Final Population Definitions for the 2011 Census

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1. Introduction

This paper outlines the final recommended population definitions that will be used in the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

The paper covers definitions used in enumeration, additional definitions required by field staff and some of the definitions to be used in outputs.

The definitions covered are:

Definitions for enumeration:
- Householder
- Household
- Communal establishment
- Population base for enumeration
- Usual place of residence
- Visitor

Additional definitions required by field staff:
- Second residence
- Holiday accommodation
- Household space
- Vacant household space

Definitions for outputs:
- Usual resident of the UK
- Census short-term UK resident

2. Definitions required for enumeration

The following definitions are required for the purpose of collecting the data in the 2011 Census.

2.1 Householder

The definition of householder is new for 2011. A householder is defined in order to help respondents understand who is responsible for the completion of the questionnaire within a household. It is not defined with the intention of producing outputs on the basis of the householder because there is nothing on the questionnaire to identify this person.
The householder or joint householder is the person, resident or present at the address who:

- owns/rents (or jointly owns/rents) the accommodation; and/or
- is responsible (or jointly responsible) for paying the household bills and expenses

**2.2 Household**

In 2001, a household was defined as:

‘one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room or sitting room or at least one meal a day’.

The household definition has been updated to reflect recent social changes and is more pertinent to modern living conditions. It is also a more objective definition that is easier for people to interpret.

A household is:

- one person living alone; or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area

Inclusions:

- Sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50 per cent or more have their own kitchens should be defined as households (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities)
- All people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence should be treated as households. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK.
2.3 Communal establishments

A communal establishment is an establishment providing managed residential accommodation. ‘Managed’ in this context means full-time or part-time supervision of the accommodation.

Inclusions:

- Sheltered accommodation units where fewer than 50 per cent of the units in the establishment have their own cooking facilities, or similar accommodation where elderly people have their own rooms, but the main meal is provided, should be defined as communal establishments.

- Hotels, guest houses, B&Bs and inns and pubs with residential accommodation with room for 10 or more guests, should be defined as communal establishments.

- All accommodation provided solely for students (during term-time) should be defined as communal. This should include university-owned cluster flats, houses and apartments located within student villages, and similar accommodation owned by a private company and provided solely for students.
  - A pragmatic approach will need to be taken with university-owned student houses that are difficult to identify and are not clearly located with other student residences. In this case, they should be enumerated as households.
  - Houses rented to students by private landlords should be enumerated as households.

  (Note: accommodation available only to students may include a small number of caretaking/maintenance staff or academic staff)

Residents in communal establishments:

- Residents in self-contained flats within the communal establishment should be counted as communal residents.
- Residents of communal establishments that reside in a totally separate building (for example a caretaker living in a house in the grounds of the communal establishment) should be counted as residents of a private household not communal residents.
- Nurses’ accommodation on a hospital site – if the accommodation does not also contain patients then it should be treated as a separate communal establishment from the hospital (and not categorised as a hospital), hence the nurses would be treated as ‘residents’ and not ‘resident staff’ or ‘patients’. This ensures consistency with similar nurses’ accommodation off the hospital site.
- Accommodation available only to nurses should be defined as communal. This would include cluster flats and similar accommodation, provided solely for nurses.
2.4 Population base for enumeration

2.4.1 Population to be enumerated

A full census return should be collected from all usual residents of the UK and census short-term UK residents (see section 4.3 for definition of usual residents and census short-term UK residents).

This means that anyone who has stayed or intends to stay in the UK for three months or more should complete a full census return.

2.4.2 Usual place of residence in the UK

A person’s place of usual residence is generally the address in the UK at which they spend the majority of time. For most people this will be their permanent or family home.

In addition to this, someone should be counted as usually resident at an address if, on 27 March 2011:

- they are temporarily away from home, for example on holiday, visiting friends or relatives or travelling (unless outside the UK for 12 months or more)
- they are in a communal establishment such as a care home, hospital or similar establishment for less than six months
- they are a baby born on or before 27 March 2011, even if still in hospital
- they have more than one UK address and are staying at the second address on census night
- they are present at the address, even if temporarily, and have no other usual address in the UK

Further detail on these sub-groups is provided in section 2.4.3 below

Someone should **not** be counted as usually resident at an address on 27 March 2011 if:

- the address at which they are staying is not their usual address and they usually live elsewhere in the UK (these people would be counted as visitors, see section 2.4.4)

- they are away from their home address and have been staying or are expecting to stay in a communal establishment such as a care home or hospital for six months or more (they will be enumerated as usually resident at the communal establishment)
### 2.4.3 Further clarification on place of usual residence

#### Students

Students, and children at boarding school, should be counted as usually resident at their term-time address.

They should also be counted as usually resident at their permanent/family address (if different), but only limited information will be collected.

#### Children with parents who live apart

Children who are 'shared' between parents living apart should be counted as usually resident at the address at which the child spends the majority of their time.

If the child lives equally between parents then the child should be counted as usually resident at the address where they are staying overnight on 27 March 2011.

#### Armed forces

Armed forces personnel should be counted as usually resident at their permanent or family home even if the majority of their time is spent at their 'working' address.

**Notes:**

1. If a member of the armed forces does not have a permanent or family address at which they are usually resident, they should be recorded as usually resident at their base address.
2. If the permanent (stationed) base is abroad, e.g. Germany or Cyprus, then the armed forces member will not be included in the census.
3. If on deployment on operations, for example to Iraq or Afghanistan, then the armed forces member should be included at their permanent or family address regardless of length of deployment.
4. Armed forces personnel from overseas forces, for example the USA, based in the UK for three months or longer, should be counted as usually resident in the UK at their UK permanent or family home/base address.
5. Someone serving on a ship outside UK waters on 27 March 2011 should be counted as usually resident at their family/permanent home or home port/naval base address if they do not have a family/permanent home (as per those serving, for example in Iraq or Afghanistan).
6. For someone serving on a ship inside UK waters on 27 March 2011, these personnel should be counted as usually resident at their family/permanent home or resident on the ship if they do not have a family/permanent home.
People who live at more than one address

People with more than one UK address, for example those who work away from home and other people who have two or more addresses, should be enumerated as usually resident at their permanent or family home even if the majority of their time is spent at another UK address.

- NB: people who spend time at a second address outside the UK should also be counted as usually resident at their permanent/family address in the UK but only if they intend to remain outside the UK for less than 12 months in total (except armed forces deployed on operations)

People with no usual address

A resident of the UK with no usual address should be counted as a usual resident at the address at which they are staying on 27 March 2011, whether it is a household or communal establishment.

People living in communal establishments

If a person has already spent or expects to spend six months or more in a communal establishment, for example, a care home, hospital or hostel, then their usual residence is that communal establishment. Otherwise usual residence would be at the UK home address and the person should be classified as a visitor at the communal establishment.

Any UK resident who is staying in a communal establishment on 27 March 2011 and has no usual address in the UK should be counted as usually resident at the communal establishment (regardless of how long they have stayed or intend to stay there).

People from outside the UK who intend to stay in the UK for three months or more in total, and who do not have another address at which they usually live in the UK, should be included as a usual resident at that communal establishment. If they intend to stay in the UK for less than three months in total they should be counted as a visitor in the communal establishment.
People in prison

Sentenced prisoners should apply the definition in the same way as others in communal establishments, based upon the length of their sentence, that is, if they are convicted with a sentence of six months or more then they should be counted as usually resident in the prison. If they have been convicted and are in prison awaiting sentencing, then they should be counted as usually resident in the prison. If their sentence is less than six months then they should be counted as usually resident at their permanent or family home.

Prisoners on remand should be treated as visitors irrespective of how long they have been in prison on remand (see section 2.4.4 on visitors). Thus, their usual residence will normally be their permanent or family home.

In either case, if the person has no other usual UK address they should be counted as usually resident at the prison.

2.4.4 Visitors

For 2011, visitors form part of the main enumeration base.

A domestic visitor is a person staying overnight at an address on 27 March 2011 at which they are not usually resident.

An international visitor is a person who intends to stay in the UK for less than three months. They are usually resident outside the UK.

3. Further definitions required by field staff
3.1 Second residence

For 2011, enumerators will be required to distinguish between second residences and holiday accommodation.

A second residence is a property which is used solely as a second address. It is not used for any other residential purpose, for example, a holiday home owned by an individual for private holiday use.
3.2 Holiday accommodation

Holiday accommodation is a property that is let to different occupiers for holiday, for example, a self-catering flat. It is not used for any other purpose and is not anyone’s second residence.

3.3 Household space

A household space is the accommodation occupied by an individual household or, if unoccupied, available for an individual household.

3.4 Vacant household spaces

A vacant household space is an unoccupied space which is not a household’s usual residence and is not a second residence or holiday accommodation.

Further clarification:
- All household spaces defined as vacant will be unoccupied on 27 March 2011, but not all unoccupied household spaces will be defined as vacant (they might be holiday accommodation or second residences)
- A household space where only visitors are staying on 27 March 2011 should not be regarded as vacant
4. Definitions for outputs

After reviewing the 2001 Census and a series of discussions within ONS and with the other UK statistical offices, it has been agreed that the main output base for the 2011 Census should be *Usual Residents*.

4.1 Usual resident of the UK

A usual resident of the UK (for census output purposes only) is anyone who, on 27 March 2011:

- is in the UK and has stayed or intends to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or;
- has a permanent UK address and is outside the UK and intends to be outside the UK for less than 12 months

This definition means that the national level estimates from the census will be directly comparable with the mid-year population estimates (MYEs) for the first time, and also allow closer comparability with population estimates from other countries.

As shown in section 2.4.1 the population base used for enumeration is different to the main output base. Therefore, to produce the main outputs database, additional processing will be required. In England and Wales information on intended length of stay in the UK will be used to remove the census short-term UK residents.

4.2 Census short-term UK residents

A census short-term UK resident is anyone born outside the UK who has stayed or intends to stay in the UK for a period of three months or more but less than 12 months.