ethnic group (nationality, religion and culture) as these highlight the multiplicity of social, cultural and religious differences between people of different ethnogeographic backgrounds, but who nevertheless share a common humanity.'

(East African Network)

'Place of origin and self-identification as we are interested in how people's self identification varies from expected identification.'

(The Asian Resource Centre)

'Data on place of origin and self-identification [is needed] as the present single ethnic categories do not cover the significant proportion of people who would self-identify in other ways.'

(Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and The Humber)

2.2 Suitability of ethnic group categories and suggested changes

The consultation gave users of ethnic information the opportunity to express their opinions on how well the ethnic group question on the 2007 Census Test questionnaire would address their need for information. Details of the 2007 Census Test can be found in Appendix (A.3).

**Table 4: Suitability of the proposed ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census
Test: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Percentages

	Combined ethnic groups ¹				Single ethnic groups ²			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)	Yes	No	Partially	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	36	45	18	22	45	14	41	22
Community & special interest groups	14	71	15	108	13	59	28	112
Local & regional government	30	33	37	84	24	25	52	85
Local service providers	42	42	17	36	30	38	33	40
All respondents	25	52	23	250	22	41	37	259

¹Combined ethnic groups include 'White', 'Mixed', 'Asian or Asian British', 'Black or Black British' and 'Other ethnic groups'.

²Single ethnic groups refer to individual tick boxes in the ethnic group question e.g. 'Chinese', 'White English', 'Indian'.

³ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Over two-thirds (71 per cent) of expert, community and special group respondents stated that the combined ethnic group categories would not provide the information required. The remainder stated that the information required would be fully or partially provided. A smaller proportion (59 per cent) stated that the single ethnic groups would not provide the information they required.

Respondents required improved information in the following areas:

Combined ethnic group categories:

- 'Asian' category is too broad

Single ethnic group categories:

- 'Other White Background' covers a vast and varied population
- 'Welsh' should be recorded as an ethnic group and not as a sub-group of 'White'
- Unable to identify British Irish and second generation Irish
- 'Gypsy/Traveller' should have separate categories

- ‘Arab’ is too broad
- ‘Black African’ is too broad
- Indian category should be subdivided to reflect different Indian cultures
- additional single ethnic groups should be included

2.2.1 Details of additional requirements – combined categories

‘Asian’ category is too broad

A few expert, community and special interest group respondents stated that the ‘Asian’ category is too broad and should be further broken down.

“Asian, or Asian British” would include Chinese, Indonesians, Siberians, Vietnamese and so on ... [this] category is too wide to be of any use.

(British Sikh Federation)

‘[We] recommend the use of “South Asian”. While South Asians are not [all] of the same ethnic background, they have some elements of culture and history in common ... some of their activities are relevant to all women of South Asian background.’

(The British Sikh Women’s Organisation)

‘Distinguish between East African Asians and Sri Lankan Asians [suggest putting in alphabetical order] within the Asian category.’

(Muslim Council of Britain)

2.2.2 Details of additional requirements – single ethnic group categories

‘Other White Background’ covers a vast and varied population

Some expert, community and special interest group respondents commented that the term ‘White’ is too broad and confusing and that too many ethnic identities are lost by ticking the ‘Other White’ group. More specific information is required on groups such as eastern Europeans. Other respondents stated that the terms ‘Other White British’ and ‘Other White’ were confusing.

“Other White British“, does this mean other indigenous British such as Cornish or Manx?... “Other White background” does this mean persons from continental European ethnic groups, such as Bulgarians, Greeks Poles? ... The term “White” is seen by us, not as a general classification of which the English, Greeks, Poles, etc are particular examples, but rather as a real but incidental characteristic of European indigenous ethnic groups.’

(Steadfast North East)

‘Identify Cypriots, Kurds, Persians, Turks (and Poles) as It is not clear how sizeable the populations are or how they would classify themselves, for example in “Other White” or “Other ethnic” or “Other White background”, which would mask diversity.’

(Muslim Council of Britain)

‘Welsh’ should be recorded as an ethnic group and not as a sub-group of ‘White’

Some expert, community and special interest group respondents pointed out that the question included categories for ‘British’ and ‘Irish’, but not for ‘Welsh’.

‘ ... the question creates difficulty for respondents in England who may wish to identify themselves as “Welsh”. We are concerned that people are being forced to identify themselves as British when they consider themselves to be firstly Welsh [or] Scottish.’

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

‘Gypsy/Romany/Traveller’ should have separate categories

Some respondents requested for Gypsies and Irish Travellers to be differentiated and to have separate categories.

‘Need to be able to differentiate between these very different groups ... [This is] essential for planning service delivery to each group and/or combination of groups.’

(Cardiff Gypsy & Traveller Project)

‘Two groups are needed [as Gypsy and Irish Travellers] are of completely different origin.’

(National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups)

'Separate categories for eastern Europeans and Gypsies and Irish Travellers ... they are very different cultures ... to inform local race equality work.'

(Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council)

'Arab' is too broad

The Arab category was seen to be too large by some respondents, and requested this category to be further broken down.

“White and Arab” and ideally “Arab” should be broken down to “Arab-North African”, “Arab-Iraqi” and “Arab-Other”.’

(Muslim Council of Britain)

'Black African' is too broad

Some experts, community and special interest group respondents stated that the 'Black African' category is too broad. They required information on specific ethnic groups, such as Nigerians, Somalis, the Sudanese, etc.

' It would be helpful to breakdown the “Black African” category to distinguish between Nigerians, Somalis (population 200,000?); “Other Black background” is ambiguous.'

(Muslim Council of Britain)

'There is only one category for 'Black African'. Around half a million people selected 'Black African' in England & Wales in the 2001 Census and the group is one of the fastest growing. It is extremely diverse in terms of national origins, religion, and migration history, this concealed heterogeneity in the collective term 'Black African' making it of limited use analytically.'

(University of Kent)

Indian category should be subdivided to identify different Indian cultures

'There is considerable regional variation in some of the ethnic groups listed, for example Indian, and one group requested that the category should be further subdivided to identify different cultures within India. This would promote greater understanding of the relationship between culture and religion.'

(Diocese of Manchester Church and Society Department)

Additional single ethnic groups should be included

Some respondents requested additional categories to be added to the 2007 Test Census ethnic group question, including Cornish/White Cornish, Jewish, Kashmiri and Sikh.

Cornish/White Cornish

Experst, community and special interest groups representing Cornish interests requested changing the Census 2007 Test questionnaire to include (White) 'Cornish'.

'... a specific "Cornish" tick-box to permit statistical analysis of the Cornish, who are a sizeable minority in Cornwall and, though a fully delimited ethnic group, are subject to a high level of pressure that has a considerable negative impact in cultural, linguistic, economic and social fields

(The Cornish Ethnicity Data Tracking Unit)

'To ensure the future recognition of Cornwall and the Cornish people as a separate identity.'

(Gorsedh Kernow)

'... Kernow [Cornwall] has a distinct heritage, culture, language and even political status (it is a duchy, as Wales is a principality), which Cornish people are currently unable to identify in their census returns.'

(Private individual)

Jewish

A few expert, community and special interest groups requested the inclusion of a 'Jewish' tick-box under the ethnic group question as well as the religion question.

'The categories strongly suggest that ethnicity is only a matter of race and nationality. But for Jews, normative ethnicity is related to ancestry and peoplehood. It is likely that a majority of these people would consider themselves ethnically but *not* religiously Jewish – a label that in the eyes of many Jews relates to religious practice and not belonging.'

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews)

‘There is no direct means for the Jewish population to identify itself, ... the terminology should be meaningful, relevant and inoffensive, and for our purposes should include "Jewish" in the ethnicity as well as religion question ... “Jewish” should be a possible response to the ethnicity question as well as to the religion question.’

(Scottish Council of Jewish Communities)

Kashmiri

Expert, community and special interest groups representing Kashmiri interests requested the inclusion of a separate Kashmiri category.

‘Many ethnic Kashmiris self-identify as “Pakistani” and this means that they may potentially deprive themselves of services that might be delivered in their actual mother-tongues.’

(The Asian Resource Centre)

‘Certain organisations have highlighted that they need information on the Kashmiri population to build bridges within their community.’

(The Pakistan Directory)

‘[We suggest] a separate group for Kashmiris as they are a separate ethnic group.’

(Witton Youth Association)

‘As the Kashmiri community has not progressed along with other communities, it is essential to monitor this lack of achievement and to direct the resources so that the Kashmiri community is treated on an equal basis.’

(Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK)

Sikh

Several Sikh organisations and special interest groups requested the inclusion of a Sikh ethnic group category.

‘Sikhs are probably the largest and most visible minority locally ... [there is] no way of determining the number of people with the ethnic group Sikh ... [which] is important to the Sikh community in regards to the *Race Relations (Amendment) Act* and a fair provision of public services.’

(Akal Sikh Group)

... a separate ethnic group box is the only way that the Sikh community’s needs can be addressed in a plural society.’

(The British Sikh Consultative Forum)

‘ ... describe themselves as they perceive themselves and not be labelled as Indians/Pakistanis, etc. ... most of the "ethnic" categories used in 2001 are not based on ethnicity, but on previous nationalities or geographical areas (Black Africans, Indians, etc).’

(The British Sikh Women’s Organisation)

‘Sikhs need to be monitored on a UK-wide basis for securing their rights regarding a fair share of jobs in different public and private sectors, delivery of services, collation of statistics for corrective action in areas of health, drug abuse, crime, prison population, etc.’

(The British Sikh Consultative Forum)

Sudanese

A separate category (tick-box) for the Sudanese has been requested, as currently people from this ethnic group could potentially tick “Arab”, “Black African”, or select “Other” and write in Sudanese.

‘Our ethnic group (Sudanese) represents a unique group with mixed Arabic and Black African ... if a member of the group put “Other” he/she might respond as Arab, Sudanese or Black African, which gives a false result,’

(Sudanese Coptic Association)

2.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 ethnic group information

Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 might reduce the comparability with information collected in 2001, and the degree to which comparability is reduced will depend on the extent of any changes.

**Table 5: Need to compare combined and single ethnic group information in 2011 with information from the 2001 Census: by organisation type
England and Wales**
Percentages

	Combined ethnic groups ¹			Single ethnic groups ²		
	Yes	No	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)	Yes	No	Base ³ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	59	41	22	77	23	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	37	63	104	54	46	110
Local & regional government	79	20	81	90	10	83
Local service providers	41	59	39	51	49	39
All respondents	53	46	246	67	33	254

¹Combined ethnic groups include 'White', 'Mixed', 'Asian or Asian British', 'Black or Black British' and 'Other ethnic groups'.

²Single ethnic groups refer to individual tick boxes in the ethnic group question e.g. 'Chinese', 'Indian', 'White English'.

³ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed ethnic group information from the 2011 Census in Question 5.

Of all the stakeholders, experts, community and special interest groups were least likely request continuity between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses ethnic group questions. The majority of these respondents (63 per cent) did not need to compare information from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses for combined ethnic groups, while 46 per cent did not need to compare information on the single ethnic groups (Table 5).

Those who did require comparability used the information to monitor trends and analyse change both locally and nationally.

' ... to observe changes in demographics and incorporate this into future staffing plans.'

(Heathens for Progress)

' ... to look at trends and compare them with church attendance trends.'

(Christian Research Association)

' ... for longitudinal studies and to observe trends and patterns related to minority ethnic groups.'

(Ethnic Minority Foundation)

' ... to see how numbers are increasing: BME [Black and Minority Ethnic] numbers are rising in Sheffield and the birth rates are much higher than that for the White British community.'

(The Multilingual City Forum)

Some respondents would have problems with a small loss of comparability.

'A small loss of information would have a detrimental effect, as it would preclude comparisons among single ethnic groups over time. For example, while a comparison between the combined Asian and White groups may be possible, one between Pakistani and Irish may not. Given the increased presence of ethnic minorities in some areas in the UK, one would expect more detailed information on ethnic groups to enable the monitoring of their specific needs, not less. Such monitoring can only be conducted with comparable information across time and across individuals as well as combined groups.'

(Ethnic Minority Foundation)

'A large loss of comparability would be problematic and undesirable – developing the "Other" category is perhaps the only way of handling the changing ethnic composition.'

(Department of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University)

Most respondents either did not answer the question or stated that a small loss of comparability between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses was not important.

'We would prefer more detail now rather than lose detail for the sake of comparability.'

(Synovate)

'There is no point in collecting unintelligible data and it is more important that the 2011 classifications should be meaningful than that they should be unduly constrained by comparability with the 2001 figures.'

(Scottish Council of Jewish Communities)

'Having information for the first time on the number of people with the ethnic group Sikh would be a major step forward. Some comparability would still be possible with 2001.'

(British Sikh Federation and affiliated organisations)

2.4 Requirements for comparison between UK countries

Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 may affect comparability across the UK. Respondents were asked what impact this would have on their use of the information. In the 2001 Census ethnic group classifications in Scotland and Northern Ireland were different to those in England and Wales, reflecting differences in the ethnic minority populations in each country. The Registrars General of the respective countries are committed to working towards consistent UK census outputs, but it is possible that the differences between ethnic group classifications in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may increase if there are different needs for information in each area.

Most respondents from experts, community and special interest groups either did not comment on a loss of UK comparability or said that a small or large loss would make little difference to them. Some suggested it would be regrettable if comparisons between census figures from different parts of the UK were not possible.

Respondents from Sikh community groups required comparability between UK countries. Some Sikh groups consulted pointed out that in Scotland the current proposal is for people with an ethnic group Sikh to be separately identified, for example:

‘ ... essential for England and Wales to monitor the number of people with an ethnic group Sikh like the ethnic group categories proposed in Scotland.’

(Akal Sikh Group)

2.5 Acceptability of ethnic group terminology

The consultation sought feedback on the ethnic group terminology used in the 2007 Census Test, in particular whether it was clear, understandable and acceptable to respondents. Responses were required for the broad ethnic categories and for single ethnic groups. Respondents who found the terms unacceptable were asked to suggest alternatives or improvements.

Table 6: Respondents who found the terms for the combined ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test acceptable: by organisation type England and Wales

Percentages

	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Other ethnic group	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	100	100	95	88	100	18
Experts, community & special interest groups	76	75	73	54	60	112
Local & regional government	89	82	84	80	86	78
Local service providers	88	79	86	88	92	42
All respondents	84	80	80	71	76	251

Around three-quarters of experts, community and special interest group respondents stated that the combined ethnic group terms, ‘White, ‘Mixed’ and ‘Black or Black British’

used in 2007 Census Test were acceptable (Table 6). This proportion went down to just over half (54 per cent) who found the 'Other ethnic group' terms acceptable.

**Table 7: Respondents who found the terms for the single ethnic group categories in the 2007 Census Test acceptable: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Organisation type	Percentages		
	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	74	26	19
Experts, community & special interest groups	52	48	104
Local & regional government	71	29	78
Local service providers	67	33	42
All respondents	62	38	243

Just over half (52 per cent) of experts, community organisations and special interest group respondents found the terms used for the single ethnic group categories acceptable (Table 7).

The reasons why respondents found the ethnicity group terminology unacceptable included:

- Use of colour labels to define ethnicity
- Use of geographic regions to define ethnic groups
- Use of the term 'Asian'
- Use of the term 'Mixed'
- Combination of ethnic group and national identity categories

Use of colour labels to define ethnicity

Several organisations objected to colour (White and Black) being used as a way to define ethnicity.

'The colour coding in all the categories should be removed leaving Europeans, Africans and Caribbeans in terms of their ethnogeographical terms ... use of colour as an indicator of belonging to an ethnic minority is particularly problematic.'

(The African Women's Group Aberdeen)

” White” is imprecise, as it fixes on an incidental, if real, racial characteristic. ”White” is unnecessary, for the indigenous ethnic groups of Britain are all of European origin and thus are all ”White” in this sense. “White” is also inaccurate, the skin coloration is better described as pale or fair skinned ... “White” should be omitted as a qualification for "English", "Scottish" or "Welsh". “Other White British” should be replaced by “Other Indigenous British”, and that “Asian” should be made much more specific, as in the parallel Scottish questionnaire.’

(Steadfast North East)

’Questions oriented towards skin colour are meaningless and insulting in an ethnically diverse society ... the census should not use colour as descriptors of ethnicity, but instead should use ethnogeographical descriptors. *Never* use “Black” for Africans.’

(Socialist Health Association)

’Some ethnic groups are described by the colour of their skin, others are described by their place of origin.’

(Age Concern Leicester)

’(Presumed) skin colour is an absurd anachronism in a multicultural society. National, ethnic or cultural heritage are far more acceptable and meaningful bases.’

(Private Individual)

’ ... usage of colour coded racial labels and propagation of “Mixed” races is outdated, inaccurate and offensive, harking back to the racial classification laws implemented in South Africa by the racist Boer regime. We suggest the removal of the usage of colour coded racial labels and a halt to the propagation of the concept of “Mixed” human races.’

(Ligali)

The Sudanese Coptic Association do not agree with ‘White’, ‘Mixed’ and ‘Other’; it stated that each of these groups represent both race and nationality, which complicates issues.

’[There is] no need for them [the terms “White”, “Mixed” and “Other”] because the race of each group is already included.’

(The Sudanese Coptic Association)

Use of geographic regions to define ethnic

Some respondents disagreed with geographic regions being used in a way to describe ethnic groups.

“Asian” is a geographic term not an ethnic group. The variety of ethnic backgrounds even on the regional scale in Asia is a challenge, for example Arab and Iranian, as well as Bangladeshi, Malayan, etc. Within these groups there are further categories. Similar difficulties arise within Europe.’

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

‘Use of nationalities (Indian, Pakistani) and geographical areas (Black African, Black Caribbean) does not give us any true information on the ethnicities (the culture) of the people that live in the UK

(The British Sikh Women’s Organisation)

Use of the term ‘Asian’

Some experts, community and special interest group respondents stated that the term “Asian” was not acceptable. For example:

‘The term “Asian” applies to an enormous and diverse continent and therefore has no meaning in any definition of the term ethnic. “South Asian” also applies to an area with a diverse population, but you could argue that there is a common cultural sphere and degree of common history. Most of the South Asians in the UK are Bengalis (East and West), Gujaratis, Kashmiris (East and West), Punjabis (East: mostly Sikhs, and West: mostly Muslims), and Tamils (Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka).’

(The British Sikh Women’s Organisation)

‘We do not accept the term “Asian” as an ethnic group ... it has become a term associated with people with brown skin. However, the differences within this category are significant in terms of needs, visibility and discrimination.’

(The Sikh Federation)

“Asian” is not acceptable – “Asian” is a muddled category encompassing Indian sub-continent and China, but apparently not (for example) Vietnamese or Thai, and obviously not Arab or Central Asian identities such as Afghans or Kurds.’
(Burton Street Project)

Use of the term ‘Mixed’

Some respondents did not agree with the term ‘Mixed’.

‘[“Mixed”] could be replaced by “Dual or multiple ethnic origin”.’
(North Wales Race Equality Network Ltd)

‘I have encountered a minority view that the term "Mixed" can be offensive. The preferred term would be "Dual Heritage". I have also encountered representation from British born Black people that "Black British" should be separate from “Black Caribbean” and “Black African”.’
(Church of England Diocese of Southwark)

“Mixed” still gives a unhealthy "not sure what I am" type answer, and to face it, we're all “Mixed’ with the UK's history of invasion.’
(PaganDASH and PEBBLE)

‘The term "Mixed Race" is becoming controversial in certain quarters and being replaced by "Dual Heritage" but what of those who are more than "Dual", would they be happy to describe themselves as "Multi-heritage”?’
(Rajdhani Cultural Society)

Combination of ethnic group and national identity categories

Some experts, community and special interest group respondents commented on the issue of dual identities and the assumption that ‘British’ (English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh) identities imply a White race.

‘... assumptions are made that these individuals from close geographical areas are “White” and not “BME” [Black and Minority Ethnic]We require additional

information on the Black Irish because the economy is so dynamic and employment is very flexible and affected by inward migration.'

(North Wales Race Equality Network Ltd)

'In addition there is a difficulty for those who may consider they have a "Dual" identity when confronted with options such as Welsh and Pakistani. The root of the problem is the chaotic nature of the Commission for Racial Equality's definition of identity, which is a mixture of colour and nation state of origin. It assumes that English, Welsh, etc ethnic groups are "*White*" only and ignores the variety of ethnic groups within the single identities, for example within India.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

Some experts, community and special interest group respondents stated that the ethnic group terminology was acceptable.

'Current terminology is clear and gives concise meaning.'

(The Asian Resource Centre)

'The terminology used in the ethnic group question is acceptable.'

(The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and The Humber)

'All the ethnic group terminology is acceptable and the terms are well defined and concise.'

(The Pakistan Directory)

'Agree with the terminology proposed for the combined ethnic group question and describe [it] as very well defined.'

(Witton Youth Association)

2.6 Advantages and disadvantages of multiple response ethnicity data

Ethnic group information on previous UK censuses has been based on asking people to tick one box only. Specific categories were introduced in 2001 to record people with 'Mixed' ethnicity. As the proportion of the population with Mixed ethnicity is likely to increase, ONS proposes to test whether a multiple response ethnic group question, based on asking people to tick all categories that apply, would allow people to record their ethnic group more efficiently/accurately.

2.6.1 Advantages of a multiple response ethnicity data

Experts, Community and special interest group respondents identified the potential advantages of a multiple response ethnic group question:

- improved accuracy and reliability of information on ethnic groups
- allows for more effective service provision

Improved accuracy and reliability of information on ethnic groups

Respondents commented that the multiple response question would provide a more accurate measurement of ethnicity, particularly in ethnically diverse populations.

'Multi-response data might show a truer picture of ethnic identity.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

'It is not forcing respondents to make artificial choices.'

(African Women's Group Aberdeen)

'A multiple response ethnic group would give us a better understanding of all the factions within the community.'

(The Pakistan Directory)

'... fully supports the multiple response format. This is because it affords far superior descriptive accuracy. Currently 96 per cent of Jews are "White" though each has a complex ethnic makeup in addition to their Jewish ethnic status.'

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews)

'Multiple ticking would give a much better breakdown of the "Mixed" group than the current predesignated categories. The 2001 Census (by its use of dual options and a duplex free text box under "Mixed") assumed mixed parentage; some respondents may wish to identify more than two groups, for example, those who have Mixed parentage parent(s). In addition, the "Other Mixed background" category is very large (the second largest in many administrative datasets) and conceals a significant number who identified in free text as "Black" and "White". Multiple ticking is an elegant solution to this problem of concealed diversity and has been handled satisfactorily in the USA with respect to reporting.'

(University of Kent)

Allows for more effective service provision

'A multiple response ethnic group category will provide comprehensive information that will allow organisations and authorities to serve their customers better and serve them according to need rather than guessing at what is required.'

(Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK)

2.6.2 Disadvantages of a multiple response ethnicity data

Disadvantages of using multiple response categories are that they are more complicated to code and to interpret.

'... the main disadvantage of multiple responses is that the presentation may be so complex that is easily misunderstood or wilfully misinterpreted.'

(Cornish Language Fellowship)

'Multiple responses will let organisations, which must apply the *Race Relations (Amendment) Act*, to argue that it is too complex to meet the needs of all ethnic groups.'

(Akal Sikh Group)

'It would limit the comparison with previous censuses and thus reduce the usability of the 2011 output.'

(Muslim Council of Britain)

2.7 Comments on the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland used a different ethnic group classification to the one proposed for the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales. The main difference was that it replaced the term 'White' with 'European' and the term 'Black' with 'African or Caribbean'. It also contained a larger number of tick box categories. Respondents were asked to compare the two classifications and provide views on the advantages or disadvantages between the classifications of ethnic group.

2.7.1 Advantages of the Scottish 2006 Census Test ethnicity classification

Experts, Community and special interest group respondents identified the following advantages of the Scottish ethnicity classification:

- removal of colour terms
- inclusion of additional tick-box categories

Removal of colour terms

Some respondents were happy to see the removal of skin colour (White and Black) to be replaced by geographical regions.

'[The Scottish] classification has been constructed to avoid offensive and ambiguous terms. These categories are much more acceptable and more likely to provide reliable data than those used in the 2001 Census and reflected in the England and Wales 2007 Test classification ... [we] welcome the deracialisation of African people and their treatment on equal terms with Asians.'

(The African Women's Group Aberdeen and The East African Network)

'The main advantages of the Scottish ethnic group categories are that the English, Scottish, and Welsh categories are recognised in an unqualified way. "Other European" clearly recognises those such as Greeks, Poles, and Romanians with British citizenship, while European is an ethnic, not political, sense. The "Combined ethnic group" categories are done concisely and logically.'

(Steadfast North East)

'An advantage of the Scottish ethnic group question is that it allows respondents to state their identity as "Welsh" as well as "British". It allows more categories, which undoubtedly help respondents to respond more accurately.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

Inclusion of additional tick-box categories

Many groups welcomed the inclusion of Arab, Jewish and Sikh as ethnic groups.

'An advantage of the Scottish Test question is that it recognises the legal need for a separate Sikh ethnic category.'

(The Sikh Women's Alliance)

'The Scottish Census Test question is much better than [the one in] England and Wales; it is able to meet all the issues relating to space constraint and comparability of data with previous censuses.'

(The British Sikh Federation)

'By including the category "Jewish", as well as "Sikh", the Scottish Test Census makes it clear that ethnicity has, conceptually, a broader meaning than race and nationality. The main advantage of this presentation is that it affords greater accuracy in the instrument's ability to record the ethnic belongings of its citizens.'

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews)

'The Scottish 2006 Test question is more inclusive and captures broader information than the England and Wales 2007 Test classification.'

(Age Concern Leicester)

'An advantage of the Scottish ethnic group question is that people will be able to identify with different categories for different purposes. The more detailed the information, the more accurate the mapping of need and the targeting of responses can be.'

(The Asian Resource Centre)

'The ethnic group question in the Scottish Census [Test] is accurate, consistent and removes any offensive terminology.'

(Ligali)

'An advantage of the Scottish Test question is that it is easier to differentiate between groups.'

(The Pakistan Directory)

2.7.2 Disadvantages of the Scottish 2006 Test ethnicity classification

Community and special interest group respondents identified the following disadvantages of the Scottish classification:

- too many categories, which make it too difficult to analyse data
- confusion of ethnic terms, for example, inclusion of Jewish and Sikh categories
- loss of comparability with the 2001 Census
- excludes certain ethnic groups
- removal of colour terminology

Too many categories, which make it too difficult to analyse data

Some respondents commented on the number of categories.

'There are too many groups that are not legally or politically recognised as separate ethnic groups. Many of these groups may not wish to be separately identified and there may be no way of comparing with the Census 2001 (unlike the Sikh group where a methodology exists).'

(Akal Sikh Group)

Some respondents commented on the issue of being constrained by the categories offered.

'Some people may be constrained by the need to tick only one box and may feel that they have to choose between different facets of their ethnicity. We would prefer a write-in response, or, failing that, the option of ticking multiple boxes.'

(The African Women's group Aberdeen and The East African Network)

Confusion of ethnic terms, for example, inclusion of Jewish and Sikh categories

Some respondents did not welcome the inclusion of Jewish and Sikh ethnic group categories.

'"Sikh" represents a religion and this is unfair as none of the other 27 categories do.'
(Age Concern Leicester)

'How can Jewish not be European?'
(Steadfast North East)

'It has a mix of definitions that also include religion as a defining category.'
(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

'Jewish is a religion not an ethnicity – why confuse the whole list by the inclusion of this category? And the same goes for Sikh.'
(The School Development Support Agency)

Loss of comparability with the 2001 Census

Some experts, community and special interest group respondents highlighted the issue of comparability

'Some less significant groups have been included and there is loss of comparability with 2001 Census.'
(The Sikh Women's Alliance)

'If Scotland adopts a different classification for the 2011 Census from England and Wales, then it would be difficult/impossible to use ethnic group in geodemographic classification systems across the UK or Great Britain, which would be highly detrimental to a large number of market and social research studies.'
(The Market Research Society Census and Geodemographics Group)

Excludes certain ethnic groups

Some respondents did not agree with all the ethnic group categories used or the lack of certain groups.

'The Scottish ethnic group question still does not include Sudanese or "Mixed Arab and African".'

(Sudanese Coptic Association)

Removal of colour terminology

Some respondents raised issues about the removal of colour terminology from the Scottish classification, which has implications for both the Black and the White groups.

'... removes the reality of "colour" being a visible difference and the source of exclusion. For people of African, Caribbean and African/Caribbean Mixed backgrounds, this is a denial of their history and struggle for equality.'

(KMC)

'It appears incomplete (to the layman) and could result in confusion for respondents. Not all "White" respondents will be European. We can imagine respondents from countries such as the USA or Australia might object to being classed as European.'

(CACI Limited)

'... European identity is a much vaguer concept; skin colour remains a very important aspect of identity.'

(Department of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University)

3. Review of Requirements for Information on National Identity

In the 2005 consultation respondents requested a question on national identity in the census. This would allow people to describe their national identity more accurately and allow them to identify with groups that do not currently have a specific tick box in the ethnic group question.

A question on national identity has not been included in previous censuses, although it has been asked in surveys such as the ONS Labour Force Survey since 2001.

National identity is subjective and self-perceived, unlike objective information such as country of citizenship. It records, for example, British, English, Scottish and Welsh national identities independently from ethnic group. It also allows recording of national identities outside the UK. Testing of the national identity question showed that British-born people from ethnic minority groups preferred answering the ethnic group question if they were asked to record their national identity first. The proposed national identity question is a multiple response question, so would provide information for different combinations of national identities.

3.1 Requirements for information on national identity

More than one-half (57) per cent of expert community and special interest group respondents stated that they required data on national identity (Table 8). The remaining 43 per cent had no need for this information.

Table 8: Requirements for information on national identity from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

Organisation type	Percentages		
	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	50	50	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	57	43	114
Local & regional government	67	33	81
Local service providers	45	55	40
All respondents	58	42	257

Respondents gave the following reasons for needing this information:

- distinguishes non-British and British ethnic minority groups
- encourages community and special interest group members to take up a British identity
- allows identity to be recognised
- allows further analysis

Distinguishes non-British and British ethnic minority groups

'[A question on national identity] will provide information on how many British Kashmiris there are and how many are non-British, which will also categorise their achievements and comparisons can be made.'

(Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK and Leeds Muslim Consortium)

Encourages community and special interest group members to take up a British identity

'This would provide useful information as we encourage Sikhs to take up British nationality.'

(British Sikh Federation and affiliated organisations)

Allows identity to be recognised

'In the absence of a specific opportunity for Welsh people in England to identify themselves as "Welsh" in the ethnicity question, this is the next best opportunity to make geographic comparisons for 2011 to inform on issues relating to the needs of the Welsh community in England.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

'... because it not only recognises the existence of Cornish people, but enables work to be done to enhance their presence in the eyes of the rest of the UK, particularly to those in authority.'

(Gorsedh Kernow, Taves an Werin)

Academic respondents to the question on national identity stated this information was needed to enhance data from the ethnicity question.

'To understand better differences between ethnic groups in how they see themselves.'

(University of Oxford)

'... valuable additional information to be used in conjunction with ethnic question.'

(Anglia Ruskin University)

Private companies and their clients required this information to understand their markets.

'Market and social researchers need the information to help clients understand how these communities perceive their identity. Information will be used in geodemographic systems and market analysis.'

(The Market Research Society Census and Geodemographics Group)

'Much better able to target goods and services at groups not currently represented in client databases.'

(Solutions Consulting Ltd)

'To get information on the number of people who perceive themselves to have a non-UK identity.'

(Schellekens Consultancy)

Allows further analysis

'The responses would provide new material on religion–identity cross-tabulations, for example Muslims in Scotland who identify more with being Scottish rather than British. It might also shed some light on English Muslims and whether this population is numerically the same as White English Muslims.'

(The Muslim Council of Britain)

3.2 Suitability of the proposed national identity question and suggested changes

Around four in ten (39 per cent) of community and special interest group respondents stated that they were happy with the proposed national identity categories, while 51 per cent said that they partially met their needs (Table 9).

**Table 9: Suitability of the proposed national identity categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Organisation type	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	64	18	18	11
Experts, community & special interest groups	39	15	46	72
Local & regional government	40	27	32	62
Local service providers	70	17	13	23
All respondents	45	20	35	168

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed national identity information from the 2011 Census in Question 30.

Just over one-tenth (15 per cent) of respondents said that the proposed national identity question would not meet their requirements for information on national identity. Reasons given for this included:

- the question could be potentially confusing to census respondents
- the question focuses on too few UK national identities

The question could be potentially confusing to census respondents

Some respondents commented that the national identity question could cause confusion.

'Many people in border areas of Wales and England may have difficulty in understanding the term, [for example] people who are born in one country but have their usual residence in the other. Thus many people in Powys are born in Shrewsbury. In addition, migrants from England into Wales who have children born in Wales may consider their children to be English. This operates both ways of course. However, the decision-making dilemma for the respondent is the same as for the ethnicity question. Indeed the respondent may well be puzzled by the additional question on national Identity.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

Question focuses on too few UK national identities

The format was criticised because there was too much emphasis on British national identities, as all other national identities were amalgamated into one category.

Respondents were interested in identifying specific non-UK nationalities, as well as other UK nationalities (for example, Cornish).

‘Cornwall is a nation for all the same reasons that Wales is a nation and Scotland is a nation. Although many English people find this concept strange or puzzling, there are very sound historical, cultural, ethnic and linguistic reasons for the assertion.’

(Private individual)

4. Review of Requirements for Information on Religion

A voluntary question on religion was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2001. The question in England and Wales gathers information on religious identity or affiliation. It is not intended to provide information on observance or practice. It differs from the religion questions used in the Scottish and Northern Irish censuses, which ask two questions, one on the religion people were brought up in and one on their current religion.

4.1 Requirements for information on religion

Around three-quarters (78 per cent) of community and special interest group respondents required information on religion (Table 10).

Table 10: Requirements of religion information from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	68	32	22
Experts, community & special interest groups	78	23	120
Local & regional government	91	9	81
Local service providers	77	23	43
All	81	19	266

Respondents expressed a variety of reasons for the need to collect religion data on the census. The main reasons were:

- to understand the size of different religious populations
- to promote legal obligations to prevent discrimination and promote equality
- to plan and deliver services
- to enhance understanding of specific ethnic groups
- to improve understanding of local populations and markets

'Some of our people will identify themselves as Sikh under religion, others under ethnicity, and most as both. By having religion, ethnicity (and language) monitored,

we can identify our target group.’
 (British Sikh Women’s Organisation)

‘To better target marketing material at potential client groups.’
 (Solutions Consulting Ltd)

‘A great deal of my own work focuses on trans-cultural issues in health and social care. Religion plays a considerable part in influencing people's views and experiences of healthcare.’
 (University of Central England)

4.2 Suitability of religion categories and suggested changes

Table 11: Suitability of proposed religion categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Organisation type				
Central & devolved government	79	0	21	14
Experts, community & special interest groups	65	19	17	96
Local & regional government	82	4	14	72
Local service providers	85	11	4	27
All respondents	74	11	14	209

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed religion information from the 2011 Census in Question 35

In general the proposed religion categories would provide the information required. The needs of experts, community and special interest group respondents were least likely of all respondents to be met, 65 per cent thought the religion question would meet their requirements, compared with 74 per cent of all respondents. Reasons why respondents did not think the question on religion would meet their needs and additional information required included:

- requirement for information on non-religious beliefs
- greater emphasis on religious identity
- religious activity should be measured
- Christian category is too broad
- requirement for information on additional religions

Requirement for information on non-religious beliefs

Several expert, community and special interest group respondents required information on non-religious beliefs as well as religion.

'A large part of our work is concerned with representing the needs of the non-religious to Government, Government agencies, NGOs [non-government organisations], and other external audiences. To do this, we have a need (just as there is a need more generally) for accurate, pertinent and reliable data on the level of religious and non-religious beliefs in England and Wales.'

(The British Humanist Association)

'The category "No religion" is too vague and simplistic. A further breakdown of categories, including ideologies and beliefs such as secularism, agnosticism, humanism and atheism, among others, should be made.'

(The Ethnic Minority Foundation)

Greater emphasis on religious identity

Some expert, community and special interest group respondents requested that the religion categories should be reordered on the form. For example:

'The above list should therefore be reordered so that "No religion" appears at the bottom rather than top of the list ... The question should be worded to ensure that it captures all levels of identification and not only formal membership.'

(East African Network)

Religious activity should be measured

At present the religion question in England and Wales asks '*What is your religion?*' Some expert, community and special interest group respondents suggested that this question is too ambiguous and that responses may differ depending on how each respondent interprets the question. For example does the question refer to a religion that is actively practised, or to an individual's religious upbringing? The question could be reworded to address this. For example:

'Our first recommendation is that England and Wales use a double question such as was used in Scotland in 2001. Secondly, we believe that a question other than "*What is your religion?*" (which we believe to be a leading question) be used, such as first, "*Were you brought up in a religion... Yes/No; If so, how would you describe the religion you were brought up in?*" ... Second, '*Do you regard yourself now as belonging to any particular religion, or religious denomination? ... Yes/No; If so, how would you describe your religion now?*'"

(The British Humanist Association)

'The Scottish approach is better, since it enables a trend to be established, for example are people following the religion of their family upbringing or not.'

(The British Sikh Federation)

'This tells us nothing about whether this is a label from birth of no meaning, or a way of life. [We suggest you ask] "*Do you have a religious affiliation that influences your way of life?*" [This information is needed] because way of life influences behaviour that affects health and access to healthcare.'

(Medical Anthropology Research Group, University of Durham)

Christian category is too broad

The 2007 Census Test questionnaire has one tick box for Christians. However, some respondents needed information on specific denominations of Christianity.

"Christian" should be split into "Protestant or Catholic".'

(Steadfast North East)

“Christian” conceals heterogeneity. “Christian” could be made a free text field or subdivided through predesignated categories. [This would be] useful with respect to investigating health inequalities in some of the different ethnic communities, that is to have a “Catholic/Protestant/Other” breakdown. It would also provide a useful basis for subdividing the “Irish” group.’

(University of Kent)

Requirement for information on additional religions

Several experts, community and special interest group respondents suggested that other religions that should be recognised in the 2011 Census with their own tick boxes.

Pagans

‘HFP [Heathens For Progress] needs to know overall numbers of Pagans/Wiccans/Heathens to support our work with central government departments for faith recognition.’

(Heathens For Progress)

‘Paganism is said to be the fastest growing religion, but we suffer discrimination – partly because it is difficult to estimate exactly how many Pagans there are.’

(Pagan Federation and PEBBLE)

‘... encourage ONS to put “Pagan” as a tick box on the census form. However, this *must* be accompanied by an option whereby Pagans can mark which of the many different Pagan traditions they work within, whether Druidry, Wicca, Witchcraft, Heathenism, Asatru, and so on. This would encourage Pagan Druids to be registered, where they may be unsure about being Pagan (without Druid), and where ONS would not mark them as Pagan if they were simply to put themselves down as Druid.’

(Druid Network)

'We believe that "Modern Paganism" should be a separately listed category, as in the 2001 Census, the information had to be compiled by looking at all individual paths. A "Pagan" tick box would enable a better and more accurate view of how many considered themselves to be practising one of the Pagan religions.'

(Pagan Association UK)

Sikhs

'If this question is made mandatory it would help to show the actual number of Sikhs in UK and their distribution. However, under the current system for collating statistics and monitoring, a dedicated Sikh ethnic group box is the only way to ensure protection of Sikh rights as a distinct British ethnic minority.'

(Sikh Education Welfare and Advancement Network UK and Sikh Women's Alliance)

'Strictly speaking for Sikhs to have a "religious identity" one needs to be fully practising, so the question may have been misinterpreted by a sizeable number of Sikhs in the 2001 Census. One option to make the question more useful would be to make it mandatory and explain it is simply asking: "*With which religion do you associate through your upbringing?*"'

(Akal Sikh Group and *Awaze Quam International*)

Requests were also received for the following religions:

'The inclusion of: "Rastafarian", "Yoruba", "Pan-Africanism", to provide a more accurate breakdown.'

(Ligali)

'We suggest that you add a further category, which you label "Holistic" or "Generalised Spirituality" or "Contemporary Spirituality". We favour the use of the term "Holistic" because it is already common currency in alternative and complementary medicine and healthcare, where a substantial part of the

approach has a spiritual component (for example BHMA – British Holistic Medical Association); it is also increasingly used in the media as a cover-all word for contemporary spirituality.’
(Foundation for Holistic Spirituality)

‘Definitely [add] "Baha'i", "Jain" and "Zoroastrian" – plus ideally "Brahma Kumaris", "Pagan" and "Rastafarian" – to avoid discrimination against, and ensure proper recognition and participation by, small minorities. ‘
(Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and The Humber)

‘Minority religions (for example Jain, Zoroastrian, Baha'i) should be included – they are currently grouped as "Other Religions". ‘
(The Diocese of Manchester Church and Society Department)

4.3 Requirements for comparison with 2001 religion information

Nearly seven in ten (69 per cent) of expert, community and special interest group respondents stated the need to compare information on religion in the 2011 Census with the 2001 Census (Table 12).

Table 12: Need to compare information on religion in the 2011 Census with the 2001 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
Organisation type	Yes	No	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	73	27	11
Experts, community & special interest groups	69	31	51
Local & regional government	85	15	52
Local service providers	7	30	10
All respondents	76	24	124

¹ Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed religion information from the 2011 Census in Question 35.

Many expert, community and special interest group respondents needed this comparability for the religion question so that they could monitor trends for policy evaluation and service provision, and understand specific religious groups. For example:

'... to map changes in population sizes and distribution.'

(Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and The Humber, and the Asian Resource Centre)

'... for trends analysis and assessing the impact of policy interventions.'

(The Muslim Council of Britain)

'To access information about the changing demography of the African Christian, Muslim and other faiths.'

(East African Network)

'To assess more clearly what has been happening to the English community, successive census declarations will help to establish a number of general trends. In the matter of religion, this will help the English to know whether or not, in the foreseeable future, among us there might be a "core" religious position to which the others might relate with a measure of understanding and acceptance.'

(Steadfast North East)

'To chart demographic and socio-economic change within the "Jewish by religion" population. For comparability reasons it is important that the wording and format used in 2011 is the same as it was in 2001.'

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews)

'To capture trends and changes over time and to enable us to generate and analyse richer and more fluid data.'

(Ethnic Minority Foundation)

However, some respondents stated that providing a more accurate religion question in the 2011 Census was preferable to ensuring comparability with the 2001 Census.

'... do not believe that direct comparability with the 2001 Census is as important as ensuring that the questions and possible responses are worded in a manner likely to result in meaningful data.'

(African Women's Group Aberdeen)

'Other things being equal, comparability is always valuable, and a trend towards unbelief would be significant for many areas of Government policy. But the 2001 [Census] question was so unsatisfactory that we see no virtue in repeating it, especially as that would make any change in 2021 or later censuses the less likely.'

(British Humanist Association)

'However, we do not believe that direct comparability with the 2001 Census is as important as ensuring that the questions and possible responses are worded in a manner likely to result in meaningful data.'

(Scottish Council of Jewish Communities)

'2001 [Census] questions were seriously inconsistent between Scotland and England and Wales, therefore results could not be compared across Great Britain – particularly for "Christians" and "No religion". Fixing this in 2011 is much more important than preserving comparability with 2001.'

(The Market Research Society Census and Geodemographics Group)

5. Review of Requirements for Information on Language

A question on Welsh language proficiency has been included in every census in Wales since 1891. ONS proposes to continue to measure Welsh language proficiency in Wales in 2011. Proficiency in other languages has not been recorded in previous censuses in England and Wales, and is currently much less likely to be included than the other topics covered in this consultation. Languages other than Welsh will not be measured unless there is space on the census form. This consultation aimed to gain a better understanding of user requirements for language information throughout England and Wales, and assess additional requirements to those provided by the language question already asked in Wales.

5.1 Requirements for information on language

Table 13: Need for language information from the 2011 Census: by organisation type

England and Wales	Percentages		
Organisation type	Yes	No	Base = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	86	14	21
Experts, community & special interest groups	88	12	121
Local & regional government	96	4	84
Local service providers	93	7	45
All respondents	92	8	271

Most experts, community and special interest group respondents (88 per cent) had a need for language information from the 2011 Census (Table 13). They required this information:

- to facilitate service provision and provide suitable translation services
- to enhance information from the ethnicity and religion questions

To facilitate service provision and provide suitable translation services

The majority of expert community and special interest group respondents were interested in information on language to improve service provision, and ensure information and services were accessible.

'We provide translated asthma information in 25 languages currently, and it would be good to target our work more effectively and more specifically with regards to language.'

(Asthma UK)

'For planning our Gaelic policies and programmes and to ascertain what services Gaelic speakers outwith [outside] Scotland need. For example in relation to language learning provision and Gaelic broadcasting programming on radio and television.'

(An Comunn na Gàidhlig)

'It would be useful to us to be able to elicit those Arabs living in the UK whose primary language is still Arabic and what degree of proficiency there is speaking and understanding English, as a guide to integration and service planning, for example translation requirements for health, education, etc.'

(National Association of British Arabs)

To enhance information from the ethnicity and religion questions.

A few experts, community and special interest group respondents thought that information from the language question would enhance their understanding of different ethnic and religious groups.

5.2 Suitability of proposed language question in the 2007 Census Test

The proposed language question in 2007 Census Test in England and Wales included aspects of language ability. It included categories for the ability to understand, speak, read and write for English, Welsh and one other language (to be specified by the respondent). Categories for the ability to understand and sign British Sign Language (BSL) were also included.

**Table 14: Suitability of proposed language categories in the 2007 Census Test: by organisation type
England and Wales**

Organisation type	Percentages			
	Yes	No	Partially	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Central & devolved government	63	6	31	16
Experts, community & special interest groups	39	37	24	100
Local & regional government	48	18	34	82
Local service providers	53	28	20	40
All respondents	46	27	27	238

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed language information in Question 42.

Two-fifths (39 per cent) of expert, community and special interest group respondents who required information on language thought that the proposed language categories would meet their needs, while a similar percentage (37 per cent) stated that they would not meet their needs (Table 14). Many respondents wanted to see additional categories added to the question, and others wanted more detail on different levels of ability.

'Not sufficient detailed information on the abilities at various levels for Scots Gaelic ... to provide a more accurate picture of the actual numbers of Scots Gaelic speakers in other areas of the UK. This information is essential for language planning and resource allocation purposes. Both requirements are now crucial in the effective implementation by the UK Government of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in respect of Scots Gaelic.'

(An Comunn na Gàidhlig)

Some respondents suggested that the question should collect information about different aspects of language ability use.

'Whether or not a person only or primarily uses British Sign Language or whether they use other languages ... to define the group of those people who can communicate mainly or solely through the use of British Sign Language.'

(RNID)

'... language *use* is more important and more valid than competence ... suggest that data should be collected on languages *used* by individuals and, if possible, more than one language in addition to English and Welsh.'

(Multilingual City Forum)

Some respondents pointed out that not enough space was provided for writing in languages other than English and Welsh.

'More options/boxes for respondents to write in other languages. Taking space constraints into account, we would recommend a total of three "Other language, write in" spaces for this, given the opportunity for respondents to record read only/understand only.'

(The National Centre for Languages)

5.3 Additional Requirement on language ability

Respondents who thought that the language question in the 2007 Census Test would not meet their requirements were asked to specify what additional information they required on different aspects of language in the 2011 Census. Community and special interest group respondents needed information on:

- minority languages used
- Illiteracy

Minority languages used

Many respondents asked for information about specific minority languages used within the UK to know what languages apart from English are used and understood.

'Information about *use* of languages [is required] to represent and promote languages used in South Yorkshire.'

(Multilingual City Forum)

'There is a move nationally to categorise all languages spoken by groups in the UK, other than English, as community languages. We need accurate information to establish the reality of the issues with which we are dealing.'

(School Development Support Agency)

'Information on languages spoken in the UK is required for organisations to abide by the *Race Relations Act 1976* (Statutory Duties) Order 2001.'

CILT Cymru , The National Centre for Languages

Some experts, community and special interest groups stated a specific need for particular languages, these included:

- Arabic
- Arabic, Arabic Hebrew, French, German, Russian Spanish, Yiddish, (Languages spoken by the British Jewish community)
- Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Urdu, Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Somali, Urdu
- British Sign Language
- Cornish
- Gaelic
- Kiswahili, Yoruba
- Pahari
- Punjabi
- Welsh (in England)

Arabic

'It would be useful to us to be able to elicit those Arabs living in the UK whose primary language is still Arabic, what degree of proficiency there is speaking and understanding English as a guide to integration and service planning for example translation requirements for health, education, etc.'

(National Association of British Arabs)

Arabic, Arabic Hebrew, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Yiddish (Languages spoken by the British Jewish community)

'The British Jewish community is made up of substantial numbers of Jews from Israel, the EU and FSU [former Soviet Union] countries as well as Yiddish speakers (especially strictly-Orthodox Jews) who tend not to speak English at home. In its work the Board is responsible for representing the needs and assisting in the welfare of all these groups. It would enormously improve our understanding of the makeup of the community and our ability to cater for their needs if we knew what languages were spoken at home and [so that we could] produce material for such households.'

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews)

Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Somali, Urdu

'[This information will be used for] ensuring effective dissemination of information to all communities.'

(The Muslim Council of Britain)

Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Urdu, Welsh

'Informing agencies of the need to translate materials to improve accessibility to services for BMEs [Black and Minority Ethnic]'

(North Wales Race Equality Network Ltd)

British Sign Language

'There is currently no accurate information on the numbers of British Sign Language users in the UK, despite it being an officially recognised language. The Disability Equality Duty and *Disability Discrimination Act* also require understanding of the communications requirements of disabled people.'

(RNID)

Cornish

'To monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in which the Cornish language is included and under which the Government is obliged to consult language users.'

(Cornish Ethnicity Data Tracking Group)

'We exist to promote [Kernewek/Cornish], which has been successfully revived, is protected under EC charter, and is soon to be taught in Cornish Schools. We will need to monitor its progress, as will the authorities responsible for education.'
(Gorseth Kernow)

Kiswahili, Yoruba

'To provide a service that is more culturally sensitive to the needs of our clients.'
(Ligali)

Pahari (Mirpuri)

Many experts, community and special interest group respondents expressed a requirement to collect language data on Pahari/Mirpuri – a language spoken by the Kashmiri community.

'The best way to categorise a group is by knowing what language the group speaks and understands. The issues around the Pahari-speaking Kashmiri community can only be dealt with if data are available on the number of Pahari-speaking people and whether they are able to communicate in English or not.'
(Birmingham Settlement, Tehreek -e-Kashmir UK and Leeds Muslim Consortium)

'Language is vital as it is a talking point. If a person does not speak English then we need to know what language to use to communicate with them, and have translators on hand to provide information and literature in that language. '
(Pakistan Directory)

'To identify the number of Pahari/Mirpuri-speaking [people] settled in UK. '
(Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front)

Punjabi

'Punjabi is the second most widely used language after English in England and Wales, as well as in Scotland, where it has been shown separately in the latest Test questionnaire. It is almost certainly the case that Punjabi is used more than Welsh and British Sign Language (BSL) in England so Punjabi should be given preference over Welsh and BSL in England.'
(The British Sikh Federation and affiliated organisations)

Scots Gaelic

'For planning our Gaelic policies and programmes and to ascertain what services Gaelic speakers outwith [outside] Scotland need. For example in relation to language learning provision and Gaelic broadcasting programming on radio and television.'

(Comunn na Gàidhlig)

Welsh (in England)

'To assess the needs of the Welsh-speaking community in England to inform on issues that are matter of public policy, for example broadcasting, cultural policies of local authorities, for example we used estimates to inform discussion with the Mayor of London and London Assembly on translations services. We have also looked at the policies of local authorities in England to see what opportunities there are for Welsh cultural groups to access support for activities. An accurate analysis of the Welsh-speaking population in England would be of value to ourselves in this task and to policy makers we are in discussion with.'

(Plaid Cymru London Branch)

'Assertaining the number of respondents in England who claim that they possess some ability in the Welsh language will enable Undeb Cymru a'r Byd – Wales International) as well as other bodies, for example Welsh TV and Radio, together with Welsh publishers of both Welsh and English language publications, to identify current trends and how best to respond to them.'

(Undeb Cymru a'r Byd – Wales International)

Illiteracy

Experts, community and special interest group respondents were interested in illiteracy within English-speaking groups.

'Since Irish people understand and speak English, language information is largely required around illiteracy, limited literacy, communication problems in that language.'

(Federation of Irish Societies)

'The ability to use Standard English, and the level of literacy therein, might properly be addressed in a question to the English themselves. In other words, quite apart

from the ability to read and write, it may well be that some English people may be prepared to state that they are not proficient even in the spoken form of their own language.’

(Steadfast North East)

5.4 Most important aspects of language ability

There are many different aspects of language ability. Respondents were provided with a list of 19 different aspects of language ability, and were asked to indicate whether they required this information and if so, to what extent.

Table 15: Requirements for specific aspects of language ability: experts, community and special interest groups

England and Wales

Percentage

	Very important	Quite important	Do not need	Base ¹ = 100% (numbers)
Main language (spoken at home)	83	14	3	98
Mother tongue or first language	82	16	2	98
Preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities	75	16	9	96
Preferred written language for communicating with public authorities	74	18	8	95
Which languages are spoken, other than English	71	23	6	104
Ability to understand spoken English	71	17	13	102
Ability to speak English	69	20	12	102
Which languages are understood, other than English	67	27	6	103
Which languages are read, other than English	65	28	7	100
Ability to read English	63	25	12	101
Frequency of speaking other languages	62	22	16	97
Which languages are written, other than English	61	27	12	98
Ability to write in English	60	26	14	96
Other aspects of language ability	22	5	73	59
Frequency of speaking Welsh	16	13	71	93
Ability to understand spoken Welsh (among population in England)	14	12	73	90
Ability to understand speak Welsh (among population in England)	14	12	74	93
Ability to read Welsh (among population in England)	13	12	75	92
Ability to write in Welsh (among population in England)	13	12	75	92

1 Respondents only answered this question if they stated that they needed language information in Question 42.

2 Responses were only sought for requirements for Welsh in England as a Welsh language question is already asked in Wales.

3 Requirements for language ability for each organisation type can be found in the consultation reports relating to that stakeholder group.

The top six different aspects of language ability in Table 15 were considered to be very important by 70 per cent or more of stakeholders. The single most important aspect was 'Main language spoken at home' which was required by 83 per cent of respondents.

APPENDIX

A.1 References

1. *The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales*, Office for National Statistics, May 2005 <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census.asp>

2. *The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales – Ethnicity, identity, language and religion* Office for National Statistics, March 2006 www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_assessment_of_user_requirements.pdf

A.2 Experts, Community and Special Interest Group Respondents

Organisations

African Women's Group Aberdeen
Age Concern Leicester, Mark Melaugh
Age Concern Leicester, Saeed Malek
Akali Sikh Group
Akali Dal (Panthic) - Derby
Akali Dal (Yorkshire)
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association (Awema)
An Comunn Gaidhealach
Anglia Ruskin University
Asian Resource Centre
Aspiana Community Project
Aspire and Excel
Aston Youth Forum and Network
Asylum Support and Immigration Resource Team
Awaze Qaum International (Sikh newspaper)
Aziz Textiles Ltd
Aziz Welfare Trust
Baba Ajit Singh Gatka Akhara
Queen Mary's School of Medicine & Dentistry
Birmingham Foundation
Birmingham Mirpur Friendship Association, Khizar Jamil
Birmingham Mirpur Friendship Association, Mohammed Jamil
Birmingham Settlement (Charity tackling social disadvantage)
Bloomsbury Cyber Junction
Board of Deputies of British Jews, David Graham
Board of Deputies of British Jews, Alex Goldberg
Bristol Sikh Temple, Bristol
British Humanist Association
British Sikh Federation, Gurmukh Singh
British Sikh Federation, Kashmir Singh
British Sikh Women's Organisation
Burton Street Project
CACI Limited
Cardiff Buddhist Centre
Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project
Cardiff Interfaith Association
Central Scotland Racial Equality Council
Centre for Evidence in Ethnicity, Health & Diversity, Warwick Medical School
Centre for the Aston Family
Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council
Christian Research Association
Church of England Diocese of Southwark
Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and The Humber
Churches together in England
CILT - The National Centre for Languages
CILT Cymru (Centre for International Language Teaching and Research, Wales)
City University, London
Community Unity
Comunn na Gàidhlig (Gaelic Language Forum)
Consortium of Leeds Kashmiri Organisations

Cornish Ethnicity Data Tracking Group
Coventry Sikh Federation
Coventry University
Coventry Young Sikhs
Cowethas Peran Sans (Fellowship of Saint Piran, Cornwall)
Cwmni Iaith (Wales Language Planning Agency)
Undeb Cymru a'r Byd / Wales International
De Montfort University, Mary Seacole Research Centre
Derby Sikh Society
Diocese of Manchester Church and Society Department
Druid Network
Diocese of Southwark
East African Network
Ethnic Minority Foundation
East Birmingham Community Forum
Ekta One
Euro London Appointments
Experian
Federation of Irish Societies
Foundation for Holistic Spirituality
Foundation for Holistic Spirituality
Friends of Small Heath Park
GAD Khalsa Sports
GAG Consultancy
German Cultural Centre in Wales
Giantpowerhouse 1409 Ltd
Glenfield Sikh Association
Gorseth Kernow (promoting Cornish culture)
Gypsy Council
Gravesend Sikh Womens Association
Green Association
Groundwork West Midlands
Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji
Gurdwara Baba Zorawar Singh Ji Baba Fateh Singh Ji
Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar
Gurdwara Guru Hargobind Sahib Charitable Trust.
Gurdwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji Wakefield Road Bradford
Gurdwara Guru Nanak Parkash
Gurdwara Leeds
Gurdwara Milton Keynes
Gurdwara Singh Sabha London East
Gurdwara Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, Tividale
Gurmat Parchar Committee
Gurmat Parcher
Gurmat Sangeet Academy
Guru Nanak Darbar Education Committee
Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Telford)
Guru Nanak Gurdwara Bedford
Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick
Guru Nanak Language Cultural and Religious Academy
Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha (Karamsar) UK Gurdwara
Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Wolverhampton)
Hayes Sikh Federation
Hayes Young Sikhs
Heartlands Older Peoples Forum

Heathens For Progress
 Hillingdon Sikh Welfare Association
 Hindu Cultural Association (Wales)
 Ikra Welfare Association
 Indian Community Centre
 Insaka
 Inter Leyton F.C.
 Islamic Resource Centre
 Istari Satsang Leamington and Warwick
 Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front
 Kashmir Development Foundation (KDF)
 Kashmir Forum
 Kashmir Refugee Association, Mahmood Asim
 Kashmir Refugee Association, Mahmood Zia
 Kashmir Refugee Association, Sardar Zia Mahmood
 Kashmir Youth Project, Ismail Fluet
 Kashmir Youth Project, Zulfiqar Ali
 Kashmiri Association of Viewers and Listeners
 Khalistan Council
 Khalsa Human Rights
 Khalsa Human Rights (Oadby and Wigston)
 Khalsa Satsang Jatha (Southampton)
 Kingston Racial Equality Council
 Kingston Sikh Society
 Kirtan Sewa (UK)
 KMC
 Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek (The Cornish Language Fellowship)
 Lancaster University (Department of Linguistics and English Language)
 Leamington and Warwick Young Sikhs
 Leeds Muslim Consortium
 Leicester Gatkha Akhara
 Leicester Literary Group
 Leicester Punjabi Academy
 Ligali (African British organisation)
 Lincoln Sikh Association
 Liverpool University
 Local Leagues
 Lokh Palayee Party UK
 London Metropolitan University
 London Southbank University
 MEWN (Minority Ethnic Women's Network) Cymru
 Mirpur Community Development Trust
 Mott MacDonald Ltd (Integrated Transport Birmingham)
 Muslim Council of Britian
 Muslim Council of Wales
 Muslim Education Consultative Committee
 Nanaksar Thaath Isher Darbar (Wolverhampton)
 National Association of British Arabs
 National Council of British Indians
 National Council of Gurdwaras
 National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
 National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (ContinYou)
 New Dadyal Cash & Carry
 Nirvair Khalsa Dal (UK)
 North Satley Neighbourhood Forum

North Wales Race Equality Network Ltd
 Northern Oak (newsletter for members of the Pagan Federation in the North)
 Nottingham Sikh Lions F.C.
 Nottingham Young Sikhs
 One NorthEast
 One NorthEast - Regional Language Network
 Oxford & Cambridge Universities Sikh Alumni Association
 Pagan Association UK
 Pagan Federation and PEBBLE (Public Body Liaison Committee for British Paganism)
 Pagan Federation North East
 PaganDASH and PEBBLE (Public Body Liaison Committee for British Paganism)
 Pakistan Directory
 Pakistan Welfare Association, Wales
 Panjabi Cultural & Information Centre
 Panjabi Sikh Association (Derby)
 Plaid Cymru London Branch
 Policy Research Institute on Ageing and Ethnicity
 Polish Social & Cultural Association Ltd (POSK)
 Public Bodies Liaison Committee for British Paganism (PEBBLE)
 Punjab Community Centre, Bradford
 Punjab Human Rights
 Punjab United Football Club
 Punjabi Cultural Society
 Punjabi Writers Society
 Rajdhani Cultural Society
 Regional Language Network London
 Regional Language Network: North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber
 Research Councils UK
 RNID (Royal National Institute for the Deaf)
 Royal Holloway, Uni.of London & the British Council
 S.E.V.A. (Bedford)
 Sarangi
 Satley Community Association
 Satley South Neighbourhood Forum
 Satnam Network
 Schellekens Consultancy
 School Development Support Agency
 Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
 SGRUD Research
 Sheffield Hallam University
 Shiromani Akali Dal, Leamington and Warwick
 Sikh Centre - Leeds
 Sikh Community & Youth Service (Southampton)
 Sikh Community & Youth Service UK
 Sikh Community Action Network (Slough)
 Sikh Education Society Leamington Spa
 Sikh Education Welfare and Advancement Network UK
 Sikh Federation (Bedford)
 Sikh Federation (Birmingham)
 Sikh Federation (Bradford)
 Sikh Federation (Bristol)
 Sikh Federation (Grays)
 Sikh Federation (Halifax)
 Sikh Federation (Handsworth)
 Sikh Federation (Handsworth)

Sikh Federation (Ilford)
 Sikh Federation (Leeds)
 Sikh Federation (Loughborough)
 Sikh Federation (Milton Keynes)
 Sikh Federation (Nottingham)
 Sikh Federation (Slough)
 Sikh Federation (Slough)
 Sikh Federation (Southampton)
 Sikh Federation (Stafford)
 Sikh Federation (UK)
 Sikh Federation (Wolverhampton)
 Sikh Federation Derby
 Sikh Federation Gravesend Branch
 Sikh Federation Leamington and Warwick Branch
 Sikh Federation Lincoln
 Sikh Heritage Society
 Sikh Recreation & Learning Centre
 Sikh Resource Centre (Oadby and Wigston) Leicester
 Sikh Secretariat
 Sikh Women's Alliance
 Sikh Women's Federation (Birmingham)
 Sikh Womens Federation (Handsworth)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Loughborough)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Milton Keynes)
 Sikh Womens Federation (Oadby and Wigston)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Slough)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Southall)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Southampton)
 Sikh Women's Federation (UK)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Wolverhampton)
 Sikh Women's Federation (Derby)
 Sikh Womens Group (Hounslow)
 Sikhs In England (SIE)
 Sikh's Women's Federation Leicester
 Singh Sabha Gurdwara Bradford
 Slough Sikh Forum
 Slough Sikh Forum
 Slough Sikh Forum
 Small Heath Community Forum
 Small Heath Youth and Connexion Centre
 Solutions Consulting Ltd
 South Satley Residents Association
 Southall Sikh Federation
 Southall Sikh Forum
 Southall Young Sikhs
 Sparkbrook Neighbourhood Forum
 Sparkhill Neighbourhood Forum
 Sri Guru HarKrishan Gurdwara, (Oadby and Wigston)
 Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, Gravesend
 Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Bristol
 Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Slough
 Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Derby
 University of Leeds
 Stafford Sikh Youth Organisation
 Steadfast

Steadfast North East
Sudanese Coptic Association
Synovate (research company)
Taryaby Translation Services
Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK
Tettenhall Sikh Students Forum
The Association of Nigerians in The Grampian Region
The Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
The Council of Sikh Gurdwaras in Wolverhampton
The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorian
The Market Research Society
The Market Research Society Census and Geogemographics Group
The MultiLingual City Forum
The Muslim Council of Britain
The Pagan Federation
The Sikh Channel
The Sikh Temple Chapeltown Rd Leeds
Unity FM
University College London
University of Central England
University of Durham, Medical Anthropology Research Group
University of Kent
University of Oxford
University of Manchester
University of Wales, Newport
Urban Asia Radio
UWIC
Vaisakhi Radio
Voice of Aston
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Walsall Sikh Forum
Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network
Ward End Asian Elders Welfare Association
Washwood Heath Youth & Community Network
Washwood Heath Youth Inclusion Project
Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA)
Witton Neighbourhood Forum
Witton Youth Association
Wolverhampton Sikh Society
Womens Group Kashmiri
Worcester Sikh Society
Young Sikhs (UK)
Young Sikhs (Birmingham)
Young Sikhs (Birmingham)
Young Sikhs (Bradford)
Young Sikhs (Bristol)
Young Sikhs (Brownhills)
Young Sikhs (Dagenham)
Young Sikhs (Derby)
Young Sikhs (Grays)
Young Sikhs (Handsworth)
Young Sikhs (Ilford)
Young Sikhs (Keighley)
Young Sikhs (Leeds)
Young Sikhs (Slough)

Young Sikhs (Slough)
Young Sikhs (Southampton)
Young Sikhs (Stafford)
Young Sikhs (UK)
Young Sikhs (Willenhall)
Young Sikhs (Wolverhampton)

Private Individuals

Dr Amarjit Singh
Gordon Harrison
Keith Budden
Roger Beeson
Devinder Sivia
Miri Song
Phil Hosking
Prof R J Pentreath
Ted Chapman
Yowann Byghan
James Corin
Julyan Holmes
Lavinia Hines
Theo Brueton
E.M. Le Comber
A W Ballisat
Adam Reeve
Adrienne Pollock
Alan Trevarthen
Andrew Bamber
Andy Stuart
Angela Cannon
Anita Bernstein
Anita Hoener
Arts Society
B.D. Scott
Bob Todhunter
Bryn Colvin
Carol Evans
Cathy Parker
CE Turne
Celestine Alteryus
Cheryl Houkes
Christine Denwood
Christopher Spence
Claire Bellenis
Claudine Bulpitt
Colin Loveless
Dave French
David Daniel
David Gray
David Manser
Dawn Loveless
Diane Firmin
Douglas Jo

Dr A Drakakis-Smith
Elizabeth Jones
Geoff Palmer
Gillian Shelton
Gina Dodd
Glyn James
Glynis Jones
Helen Mostyn
Hempner Sharkey
Holly Owen
J. Manton
Jacquelyn Kimber
Jan Summers
Jane Kayley
Jason Hunt
Jean Willis
Jenny Luddington
Joanie Willett
Joanne Roberts
John Chidlow
John Ellery Gillingham
Julyan Holmes
Justine Feather
K. Davies.
Kathleen Elliot
Kathryn Libby
Kathryn Wheeler
Keabestoe Monegeng
Kiel Vaughan
Laura Kelly
LC Sykes
Lesley Stansfield
Lyndsey Shir-McDermott-Pour
Lynn Rishworth
Mandy Sanderson
Matthew Atha
Miss E Cafferty
Miss J Richards
MR Davey
Mrs Nicola M Bevan
Ms K Harding
Ms S Williams
Natalie Wells
Nigel Pengelly
Patricia Carline
Peter Humphreys
Peter Maxey
Philip Harvey
Pippa Moss
Princess Aphrodite (email address)
R.M. Wellman
Rev Martin Hazel
Richard le Corney
Rowenna W Williams
Sally Thomas

Sara Lonie
Simon Harris-King
Stephanie Thompson
Stephen Kent
Stuart Welbourn
Sue Rodger
Ugo
Vicci Daniels

A.4 2006 Scottish Census Test Ethnicity Classification

Information on the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is available at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/2006-census-test/index.html>

What is your ethnic group Tick one box which best describes your ethnic background or culture.	
European	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> British
<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Multiple Ethnic Groups	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any multiple background, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Asian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi
<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in
<input type="text"/>	
Arab	
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle East	<input type="checkbox"/> North African
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
African or Caribbean	
<input type="checkbox"/> North African	<input type="checkbox"/> East African
<input type="checkbox"/> Southern African	<input type="checkbox"/> West African
<input type="checkbox"/> Central African	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
Other ethnic group	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in	
<input type="text"/>	

A.5 Consultation Questionnaire on Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion for 2011 Census in England and Wales

Please fill in this questionnaire by checking the boxes with your mouse or typing in the shaded sections. The shaded sections expand as you type so your answer can be as long or short as you wish. Save this document when you have finished and email it back to ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk. (If you have any questions please contact us at ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk.)

Your comments will help to inform the development of the 2011 Census. Your answers may be made public and attributed to you/your organisation.

Please leave blank any sections that are not relevant to you/your organisation.

About you/your organisation

Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone number	
Email address	

Q1. In which of these topics do you or your organisation have an interest? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. National identity	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Language	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. None of these	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2. What roles or responsibilities does your organisation have with respect to the areas you have ticked above (at Q1)? *Please describe.*

--

Q3. Which of the following sources of information on ethnic group, national identity, language and/or religion do you use? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Census	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Government social surveys (such as the Labour Force Survey or British Crime Survey)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Surveys or information collected by/on behalf of your own organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
4. Information collected by other public authorities (e.g. NHS, Local Authorities)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
5. Other information on these topics	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q4. For which UK countries/geographies do you need this information? *Tick all that apply.*

1. England	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Great Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. United Kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Other	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Your views on ethnicity

A question on ethnic group has been included in previous censuses (1991 and 2001). This provides information on the self-identified ethnic group of the population.

The 2007 Census Test questionnaire contains some new ethnic group categories. But there may not be space to include these in the 2011 Census. Alternative options include repeating the 2001 ethnic group question or having a multiple-response question for ethnic group.

Q5. Do you need ethnic group information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q20

Q6. Which of these do you require? *Tick all that apply.*

1. General information on the ethnic composition of the population	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Information on specific ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
3. Information on combinations of ethnic groups (e.g. the total ethnic minority population; the Asian population; etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
4. Other information on ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q7. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

Q8. Do you require information on any of the following concepts? (See the accompanying consultation document for definitions.) *Tick all that apply.*

1. Visible minority population	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Non-White population	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Any other concepts related to ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>

Q9. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
1. White English (in England)	1. White (categories 1 to 4)
2. White Welsh (in Wales)	2. Mixed (categories 6 to 9)
3. Other White British	3. Asian or Asian British (categories 10 to 14)
4. White Irish	4. Black or Black British (categories 15 to 17)
5. Other White background	5. Other ethnic groups
6. Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
7. Mixed: White and Black African 8. Mixed: White and Asian 9. Mixed: Other Mixed background 10. Indian 11. Pakistani 12. Bangladeshi 13. Chinese 14. Other Asian background 15. Black Caribbean 16. Black African 17. Other Black background 18. Arab 19. Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller 20. Other Ethnic Group	(categories 18 to 20)

(Note: information on the 'other' ethnic categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q10. Would the categories for **single** ethnic groups listed above provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q12
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q11. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<i>Reasons why:</i> <i>Additional information needed:</i> <i>Reasons needed:</i>
--

Q12. Would the **combined** ethnic group categories (White; Mixed; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; or Other ethnic groups) provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q14
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q13. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<i>Reasons why:</i>
<i>Additional information needed:</i>
<i>Reasons needed:</i>

Q14. Will you need to compare the information on **single** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q16

Q15. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Q16. Will you need to compare the information on **combined** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q18

Q17. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Comparability over time and across the UK

Q18. Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 may reduce the comparability with information collected in 2001. The degree to which comparability is reduced will depend on the extent of any changes.

Changes may also affect comparability across the UK. The ethnic group classifications in Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2001 were different from that in England and Wales, due to differences in the ethnic minority populations in each country. The Registrars General of the respective countries are committed to working towards consistent UK Census outputs, but it is possible that the differences between the ethnic group classifications in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may increase if there are different needs for information in each area.

What would be the effect of a **small** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a few of the single ethnic group categories are not comparable, but comparisons between the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group could still be made.) *Please describe for each aspect of comparability.*

Comparability with 2001:

Comparability across UK or GB:

Q19. What would be the effect of a **large** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a majority of the single ethnic group categories and the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group are not fully comparable.)

Please describe for each aspect of comparability.

Comparability with 2001:

Comparability across UK or GB:

Your views on the acceptability of ethnic group terms

Q20. Ethnic identity and the terms used to describe it can change over time. Sometimes terms that were initially perceived as acceptable come to be seen as unacceptable (for example out-of-date or derogatory), and vice versa. ONS aims to use terminology that is clear, understandable and acceptable to respondents and we welcome comments on the terminology used.

For each of the following terms, do you find them acceptable for use in an ethnic group question? *Tick 'yes' or 'no' for each term.*

	Yes	No
1. White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Asian or Asian British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q21. Please give reasons for your answers to Q20.

Q22. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the terms listed in Q20?

--

Q23. Do you find any of the names used to describe the single ethnic group categories **unacceptable** for use in an ethnic group question? (The single ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i>
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24. Please give reasons for your answer to Q23.

--

Q25. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the ethnic group category names? (The ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

--

Your views on multiple response ethnic group information

Ethnic group information from previous UK censuses has been based on asking people to tick one box only. Specific categories were introduced in 2001 to record people with mixed ethnicity (see list after Q9, categories 6 to 9). As the proportion of people with mixed ethnicity is likely to increase, ONS proposes to test whether a multiple-response ethnic group question, based on asking people to tick all categories that apply, would allow people to record their ethnic group more efficiently/accurately. (Note that in the 2001 Census in England and Wales around 2 per cent of respondents ticked more than one answer to the ethnic group question, despite the instruction to tick only one box. They were re-allocated to a single ethnic category during the data processing stage.)

The information from a multiple response ethnic group question would be reported in two different ways.

- a. A count of all **individuals** (with people who tick a single response recorded as being of this ethnic group and people who tick more than one response recorded as 'Mixed: X and Y' according to the combination of their responses)
- b. A count of all **responses** (e.g. the total number of people who ticked each ethnic group, whether singly or in combination with other responses)

The majority of outputs and reporting would use a count of all individuals. This would contain the ethnic group categories listed in the question, with additional 'Mixed' categories for the most common multiple responses.

Since 2000 several other countries, including USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, have provided multiple-response information on ethnicity or related topics in their censuses. However, changing to multiple-response ethnic categories will reduce the comparability with the single-response information from previous UK censuses.

Q26. What would be the effect of changing to multiple-response ethnic group on your use of the information? *Please describe.*

--

Q27. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of multiple-response ethnic group information?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	
Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i>	

Comparison with Scottish test categories

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland used a different ethnic group classification to the one proposed for the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales. The main difference is that it replaces the term 'White' with 'European' and the term 'Black' with 'African or Caribbean'. It also contains a larger number of tick-box categories. If the 2006 Scottish ethnic group question was used in 2011 it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:	Combined ethnic group categories:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scottish 2. English 3. Welsh 4. British 5. Northern Irish 6. Irish 7. Other European 8. Multiple ethnic groups 9. Pakistani 10. Indian 11. Sikh 12. Chinese 13. Bangladeshi 14. Other Asian 15. Middle East 16. North African Arab 17. Other Arab 18. North African 19. East African 20. Southern African 21. West African 22. Central African 23. Caribbean 24. Other African or Caribbean 25. Gypsy/Traveller 26. Jewish 27. Other ethnic group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European (categories 1 to 7) 2. Multiple ethnic groups (category 8) 3. Asian (categories 9 to 14) 4. Arab (categories 15 to 17) 5. African or Caribbean (categories 18 to 24) 6. Other ethnic groups (categories 25 to 27)

More information on the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is available here:

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/index.html

Q28. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of the Scottish 2006 test classification (above) compared with the England and Wales 2007 test classification (shown after Q9)?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	
Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i>	

Other comments on ethnicity

Q29. If you have any other comments on ethnic group in the census please record below.

--

Your views on national identity

A question on national identity has not been included in previous censuses, though it has been asked in surveys such as the Labour Force Survey since 2001. National identity is subjective and self-perceived, unlike objective information such as country of citizenship. It records (for example) English, Welsh and Scottish national identities separately from an overall British identity and independently from ethnic group. It also allows recording of national identities from outside the UK. Testing of the national identity question showed that British-born people from ethnic minority groups preferred answering the ethnic group question if they were asked to record their national identity first.

Q30. Do you need national identity information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q34

Q31. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following national identity categories:

1. English
2. Welsh
3. Scottish
4. Northern Irish
5. British
6. Irish
7. Other national identities

National identity is a multiple response question, so it would also provide information for different combinations of national identities. (Note: information on the 'other' national identity categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q32. Would the proposed categories for national identity provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q34
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q33. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

Reasons why:

Additional information needed:

Reasons needed:

Q34. If you have any other comments on national identity in the census please record below.

Your views on religion

A voluntary question on religion was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2001. The question in England and Wales gathers information on religious identity or affiliation, rather than observance or practice. It differs from the religion questions used in the Scottish and Northern Irish censuses.

Q35. Do you need religion information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41

Q36. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following religion categories in England and Wales:

1. No religion
2. Christian
3. Buddhist
4. Hindu
5. Jewish
6. Muslim
7. Sikh
8. Other religions

(Note: information on the 'other' religious categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q37. Would the proposed categories for religion provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q38. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q39. Will you need to compare the information on religion in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

3. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
4. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q41

Q40. If yes, please state for what purposes.

--

Q41. If you have any other comments on religion in the census please record below.

--

Your views on language

A question on Welsh language proficiency has been included in previous censuses in Wales. ONS proposes to continue to measure Welsh language proficiency in Wales in 2011.

Proficiency in other languages has **not** been recorded in previous censuses in England or Wales, and will only be included in 2011 if there is space for four pages of individual questions per person. But we are aiming to get a better understanding of users' requirements for language information. If there is a strong requirement for language information it may be possible to collect it using another survey, subject to funding.

Language ability can be difficult to measure using a self-completion form, and there are many different aspects of language. Please use the section below to record your requirements on this topic.

Q42. Do you need language information?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q50

Q43. Which languages are you particularly interested in, if any? *Please write in.*

--

Q44. For what purposes do you/your organisation need language information?

--

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following **new** aspects of language ability in England and Wales:

1. Ability to understand spoken English
2. Ability to speak English
3. Ability to read English
4. Ability to write in English
5. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (new for population in England)
6. Ability to speak Welsh (new for population in England)
7. Ability to read Welsh (new for population in England)
8. Ability to write in Welsh (new for population in England)
9. Ability to understand British Sign Language (BSL)
10. Ability to sign in BSL
11. Other languages understood
12. Other languages spoken/signed
13. Other languages read
14. Other languages written

Q45. Would the proposed categories for language ability provide the information you require?

1. Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q47
2. No	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question
3. Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question

Q46. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q47. To what extent would information on the number of people who do not speak English, and the languages spoken by those who do not, be useful to you?

1. Very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Useful	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q48. There are many aspects of language ability. Which of the following aspects of language ability do you need to know about, and to what extent? *Tick the relevant box in each row.*

	Very important	Quite important	Do not need
1. Ability to understand spoken English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ability to speak English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ability to read English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Ability to write in English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Which languages are understood, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Which languages are spoken, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Which languages are read, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Which languages are written, other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Ability to speak Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Ability to read Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Ability to write in Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Frequency of speaking Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Frequency of speaking other languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Mother tongue or first language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Main language(s) spoken at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Preferred written language for communicating with public authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Other aspects of language ability, please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q49. If only **one** piece of language information could be collected, what would be the most useful to you/your organisation?

Choose one aspect from Q48 above and write in the number below, or describe in your own words.

Piece of information required	
Specific language (if applicable)	

Q50. If you have any other comments on language please record below.

--

Prioritising your requirements

The eventual questions used in 2011 will have to balance the requirements for information with the constraints on questionnaire length.

Q51. Please rank these four topics in order, based on how important each piece of information is to you/your organisation.

Number each topic from 1 to 4, where 1 is the most important topic and 4 is the least important.

Ethnic group	
National identity	
Religion	
Language	

Q52. Of all the requirements you have mentioned in this questionnaire, which are the most important to you/your organisation? *List up to three.*

1.
2.
3.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Q53. Use the space below for any other comments you want to add.

--

Thank you for contributing your views. Please return this form to:
ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk

Emailed forms are preferred. We can also be contacted at:

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Room D201, Office for National Statistics
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London SW1V 2QQ
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