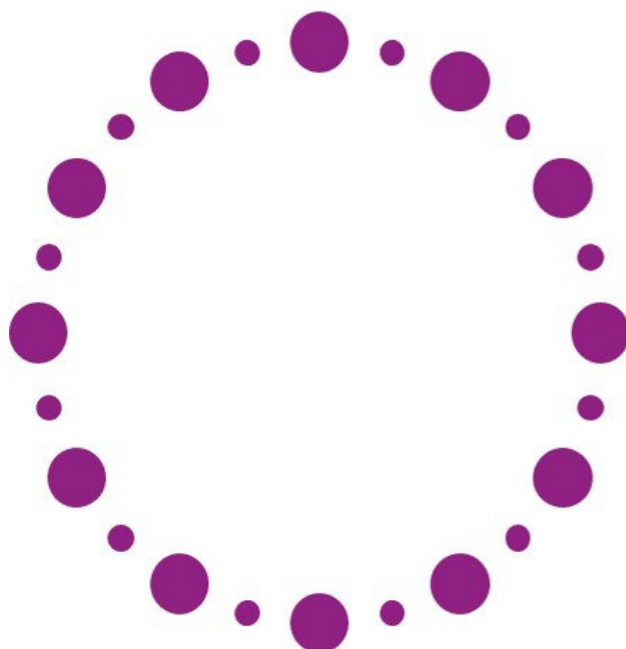


**census**  
2021

# **Response to Census 2021 Outputs Consultation for Northern Ireland**

**Assessment of the responses received**

**August 2022**



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## 1. Introduction

Census Office within the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for conducting the census of population and housing. NISRA want to build on the success of the Census 2021 data collection phase to ensure that the statistical outputs reflect the needs of users.

Census Office conducted a technical consultation which outlined in detail, the proposed design of the Census 2021 statistical outputs. Specifically the order and the way census outputs will be made available. NISRA wanted to gather their data users' views to ensure their proposals met their needs.

The outputs plan was based on:

- the evaluation of the design and delivery of 2011 census output content;
- the evaluation of the responses received from the previous outputs strategy consultation in 2018;
- current knowledge and understanding of potential technological and methodological solutions;
- current understanding of affordability; and
- aspirations for linking administrative data with Census 2021 data to produce enhanced census outputs.

Final plans reflect thorough review of responses to this consultation but will also take cognisance of available resource and feasibility. The information presented in this document outlines the publics' response to the proposed design and delivery of Census 2021 outputs in Northern Ireland.

### 1.1. Distribution list

Details of the consultation were issued to over 400 key users who were identified through the Census Office mailing list and a range of other partners including:

- Northern Irelands MPs, MLAs and MEPs;

- key advisory groups such as Demographic Statistics Advisory Group (DSAG), Statistics Advisory Committee (SAC) and Statistics Coordinating Group (SCG);
- a range of statistics and research organisations including the Office for National Statistics (ONS), National Records of Scotland (NRS), Central Statistics Office (CSO) and Northern Irish Universities; and
- other census users known to Census Office.

To ensure that the general public were aware of the consultation, it was also promoted on the NISRA website, through the NISRA and Nidirect official social media pages and in the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) e-zine.

NISRA are working closely with the ONS and the NRS to ensure UK comparability of, and access to results, where possible and appropriate. NISRA are also working with colleagues in the CSO, Ireland, to produce, where possible and appropriate, key statistics for the island of Ireland.

## 1.2. Methods of completion

The recommended way to respond to the consultation was online via Citizen Space the Nidirect consultation hub and users were encouraged to comment on as many topics as were of interest. To encourage response and cater for a variety of user preferences, users were also able to respond by email or post using paper copies of the questionnaire.

## 1.3. Responses

A total of 42 valid responses were received, the majority of responses were received via the consultation hub. Responses received via paper forms were manually entered on the Citizen Space website by census staff. The majority of responses (26) were received from organisations and 16 were received from individuals. The breakdown by respondent type is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Respondent type**

Respondent type	Frequency (by most popular)
Individuals	16
Charity/community/voluntary	9
Statutory body (for example, health, education, housing etc)	6
Central government	4
Local government	4
Social/academic research	1
Private sector	1
Other	1

## 2. Evaluation criteria

When evaluating responses to develop a reply to the consultation, NISRA have assessed responses provided against the criteria of accessibility and flexibility, timeliness of release, public confidence, and user acceptability. The report highlights where users had provided comments relating to the intended plans for Census 2021 outputs, both positive and negative. Other comments that were made that did not fit neatly into these categories have also been considered and included in the analysis of responses.

**Table 2: Description of evaluation criteria**

Criteria	Description
Accessibility and flexibility	<p>This covers the users' ability to easily locate and access Census 2021 outputs, including access to commissioned tables, safeguarded and secure products, metadata and a commentary to help users understand and interpret any published data.</p> <p>This criterion also includes access to the proposed flexible dissemination system that will allow users to develop tables to meet their specific needs as soon as the data is available.</p>

Criteria	Description
Timeliness of release	This is a measure of the punctuality of the release of census outputs and includes the release of specialist products (for example, microdata and origin and destination). Census outputs should be produced as soon as possible after census day.
Public confidence	This covers ensuring that data is seen to be anonymised and appropriate statistical disclosure controls have been implemented. This includes ensuring that methods used to produce outputs are transparent and fully communicated to users.
User acceptability	This covers testing the functionality of output solutions against user requirements. This can be assessed through this consultation process and from any other feedback provided.

The responses provided will be used to understand the impact (positive, negative or none) of the intended design on the outputs for users. This impact will be measured against the criteria above and used to identify the most important concerns for users and prioritise research on these aspects.

### 3. Analysis of responses

#### 3.1. Previous usage of census data

NISRA wanted to know about the respondents' previous usage of census data, including which topics and geographies they wished to use from Census 2021. This information will assist us in monitoring the range of users that have responded to this consultation.

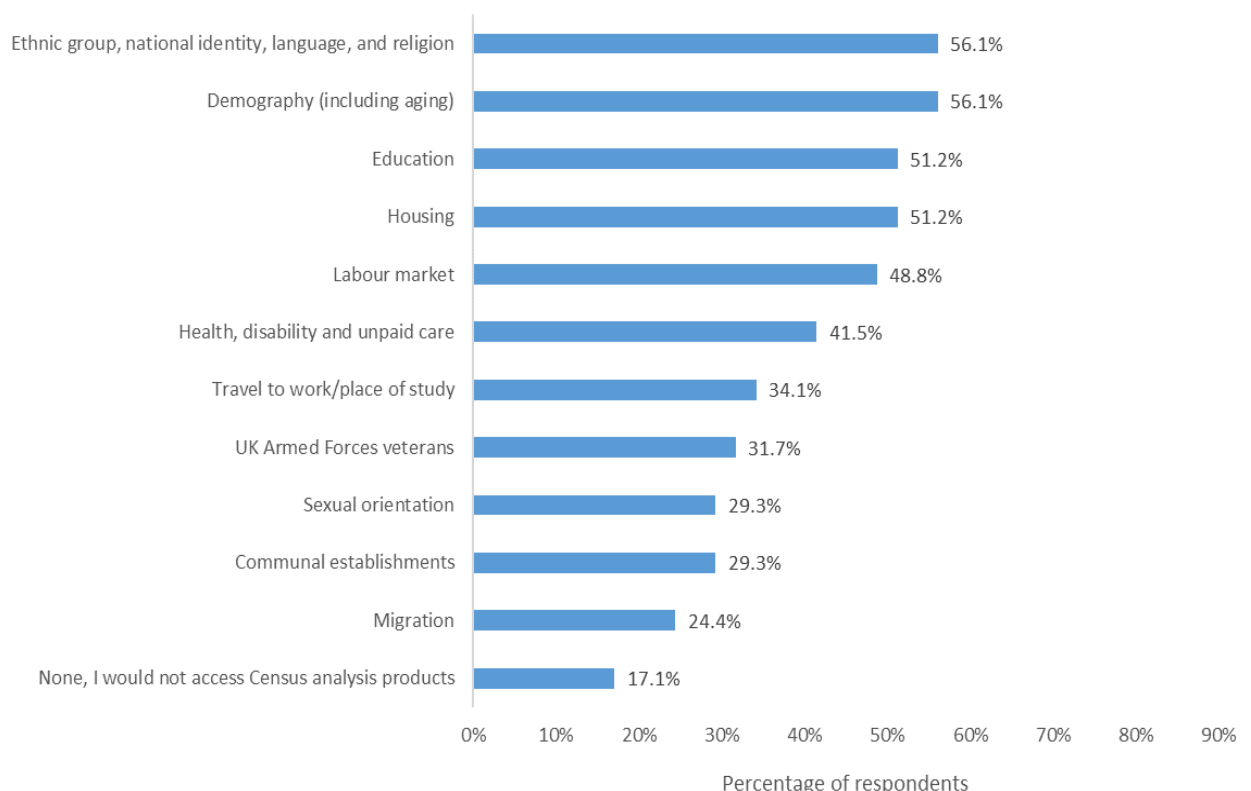
Respondents were initially asked to indicate whether they, or their organisation, had previously used data or analysis produced by NISRA from previous censuses. Table 3 presents the key findings from this question.

**Table 3: Responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used data or analysis produced by NISRA from previous censuses?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	41
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 65.9% of respondents stated that they or their organisation had previously used census data (N=27)</p> <p>No - 34.1% of respondents stated that neither they nor their organisation had previously used census data (N=14)</p>

NISRA then wanted to know what the main topics of interest were for users wishing to access Census 2021 data or analysis. Respondents were provided with a list of topics presented in Figure 1 and were asked to tick all topics which would be of interest to them, 41 responses were received to this question.

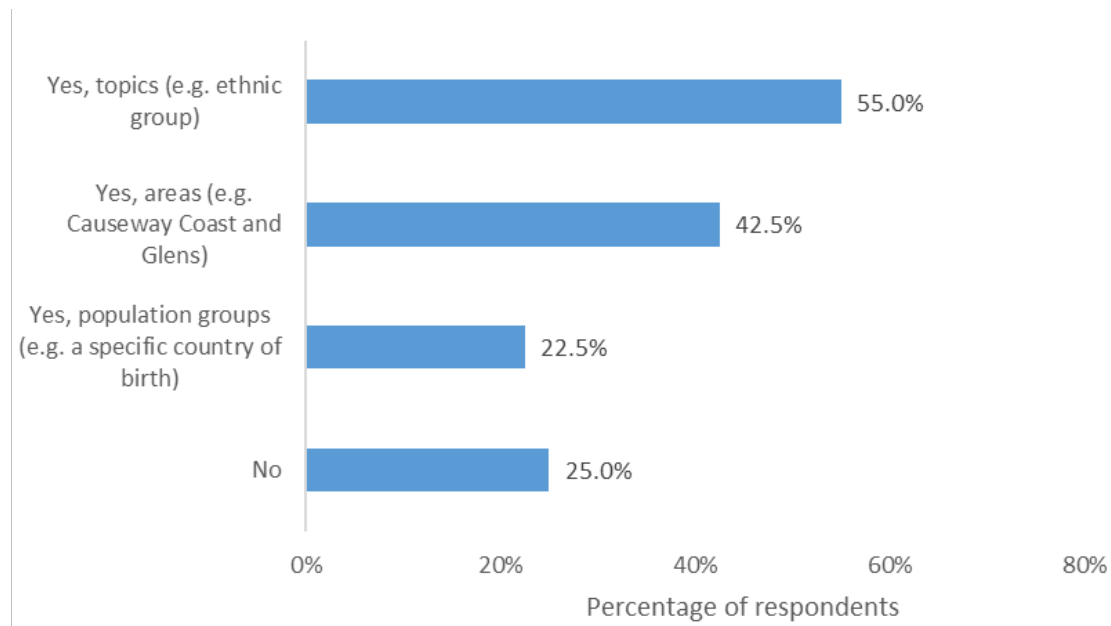
**Figure 1: Responses to the question: Which topic areas would you access Census 2021 data or analysis products on?**



NISRA then wanted to know if there were any specific topics, areas of population or groups that the respondent would need data for. There were 40 responses received to this question. The findings of which are shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: Responses to the question: Are there any specific topics, areas or population groups you need data for?**



Respondents were provided with the opportunity to provide any additional topics, areas and/or population groups that they may require additional data on. A number of topics or populations were identified by the respondents including; information on section 75 categories, military veterans, deprivation, religion, country of birth, ethnic identity (additional breakdown for those identifying as white), languages, urban/rural breakdowns and data on council areas. A point was raised around the need for more detailed data at the District Electoral Area (DEA) as a result of the reclassification of Local Government Districts (LGD). The following is a sample of responses received to this question:

- Education - Highest level of qualification, for instance, by age, sex, NIMDM and employment activity / occupation / industry. DEA - In 2011, if outputs couldn't be published at geographies as low as SOA or ward level, the default was to publish at LGD, at a stage when 26 LGDs were in place, some of them with very small populations. We now have 11 LGDs, for the most part, with larger populations. Particularly if statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to producing more outputs at DEA, as, besides being both similar in population size to each other and of sufficient size for analysis purposes, these are likely

to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.;

- As a local authority, the most important population group we require data for are the residents of the Fermanagh and Omagh District. This includes the district as a whole, appropriate sub-geographies such as District Electoral Areas and Electoral Wards and sub-populations, such as the older population, those who consider themselves to have a limiting-long-term-illness and/or those who are economically active;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh, DEAs, Wards, SOAs, SAs Population groups - for example young men by mental health issues;
- People from specific countries in African and the Caribbean, South Belfast and Bangor areas, people with specific religious affiliation;
- Topic: Ethnic Group, national identity, language and religion. I am seeking future Census 2021 data, which clearly captures minority ethnic communities in NI. Given Census data will input into important government policies and decisions, we do not wish to under-represent already under-represented minority groups, through reporting lower than actual % of NI population per Census 2011. Ultimately need to then be able to further drill into White Ethnic Group to identify more existing minority ethnic communities by national identity, language, country of birth and religion;
- By postcode area (first two letters)
- NIEA would require data by river water body, groundwater body and river basin district if possible;
- All Section 75 Groups Neighbourhood Renewal Areas;
- We are keen to see Census data disaggregated by urban/rural where possible to the smallest geography possible. This is important to allow local communities analyse census data about their area (which often consists of one SOA or may straddle several SOAs). It also allows communities and rural

stakeholders explore data in relation to the rural needs duty and its application by duty holders when designing or delivering policy or services;

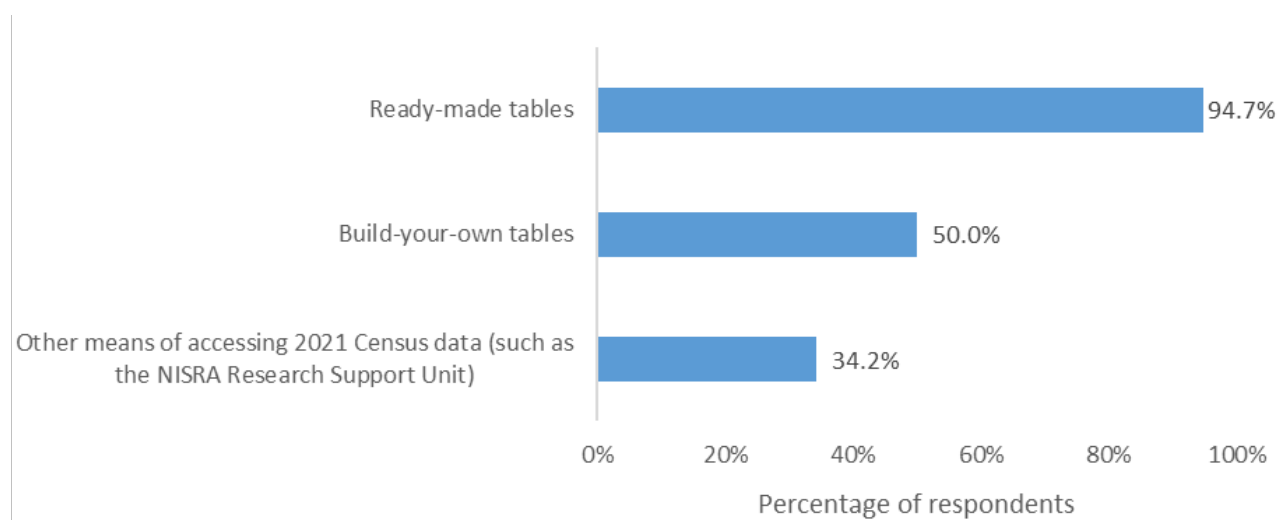
- Demographic details particularly around age, gender, resident populations, health and disability. Specifically for the NHSCT catchment area and preferably at SOA level for N. Ireland, where possible for variables;
- UK Armed Forces veterans; UK Armed Forces veterans dependents and household members;
- It is vital that we have data on Ulster-Scots language use available by the broadest possible dataset re the individual e.g. age, sex, religion, national identity, qualifications, passports held etc. Data on the number of people reporting Ulster-Scots as part of their national identity is also crucial in enhancing our understanding of the population. As far as possible data on Ulster-Scots language use should be available both at national level and at more local levels e.g. Council or LGD, DEA etc.;
- Population by SOA and SA Deprivation information by SOA including health, education, employment, etc. All Council areas on occasion's Non-English speaking population by SOA/DEA.

### 3.2. Methods of dissemination

The standard results from Census 2021 will be provided via two main methods; ready-made tables hosted on the NISRA website; and build-your-own tables that will be available via an interactive table builder. Data extracts from the interactive table builder will be flat files of the information; these are readily imported into analysis software (open office, excel, etc.).

NISRA were interested to know if respondents planned to access Census 2021 results via the ready-made tables and/or the build-your-own tables system. There were 38 responses received to this question and Figure 3 shows a summary of the responses, with ready-made tables being the most common response.

**Figure 3: Responses to the question: Do you plan to access Census 2021 results via the ready-made tables system and/or the build-your-own tables system?**



Next, NISRA were interested to understand if the plan to release Census 2021 results via flat files met the respondents' data requirements. Table 4 shows that the majority of respondents thought it would meet their requirements.

**Table 4: Responses to the question: Does the plan to release Census 2021 results via flat files of information meet your requirements?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	38
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 81.6% of respondents stated that the proposal to release data via flat files would meet their data requirements (N=31)</p> <p>No - 18.4% of respondents stated it would not meet their requirements (N=7)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. Six responses were received to this question with one respondent noting that the provision of flat files would require service users to have some technical expertise to explore this data properly and this may result in accessibility issues. A selection of responses addressing flat files are provided below:

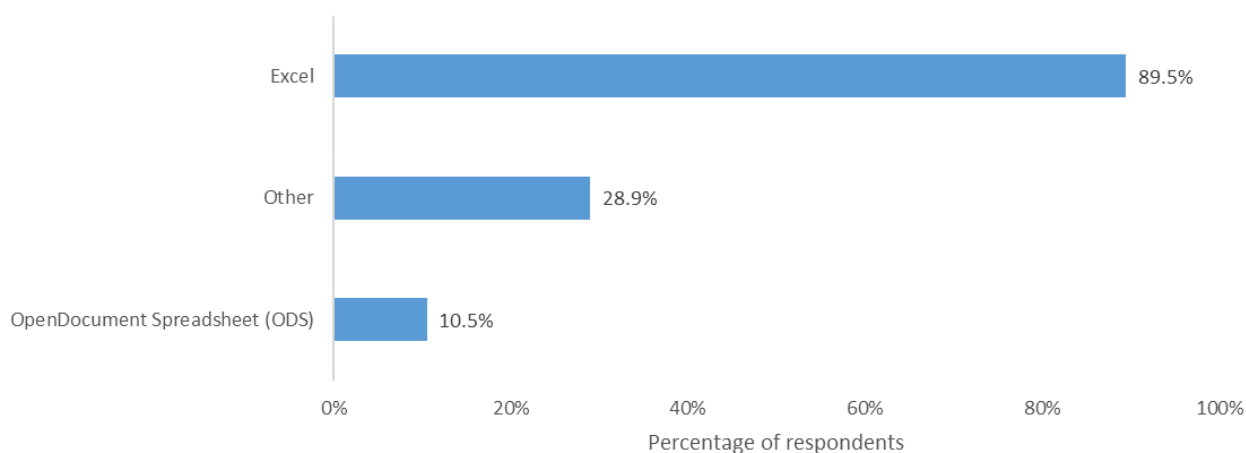
- The use of 'Flat Files' on MS Excel / other spreadsheet software requires a reasonable level of skill and experience to open, filter and make sense of before being able to 'find' the specific data you need. This has been evident

through the use of 'flat files' in the recent years of Mid-Year Population Estimates. There is also a concern that this 'flat file' format will remove the ability 'lay people' in the Community and Voluntary sector (and interested residents) to directly access the data. Instead, they will become dependent upon third-party sources to generate user friendly outputs on their behalf;

- If flat files means being able to export into Excel format that will meet my requirements;
- Although at times it's useful to cross tabulate data, so relationships/matching for tables/flat files would be useful.

NISRA were also interested to see which analysis software respondents had planned to use when importing Census 2021 data. There were 38 responses received to this question with the most common response being Excel, as can be seen in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Responses to the question: Into which analysis software do you plan to import 2021 Census results?**



If respondents selected other, they were provided with the opportunity to identify other analysis software they planned to use to import census data. The other software identified included:

- Microsoft SQL Server
- SPSS

- STATA
- R
- Microsoft office products including MS Access
- Tableau,
- Power BI
- SQL/R-studio

A comment from the UK Data Service stated the following:

The UK Data Service has its own suite of census access software tools, through which we provide onward data dissemination to users. Our primary concern is therefore that we are able to consume data from all three UK Census agencies into our own systems. We expect to be able to handle any standard file formats and are also interested in API access. However, we generally favour open, non-proprietary formats such as CSV over use of any proprietary (for example, Excel) formats.

### 3.3. Release schedule

Respondents to the [outputs strategy consultation in 2018](#) were largely in favour of the proposal to publish a first release of population and household estimates by summer 2022, with all other planned releases being published by summer 2023. The following section outlines respondents' views on proposals for the content of the different release phases.

#### 3.3.1. Pre-defined tables

The first three releases comprise pre-defined univariate tables, similar to the [key statistics](#) and [quick statistics](#) tables in 2011, and will be available in the first instance on the NISRA website and at a later date on the data.nisra.gov.uk (PxStat) system. A spreadsheet of the [proposed ready-made tables \(Excel 155KB\)](#) accompanied the consultation documents. The tables for the first three releases are found on the sheet entitled Univariate tables. The first release was planned for July 2022 or before, the second release for autumn 2022, and the third release for winter 2022/3.

NISRA initially wished to know whether the proposed list of ready-made tables for releases one, two or three met the respondents' requirements. The majority of respondents indicated the proposed tables met their requirements as is seen in Table 5.

**Table 5: Responses to the question: Does the proposed list of ready-made tables for releases one, two and three meet your requirements?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	37
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 64.9% of respondents stated that the proposed list met their requirements (N=24)</p> <p>No - 35.1% stated that the list did not meet their requirements (N=13)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. Most respondents indicated a need for their main data area of interest to be moved up the schedule and released sooner. There was a particular focus from some respondents highlighting the lack of data on military veterans from 2011 and the lack of detail on what will be released on this topic in 2021. One respondent indicated that there was a need for data to be released at the updated parliamentary constituencies once the new boundaries have been agreed.

Responses relating to the previous two points are provided in full below:

- We'll definitely make use of the above data releases, but the House of Commons Library is a research service used by MPs and their staff, and as such we are often asked to produce information for parliamentary constituencies. Our requirements will be met once parliamentary constituency data is released, although we appreciate that this may not be possible as part of the first phase of releases. It is also worth noting that the Boundary Commission is currently in the process of reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries and will make recommendations by 2023. It's therefore likely that new constituency boundaries will be in place in the early 2020s, making any data for current constituency boundaries obsolete relatively soon after it is published. MPs really value constituency-level census

data – it helps them understand the needs of their constituents in order to better represent them in parliament. We would therefore request that NISRA produces updated constituency-level data when new constituency boundaries are agreed."

- It does not include specific information on the veteran population
- UK Armed Forces veterans in second release and then a further release on dependents/household members of UK Armed Forces in the second or third release. In order to provide support to the UK veteran population, the charitable and statutory sector require access to the data release on that topic as soon as it can be produced. The earlier release date would ensure that the data can be released in line with the UK veterans data captured via the ONS census in England and Wales, and allow for comparison to identify areas of disadvantage or need.

The next question asked if NISRAs approach to releasing all topics in the second and third releases simultaneously met the users need. Table 6 presents a summary of responses to this question with the majority agreeing that the plans met their needs.

**Table 6: Key findings to the question: Does the proposal to publish all topics in the second and third releases simultaneously meet your data user needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	36
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 80.6% of respondents stated that the plans for all topics to be simultaneously released in phases 2 and 3 met their user needs (N=29)</p> <p>No - 19.4% of respondents stated that the proposed plans did not meet their needs (N=7)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to provide further information. Respondents again expressed a need for data to be released sooner. Several respondents also expressed a need for more information on specific topics,



most notably; equality statistics, veterans and neighbourhood renewal areas. The following comments are a selection of those received:

- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council ask that priority is given to topics whereby the Census is the sole source of information. Therefore, the Council request that household data, particularly data on central heating and renewable sources of energy, and labour market data relating to travel-to-work trends be expedited. This will ensure the Council has the best data available to make decisions regarding the development of its Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Local Development Plan.
- Would ideally like equality statistics sooner as will feed into Racial Equality Strategy 2015- 2025 actions and outcomes, including supporting implementation of Ethnic Monitoring across the public sector, but as flagged main objective is to ensure minority ethnic communities properly captured and reported upon.
- It does not include specific information on the veteran population
- We would ideally like the Neighbourhood Renewal Area level data and Labour market data (which is currently scheduled for third release) as soon as they can be made available.

Respondents were then asked if the list of topics to be provided as a part of the second and third releases would meet their data user needs. Table 7 shows a summary of their responses and again the majority indicated the topics covered met their needs.

**Table 7: Responses to the question: Does the list of topics that will be included in the second and third releases meet your data user needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	35
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 77.1% of respondents stated that their needs were met through the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> release phases (N=27)</p> <p>No - 22.9% of respondents stated that their needs were not met with these plans (N=8)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with a space to identify their requirements and explain why they needed this information. The additional data requested includes further information on highest level of qualification, ethnic group and veterans. One respondent also identified a need for more data at lower geographic levels. The following shows some requirements from respondents:

- My main concern relates to the highest level of qualifications tables. In connection with the production of performance indicators for the Northern Ireland '10X' Skills Strategy and the draft Programme for Government, I have been liaising with NISRA ELMS Branch regarding the production of similar-style outputs from the LFS, albeit ones that enable us to produce more granular outputs at levels 4 and 5 and above. I think it needs to be made clearer in the (NI and UK-wide) Census and LFS headings (and related footnotes / metadata) that the level 2 and level 3 outputs relate to achievement of 'full' level 2 and 'full' level 3. I would also welcome the option of being able to request highest level of qualifications tables based on achievement of any qualification at any of these levels. Regarding apprenticeships specifically, I recognise you have to do the best you can with the question you've asked and that it may have been difficult to distinguish between traditional and modern apprenticeships. Based on my experience with writing the 2011 Census publications, the proposed separation of apprenticeships into a category somewhere between levels 2 and 3 made it very difficult to write about / illustrate the interim levels, so I had little choice but to focus on the none and level 4 and above categories. I note LFS plans

to apply fractions to apportion apprenticeships mainly to either levels 2 or 3, rather than have a separate column where it's not clear what the relevant qualification level is. While I hope priority will be given to data stemming from the detailed questions on other qualifications at level 2 and above, I wonder whether a similar apportioning by level methodology could be applied to apprenticeships in the 2021 Census outputs.

- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council would like to see data at lower geographical tiers published within the second/third releases, even if it were at the headline level.
- In drilling into White Ethnic Group, will then be using Religion, National Identity, Country of Birth and Language, to further identify minority ethnic communities who are white.
- We would like to see UK Armed Forces veterans incorporated into the second release, then data matching on the families of UK Armed Forces veterans included in the third.

Next, respondents were asked about the proposed release dates. Table 8 shows a summary of the responses to the question around whether the proposed release dates met their requirements. The majority of respondents indicated that the plans met their requirements.

**Table 8: Key findings to the question: Do the proposed release dates for releases one, two and three meet your requirements?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	35
<b>Key findings</b>	68.6% of respondents stated that their needs were met by the proposed release dates (N=24)  31.4% of respondents stated that their needs were not met by the proposed release dates (N=11)

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. The responses received indicated that the respondents generally wished to receive the results sooner. The following is a selection of responses relating to the proposed timing of releases:

- The timing sequence of the release dates is reasonable. However, the delay between Census day and the data releases has always been too long;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council would like to see the data published as soon as it is readily available;
- Can we have release dates 2 months earlier for each;
- Would ideally like equality statistics sooner as will feed into Racial Equality Strategy 2015- 2025 actions and outcomes, including supporting implementation of Ethnic Monitoring across the public sector, but as flagged main objective is to ensure minority ethnic communities properly captured and reported upon;
- Again, we would ideally like the Neighbourhood Renewal Area level data and Labour market data as soon as they can be made available.

### 3.3.2. Build-your-own tables

NISRA aim to have the flexible dissemination system in operation after the first three planned releases of pre-defined tables are complete. This is likely to be winter 2022/3. All standard topics at Local Government District (LGD) level should be available in the flexible table builder at this time, and multivariate table creation should be possible. Following the initial release, data and geographies will be added to the system as they are published.

Respondents were then asked if the proposals for the release of data in the flexible table builder met their data user needs. Table 9 shows a summary of responses to this question and once again the majority of respondents indicated their needs were met.

**Table 9: Key findings to the question: Do the proposals for the release of data in the flexible table builder meet your data user needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	37
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 73% of respondents stated that their needs were met with the proposed plans for the flexible table builder (N=27)</p> <p>No - 27% of respondents stated that the proposed plans would not meet their needs (N=10)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. Most comments related to the need for additional levels of geography (Neighbourhood renewal areas, Wards, SOA, Urban/Rural) or for additional topics (veterans, section 75). The following provides a selection of responses received on these points:

- I know there is a trade-off between geography and cross tabulation detail with more of one meaning less of the other. However, in some cases, ward or SOA-tabulations may be needed by some users. Are other geographies such as parliamentary constituency also on the cards to be included ;
- It does not contain veteran specific information;
- Neighbourhood Renewal Area level Ability to identify intersectionality for S75 groupings (e.g. analysis by multiple S75 categories) is required for EQIAs and strategy/policy development;
- Needs to include a way of disaggregating data on a rural urban basis within local government areas and across NI - important for analysing rural needs impacts.

### 3.3.3. Cross-tabulations

Pre-defined cross-tabulations, similar to the [detailed characteristics](#) and [local characteristics](#) tables in 2011, are planned to be published in spring 2023. The model for 2021 will be somewhat different from 2011 due to the planned introduction

of the flexible table builder. This system will offer the facility to perform analysis of the data in situ, meaning there will be fewer pre-defined tables created.

A spreadsheet of the [proposed ready-made tables \(Excel 155KB\)](#) accompanied the consultation documents. The tables proposed for this release are found on the sheet entitled Multivariate tables.

Respondents were initially asked if the proposed list of multivariate ready-made tables met their requirements. Table 10 shows a summary of the responses to this question with the vast majority of respondents indicating their needs will be met with this proposal.

**Table 10: Key findings to the question: Does the proposed list of multivariate, ready-made tables meet your requirements?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	36
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 86.1% of respondents stated that the proposed list of multivariate, ready-made tables met their requirements (N=31)</p> <p>No - 13.9% of respondents stated that the proposed list of multivariate, ready-made tables did not meet their requirements (N=5)</p>

If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. Comments were generally supportive of the flexible table builder and the plans for the provision of multivariate cross-tabulations, however, some users did express concern that these plans may result in issues with accessing data for less technical data users. The following relevant responses were received:

- Additional multivariate tables on unemployment history with LGD breakdown - Unemployment by industry - Unemployment by age and sex;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council tentatively welcome the development of a flexible table builder. However, whilst this will accommodate suitably skilled staff to develop their own tables, we have concerns that it will

disenfranchise lay people from accessing detailed Census data regarding their own area of residence. For example, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (and other funders) routinely require applicants to provide supporting evidence alongside their funding application. These often refer specifically to a sub-LGD area, such as a ward or neighbourhood. Community groups often find this challenging at present, but they can be referred to specific table references in the existing Census. (The loss of specific table references may also lead to a loss of consistency / quality control too). There is concern that a flexible table builder, with no pre-defined tables at sub-LGD level, will provide too complex for Community Groups or interested residents to access directly. Thus, they will become dependent on third party organisations - who may either charge for the service or provide biased narrative - to access this data on their behalf. Therefore, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council propose that a range of pre-defined tables are provided for key univariate outputs at lower geographical tiers and for key multi-variate analysis;

- Yes, it would, gives us more flexibility;
- Neighbourhood Renewal Area level;
- We would need data down to SOAs in these tables to enable communities to develop a more complete picture of their area.

#### 3.3.4. Commissioned table service

Where it's not possible for users to create the outputs they need themselves, users can request them through the commissioned table service. This service is subject to statistical disclosure checks, before the data will be provided, with the service likely to be available from summer 2023. NISRA wished to know if this proposal met data users' needs.

NISRA first asked if the respondent or their organisation had used the commissioned table service from previous censuses. Table 11 shows that the majority of respondents had never used the commissioned table service before.

**Table 11: Key findings from the question: Have you or your organisation used the commissioned table service from previous censuses?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	37
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Not used - 75.7% of respondents stated that they had not used the commissioned table service from the previous census (N=28)</p> <p>Used - 24.3% of respondents stated that they had previously used the commissioned table service from the previous census (N=9)</p>

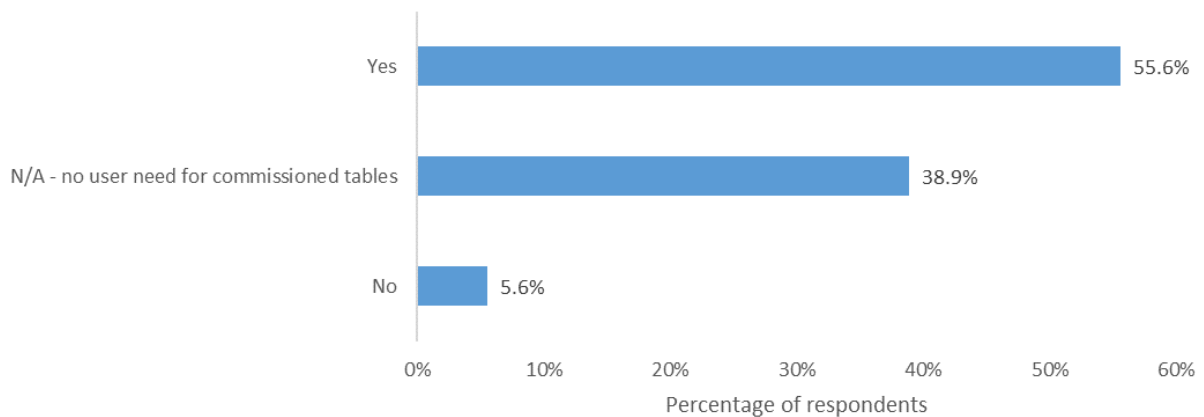
If respondents selected yes, they were asked to identify what information they had previously requested via this service. The topics identified included information on education, employment, travel to work data and other information not available online in the published outputs. One respondent did note that they were unaware of such a service. The following is an example of the responses received outlining how they used the commissioned table service:

- Before my time, DEL requested commissioned tables on 16-24 year-olds by economic / employment activity (as a proxy for NEETs). I believe DfE economists have also requested various economic / employment activity outputs;
- Typically, we seek analyses of those in employment, those unemployed and those economically active by travel to work areas. These area statistics take a long time to become available but have been used by the Equality Commission to assist in assessments of fair participation in given workforces;
- The Council has requested many pieces of information which were not available online. The service is usually quick and efficient, with informative responses from NISRA officers;
- I was not aware of this service even internally within NICS;
- Neighbourhood Renewal Area level summary tables.



Respondents were then able to identify whether the proposed plans for a commissioned table service would meet their needs. Figure 5 shows a summary of these results with the majority stating their needs would be met.

**Figure 5: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for the 2021 Census commissioned table service meet your data user needs?**



If respondents selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to express why this was the case. Most responses raised additional questions about the service. The following is a selection of questions received:

- Can we access this in 2022;
- Would this service be available internally within NICS;
- It will do, based on our discussion with NISRA about veteran specific information.

### 3.3.5. Grid square product

To allow the examination of trends over time for consistent spatial units, NISRA has made available grid square statistics for every census since 1971. The geographic base for these outputs is the Irish Grid, and census statistics are produced for 100 meter and 1 kilometre grids. A 2021 grid square product is planned to continue to provide census statistics for population and household counts for the combination of 100m and 1km grid squares in Northern Ireland. The variables included in 2011 grid square product are listed in the [variable code book \(ODS 25KB\)](#).

The initial question asked how many respondents had previously used the census grid square product. Table 12 shows that the majority of respondents had not used the grid square product.

**Table 12: Responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used grid square statistics from previous censuses?**

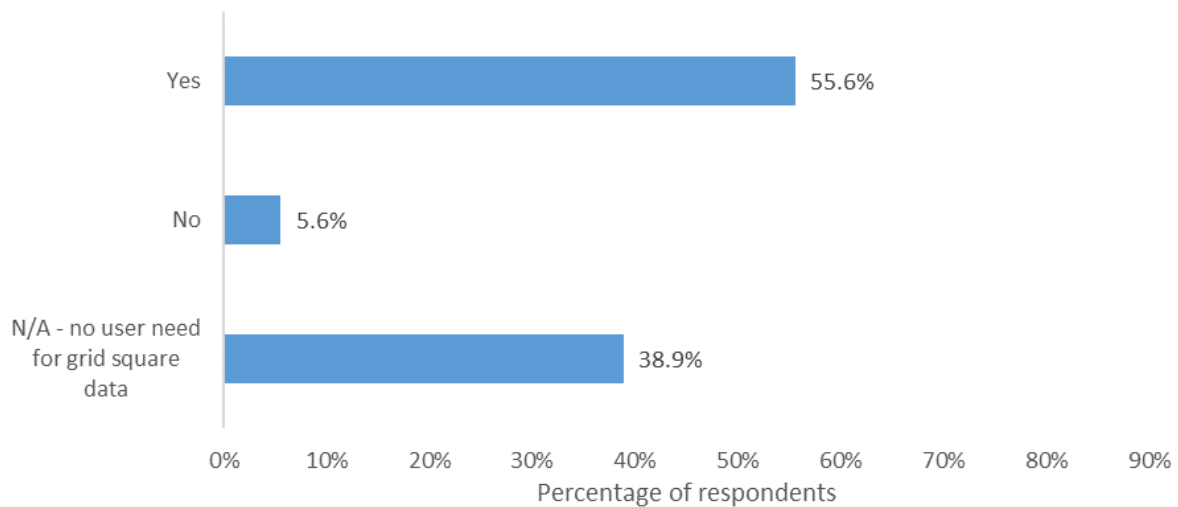
<b>Number of responses</b>	37
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Not used - 83.8% of respondents stated that they had not used grid square statistics from previous censuses (N=31)</p> <p>Used - 16.2% of respondents stated that they had used grid square statistics from previous censuses (N=6)</p>

If respondents selected yes to this question, they were asked to list which grid square products that they had previously used. The following responses were received outlining how they used the grid squares:

- I have used the 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 grid-square products. They are the hidden jewel in the NI Census' crown! ;
- Don't know if we have used grid square statistics before...don't believe I have;
- The UK Data Service provides support and data access to a very wide range of (especially, but not exclusively) education and research users of UK Census data. Our users have expressed interest in all previous grid square products from NISRA.

Respondents were then asked if the proposed plans for the Census 2021 grid square product met their data user needs. Figure 6 shows that over half the respondents indicated that the proposals met their needs.

**Figure 6: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for a 2021 Grid Square product meet your data user needs?**



If respondents selected no to either of these questions, they were provided with the opportunity to specify their requirements and explain why they needed this information as well as any further variables required in addition to those available in 2011. The following responses were received:

- housing types religion ethnic groups domiciled;
- whilst we understand that UK Armed Forces veterans is a new topic, and therefore it is impossible to provide historical comparisons within a grid square, we hope that the data output on veterans is maintained into future NISRA outputs and therefore we would like it to be included as a base dataset for future comparison.

### 3.3.6. Microdata

NISRA has planned to produce, as a minimum, the same microdata products as 2011, including:

- microdata teaching file;
- safeguarded microdata; and
- secure microdata.

In the current climate of limited access to institutions due to COVID-19 restrictions, NISRA are investigating additional new approaches to widening access to these datasets, while ensuring existing high levels of security.

Respondents were initially asked if they had previously used any of the census microdata products. Table 13 shows a summary of the responses to this question.

**Table 13 – Summary of responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used any of the microdata products from previous censuses?**

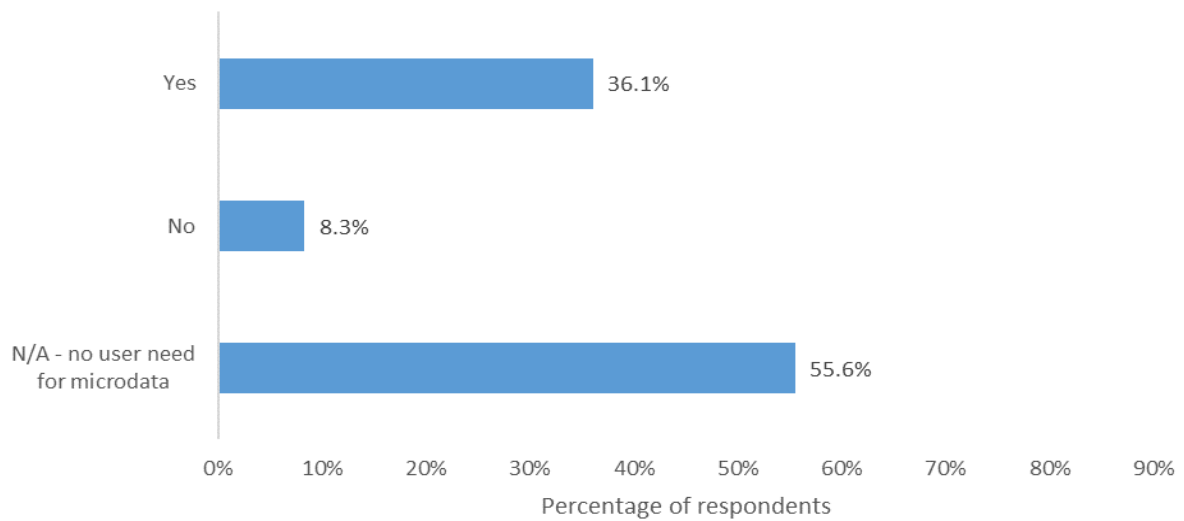
<b>Number of responses</b>	36
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Not used - 94.4% of respondents stated that they had not used microdata products from previous censuses (N=34)</p> <p>Used - 5.6% of respondents stated that they had previously used a microdata product (N=2)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were provided the opportunity to identify which microdata products they had previously used, the following responses were received:

- I have used the teaching file. I support the creation of the safeguarded and secure files. These should be heavily promoted in the universities;
- The UK Data Service provides support and data access to a very wide range of (especially, but not exclusively) education and research users of UK Census data. We have played a central role in the specification and support of previous census microdata products and been involved with users of every product.

Respondents were then asked if the proposals for Census 2021 microdata products met their data user needs. Figure 7 shows a summary of responses to this question with the majority indicating they had no need for the microdata.

**Figure 7: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for 2021 Census microdata products meet your data user needs?**



Where a respondent selected no, they were given the opportunity to provide their requirements and explain why they needed particular information. The following response was received:

- We would welcome continued involvement in any working groups and consultations to assist with further specification and access details of 2021 microdata products, both with individual agencies and at the UK level.

Additionally, dependent upon user need, NISRA plan to investigate a facility to produce a new microdata product for Ireland and Northern Ireland. If suitable need is identified, the sample size and variables included in such a product would be investigated with CSO, Ireland.

Respondents were then asked, if available, would they use an Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product. Table 14 shows the key findings of the responses to this question with the majority indicating they would not use such a product.

**Table 14: Responses to the question: If available, would you use an Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	33
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Would not use - 54.5% of respondents (N=18) stated that they would not use an Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product</p> <p>Would use - 45.5% of respondents stated that they would use an Ireland and Northern Ireland microdata product (N=15)</p>

If a respondent had selected yes, they were asked to describe the additional analysis that they plan to do, and the value of undertaking this research. Respondents were also asked to indicate a sample size and which variables that they would like to see within this dataset. Responses were largely positive with a range of topics for examination listed including age, sex, economic activity, education, religion, occupation, one-year migration, housing condition, veteran status and neighbourhood renewal areas. The following responses are a sample of those received:

- I think that this product would open up a huge amount of opportunities for (a) all-Ireland research on issues like deprivation and immigration and (b) and the use of our experience with the NLS and the ADR to help to take steps towards linked census data in the RoI and possibly later an all-Ireland LS. I am happy to support this initiative personally. Hard to know what to include but to begin with a 10% sample to match our secure microdata sample would be good – but the higher the % the better. As for variables, age, sex, economic activity, education, religion, occupation, one-year migration, and housing condition. Some variables will not be immediately comparable – but I'd leave researchers to work out how to recode to the lowest common denominator;

- Identifying veterans that are in need of health care provision and their age demographics. Identifying veterans who are in employment since leaving service and identifying those veterans of a retired demographic;
- We would like to produce Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) level compared to similar areas across the island in summary data tables;
- The UK Data Service provides support and data access to a very wide range of (especially, but not exclusively) education and research users of UK Census data. We consider this to be a valuable and exciting development, and anticipate that a proportion of our user base would be of interest. As above, we would value continued engagement with the specification and access arrangements for any new product, so that these can be integrated with our overall support of UK products.

### 3.3.7. Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study incorporation of Census 2021

The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) provides access to a longitudinal dataset currently incorporating data from census returns (1981, 1991, 2001 & 2011), vital events (births, deaths and marriages), and migration, pollution, and property data. The result is currently over 30 years of longitudinal data. NISRA plan to enhance this resource by carrying out the necessary work to include data from Census 2021 in this study. This is currently planned to be completed in late 2023.

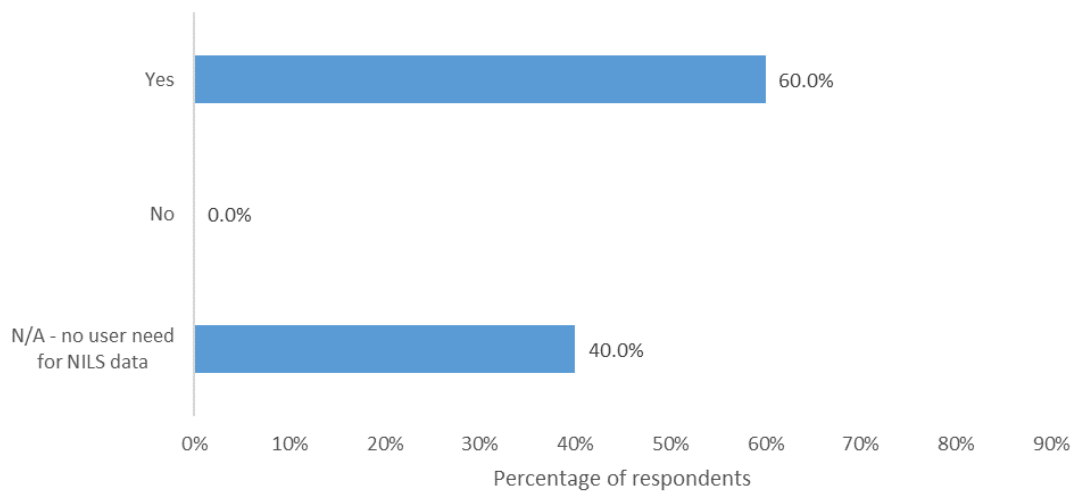
Respondents were initially asked if they had previously used the NILS product. Table 15 shows a summary of the responses to this question with the majority of respondents stating that they had not used the dataset.

**Table 15: Responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used NILS data in the past?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	36
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Not used - 66.7% of respondents stated that they had not previously used the NILS dataset (N=24)</p> <p>Used - 33.3% of respondents stated that they had previously used the NILS dataset (N=12)</p>

NISRA then wished to know if the proposals for the incorporation of Census 2021 data within the NILS would meet their data user needs. Figure 8 shows the responses to this question.

**Figure 8: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for the NILS incorporation of Census 2021 data meet your needs?**



If the respondent selected no to this question, they were asked to provide their requirements and why they needed this information. While none of the respondents selected no, the following responses were received:

- Yes, so long as UK Armed Force veteran data is included;
- UK Data Service is not directly involved in support or access to NILS but our staff have used NILS in other roles and the census aspects fall within our broad census support remit. We would direct interested users to the NILS-



RSU and NISRA, but will continue to welcome engagement with these developments due to the close connections with our own work.

### 3.3.8. Administrative Data Research Northern Ireland (ADR NI) - availability of 2021 data

ADR NI supports the acquisition, linking and analysis of administrative data sets to improve knowledge, policymaking and public service delivery. Further information on ADR NI is available on the [research support pages](#) of the NISRA website.

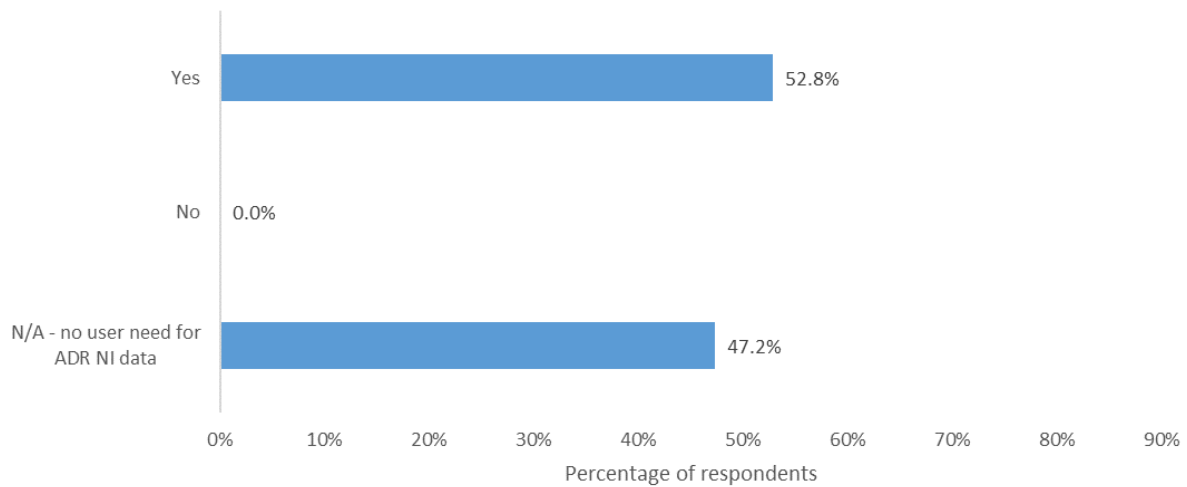
NISRA wished to know if respondents to the consultation had previously used ADR NI data in the past. Table 16 shows a summary of the responses to this question with the vast majority never having used the ADR NI.

**Table 16: Responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used ADR NI data in the past?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	36
<b>Key findings</b>	Not used - 83.3% of respondents (N=30) stated that they had not previously used the ADR NI dataset  Used - 16.7% of respondents (N=6) stated that they had previously used the ADR NI dataset

NISRA also wished to know if the proposals for the availability of 2021 data within ADR NI met the respondents' data user needs. Figure 9 shows a summary of these responses.

**Figure 9: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for the availability of 2021 data within ADR NI meet your data user needs?**



If the respondent selected no, the plans didn't meet their needs, they were provided with the opportunity to specify their requirements and explain why they needed this information. As with the previous questions on the NILS, none of the respondents selected no but the following responses were received:

- It would help in some way, I am sure;
- UK Data Service is not directly involved in support or access to ADR NI data, but our staff have used admin data in other roles and the census aspects fall within our broad census support remit. We would direct interested users to ADR NI and NISRA, but will continue to welcome engagement with these developments due to the close connections with our own work - in particular, we are interested in the future production of census-like data products from admin data sources.

### 3.3.9. Ireland and Northern Ireland census report

Following the 2011 census, NISRA and CSO, Ireland presented a [comprehensive census report of results for both Ireland and Northern Ireland \(PDF 5.6MB\)](#) in a single publication. This publication drew together results from both censuses in 2011 and explored both the similarities and differences in the two populations as well as looking at how these populations had changed over time. NISRA, along with colleagues in CSO, Ireland, plan to develop a census report for the 2021 and 2022

censuses(CSO, Ireland conducted their most recent census in April 2022). This report will provide, where possible, key statistics on the island of Ireland. Before embarking on this work, NISRA wanted to ask users what information or key statistics they would like included in a 2021/22 census report.

NISRA initially asked if any of the respondents to this consultation used data or analysis from the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report. Table 17 shows the key findings to this question with the majority of respondents never having used the report.

**Table 17: Responses to the question: Have you or your organisation used data or analysis from the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	34
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Not used - 76.5% of respondents stated that they had not previously used the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report (N=26)</p> <p>Used - 23.5% of respondents stated that they had previously used the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report (N=8)</p>

Where a respondent had indicated yes, they were asked to identify the data that they or their organisation had previously used. The respondents noted that they had used the report as a reference guide or to examine data on specific populations. Some respondents were unaware of this resource. The following responses are a selection of those provided:

- Our two main uses of the Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland report have related to the economic research for EU Exit analysis and our cross-border Higher Education Student Flows reports. I also use it as an occasional reference guide;
- The Council have not specifically used data, but have reviewed and referenced the report on occasion;

- I was not aware of this report, but can use in future.

NISRA then wished to know if the respondent or their organisation have any needs for Ireland and Northern Ireland data for the 2021 and 2022 Censuses. Table 18 shows key findings from this question with just over half respondents indicating they have needs for this product.

**Table 18: Responses to the question: Do you or your organisation have needs for Ireland and Northern Ireland data for the 2021 and 2022 Censuses?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	33
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Have needs - 51.5% of respondents stated that they or their organisation have needs for Ireland and Northern Ireland data for the 2021 and 2022 Censuses (N=17)</p> <p>Have no needs - 49.5% of respondents stated that they or their organisation did not have needs for this data (N=16)</p>

Respondents were provided with space to provide details of any additional needs for the Ireland and Northern Ireland report and to explain their needs. Respondents indicated that they would use the data from this report when reporting on section 75 equality groups, veterans, neighbourhood renewal areas and a range of demographic characteristics. The following presents a selection of comments received;

- While I recognise additional, more up-to-date data sources have emerged, it may still be useful for economic and education research into cross-border people flows;
- Generally, all statistics relating to housing, employment, education, all to be disaggregated by equality groups for all s75 grounds;
- The Fermanagh and Omagh District Boundary accounts for approximately 40% of the NI/ROI land border. Therefore, we believe it is important to be able

to do a comparison analysis of Fermanagh and Omagh with neighbouring districts / counties on both sides of the border. Whilst this can in theory be done without the requirement of a NISRA/CSO collaborative project, there is significant added value in NISRA/CSO doing this work, as it gives the data better quality assurance. In addition, the work should focus on data where the Census is the only source, such as Commuting, Travel to work flows and travel to place of study flows. Ideally, this would be done at the LGD14 level. Cross-tabulations with sector, occupation, age, gender and qualification level should also be provided;

- Again, we would like to produce Neighbourhood Renewal Areas compared to similar areas across the island in summary data tables. Labour market information (if possible on a comparable basis) including economic activity, employment and disability and gender employment gaps, for cross border research on labour market outcomes;
- Results for demographic characteristics (e.g. ethnicity, passports held, main language, knowledge of Irish (across both jurisdictions), migration patterns;
- Inclusion of UK Armed forces Veterans living in Republic of Ireland would be useful to our organisation.

### 3.4. Standard variables

The Census 2021 [questionnaire](#) sets out the key data available in the census and thus gives rise to a set of standard variables. The standard variables used for Census 2021 outputs can be described as follows:

- new variables for Census 2021 (not asked in the 2011 census);
- those variables that are the same in the 2021 and 2011 censuses; and
- those variables that have changed from the 2011 census as a result of changes to questions in the 2021 questionnaire.

Further information is included in the [supporting documentation for this consultation](#).

### 3.4.1. New variables in 2021

There are four new variables and classifications from Census 2021, either as a result of a new question asked in Census 2021, or because of the availability of administrative data that can be linked to census data.

#### Renewable energy systems

Topic experts agreed that there was a need for data on renewable energies to enable tracking of sustainable housing and fuel poverty. The consultation gave details of planned classification and cross-tabulations for this variable. Respondents were initially asked if they required any additional output categories within the renewable energy classification. Table 19 presents summary data on the response to this question with almost all respondents indicating that the planned classification was sufficient to meet their needs.

**Table 19: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional output categories in the renewable energy systems classification?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	29
<b>Key findings</b>	No - 96.6% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional output categories within the renewable energy classification (N=28)  Yes - 3.4% of respondents stated that they would require additional output categories within the renewable energy classification (N=1)

Next, NISRA asked if there were any additional cross-tabulations that respondents may require in relation to household renewable energy systems. Table 20 presents key findings to this question with most having no additional requirements.

**Table 20: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for renewable energy systems?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 86.7% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional cross-tabulation for energy systems(N=26)</p> <p>Yes - 13.3% of respondents stated that they did require additional cross-tabulation for energy systems (N=4)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were provided with the opportunity to specify their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Two of the three responses indicated a need for data to be disaggregated by a number of different geographies while the third response expressed a need for this data by a number of economic characteristics. Responses received are presented below:

- Breakdown into LGD and smaller geographical area - Analysis of Socio-economic Classification by access of renewable energy systems;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council believe it would be beneficial to have a cross tabulation of renewable energy systems with some form of economic indicator, such as socio-economic classification, economic activity, occupation of HRP or industry of employment. It would also be useful to include a cross-tabulation of the age of the HRP. It would be important to the Council that these cross-tabulations are provided on as low a geographical tier as is appropriate, even if it resulted in a collapsed list of options. This information is needed to support the Council in their Climate Change Strategy and Local Development Plan work;
- Not sure if it's a cross tab but would be useful if this information could be disaggregated into urban/rural categories at least as far down to local authority geography. Important for targeting of fuel poverty measures and interventions to de-carbonise heating systems which is more challenging in rural households.

## Sexual orientation

A question on sexual orientation was asked for the first time in Census 2021. The question was only asked of those aged 16 years of age or older. Respondents were provided with a list of potential categories and were informed that 'write in' responses may be used to form the basis of additional categories. NISRA then asked respondents if they required any additional output categories in the sexual orientation classification. Table 21 presents numbers who did or did not have any additional requirements.

**Table 21: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional output categories in the sexual orientation classification?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	No - 90% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional output categories within the sexual orientation classification (N=27)  Yes - 10% of respondents stated that they did require additional output categories within the sexual orientation classification (N=3)

When a respondent selected yes, they were asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. The following responses were received:

- Sexual orientation is often not defined by the respondent in the three main categories in the question response options. The Equality Commission will find a more detailed breakdown of sexual orientation useful for its ongoing and developmental work;
- We appreciate this is a new question and the ability to create further classifications from write-in answers is not yet fully determined. The UK Data Service provides support and data access to a very wide range of (especially, but not exclusively) education and research users of UK Census data. We anticipate a high level of researcher interest in the new sexual orientation



question and therefore support the maximum level of detail possible, even if only available for coarse geographical aggregation.

Respondents were then asked if the proposed collapsed output classification that would allow them to receive more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation met their data users' needs. Table 22 shows key findings to this question.

**Table 22: Responses to the question: Does the collapsed output classification for more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation meet your needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	29
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 79.3% of respondents stated that the collapsed output classification for more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation met their needs (N=23)</p> <p>No - 20.7% of respondents stated that the collapsed output classification for more detailed cross-tabulations on sexual orientation did not meet their needs (N=6)</p>

If the respondent selected no, they were asked to outline why the collapsed output classification does not meet their needs. One respondent indicated that they would require more detailed categories for their specific needs, while a second respondent indicated that they had a need for the results to be disaggregated by sex. Responses to this question in full are provided below:

- This is a Yes and No response, in that the Commission recognised the limitations of low number responses to the categorisation of Sexual Orientation, and as such would be using such cross-tabulations. However, the Commission seeks to expand its compositional understanding of Sexual Orientation in Northern Ireland, and therefore would seek cross tabulations that are not collapsed as well;

- We work with women, so being able to separate out data for those indicating LGB women would be useful for our work. In future gender identity data would be useful as well.

NISRA was also interested to know if the data user required any additional cross-tabulations on sexual orientation. Table 23 presents the responses in relation to this question.

**Table 23: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for sexual orientation?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 90% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional cross-tabulations for the sexual orientation outputs (N=27)</p> <p>Yes - 10% of respondents stated that they did require additional cross-tabulations for the sexual orientation outputs (N=3)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Respondents indicated that there was a need for some additional geographic breakdowns as well as a need for cross-tabulations of sexual orientation with section 75 characteristics, economic information and veteran data. Full detailed responses are provided below:

- Urban/rural or other geographical locations;
- Economic Activity (economically active/inactive) – to supplement the employment status (employed/unemployed) cross tabulation included above, to identify labour market outcomes along with Benefit uptake;
- Sexual Orientation cross tabulated with UK Armed Forces veteran status, as included under the UK veterans section below. Until 2000, members of the Armed Forces with LGBTQ status could be dismissed from the Armed Forces as a result, leaving them with unique needs as a result, including ineligibility

for some pension rights and the stripping of medals. In order to address this historic hurt, it would be beneficial to understand any indicators that may inform estimates of the potential scale of need within the UK veteran population.

### Frequency of speaking Irish and Ulster-Scots

In addition to asking respondents whether they can understand, speak, read or write Irish and Ulster-Scots, those who indicated they can speak the languages were asked a second question: How often do you speak Irish/Ulster-Scots? NISRA asked respondents whether they wished to receive additional cross-tabulations for Irish and Ulster-Scots. Table 24 presents the responses to this question with the majority saying they had no additional requirements.

**Table 24: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for Irish and Ulster-Scots?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 86.7% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional cross-tabulations for the Irish or Ulster-Scots outputs (N=26)</p> <p>Yes - 9.5% of respondents stated that they did require additional cross-tabulations tabulations for the Irish or Ulster-Scots outputs (N=4)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Most of the comments received related to a need for this information to be provided alongside information on education, occupation, section 75 categories and migration history. The responses received have been provided below:

- Is it worthwhile to consider tabulations also by (a) occupation and (b) qualifications held;

- Additional cross-tabulations by the remaining S75 groupings available, i.e. disability, having dependent children and sexual orientation, are required to inform EQIAs. Also, note the list above is more extensive than that in the consultation document (excludes ethnic group and marital status);
- Information on migration history of speakers would be useful. I don't find the output classification proposed as useful as it might be;
- Knowledge and Use of Ulster-Scots should also be available by highest level of qualification as this will inform ongoing discussions about promoting Ulster-Scots within the education system flowing from NDNA commitments to implement a strategy for Ulster-Scots and introduce a new statutory duty for the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use of Ulster Scots in the education system.

### UK Armed Forces veterans

There was no question in the Census 2021 questionnaire on UK Armed Forces veterans – see the [topic report \(PDF 135KB\)](#) for further information. Instead, Census Office agreed to work with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) towards linking administrative data, held by the MoD, with census returns to create limited, census type statistics on UK Armed Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland.

NISRA initially asked respondents about whether the proposed output classification for UK Armed Forces veteran met their data user needs. Table 25 shows that the majority thought their needs were met.

**Table 25: Responses to the question: Does the proposed output classification for UK Armed Forces veteran meet your needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 90% of respondents stated that the proposed categories for the UK Armed Forces veteran question met their needs (N=27)</p> <p>No - 10% of respondents stating that the proposed categories for the UK Armed Forces veteran question did not meet their needs (N=3)</p>

Where a respondent selected no, they were provided with the opportunity to say why the output classification did not meet their needs. No responses were received to this question.

NISRA then asked respondents about whether they would require any additional cross-tabulations for UK Armed Forces veteran’s outputs. Table 26 shows that most respondents didn’t require any additional cross-tabulations.

**Table 26: Responses to the question: Do you require any additional cross-tabulations for UK Armed Forces veterans?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 86.7% of respondents stated that they did not require any additional cross-tabulations for UK Armed Forces veterans outputs (N=26)</p> <p>Yes - 13.3% of respondents stated that they did require additional cross tabulations for UK Armed Forces veterans outputs (N=4)</p>

Where a respondent had stated yes, they were asked to provide their requirements and why they needed this information, the following shows the two responses received to this question:

- For further discussion but this is a very good start;
- Consultation with the Northern Ireland Veteran Support Office and associated organisations needs sought by yourselves on this subject.

### 3.4.2. Other standard variables in 2021

#### Religion

For Census 2021, it is proposed to produce religion outputs in a similar manner to 2011 and 2001. Respondents to the consultation were asked if aside from current religion and religion/religion brought up in, they had any additional needs for further religion outputs. There were 30 responses to this question, with all stating that they would not require any additional religion outputs.

Had a respondent selected yes, they would have been asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. As 100% of respondents said they had no additional requirements, no comments were received.

#### Full-detail tables

In Census 2021 outputs, NISRA propose to follow the same approach as in 2011, publishing full-detail tables for several variables which will include sexual orientation for 2021 if data is of sufficient quality. NISRA asked respondents if the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 met their needs. Table 27 shows that most people stated that their needs were met.

**Table 27: Responses to the question: Do the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 meet your needs?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 93.3% of respondents stated that the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 met their needs (N=28)</p> <p>No - 6.7% of respondents stated that the proposals to produce full-detail tables in the same way as in 2011 did not meet their needs (N=2)</p>

If respondents answered no to this question they were asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. One response was received which stated that:

- Cross-tabulations between passports held and main language would be useful.

NISRA then asked respondents if they had any data needs for a full-detail table on sexual orientation. Table 28 shows that the majority of respondents did not think they needed a full-detail table.

**Table 28: Responses to the question: Do you have any data needs for a full-detail table on Sexual Orientation?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 83.3% of respondents stated that they did not have any data needs for a full-detail table on sexual orientation (N=25)</p> <p>Yes - 16.7% of respondents stated that they did have data needs for a full-detail table on sexual orientation (N=5)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were encouraged to describe the analysis they would undertake and why this analysis was needed. Respondents suggested that they required the most detail possible as the wealth of data collected would prove beneficial. The following responses are those relevant to this question:

- The Commission seeks to understand the composition of sexual orientation in Northern Ireland to better undertake its statutory remit;
- Fuller detail using the write-in responses would be useful as this is the first time the sexual orientation question has been asked on the Census and will be a rich source of information for equality purposes. For any that do not meet release threshold, a list of write in answers without numbers would also be useful, for example to inform considerations for future data capture;
- The UK Data Service provides support and data access to a very wide range of (especially, but not exclusively) education and research users of UK Census data. We anticipate a high level of researcher interest in the new sexual orientation question and therefore support the maximum level of detail possible.

### 3.5. Proposals for new derived variables

NISRA provided respondents with a range of proposals to combine existing data, often from multiple questions, in new ways, to meet a wider range of user needs. Each of the proposals were outlined within the consultation and its [supporting documents](#). The three topic areas presented were:

- education and employment;
- health and living arrangements; and
- accommodation type.

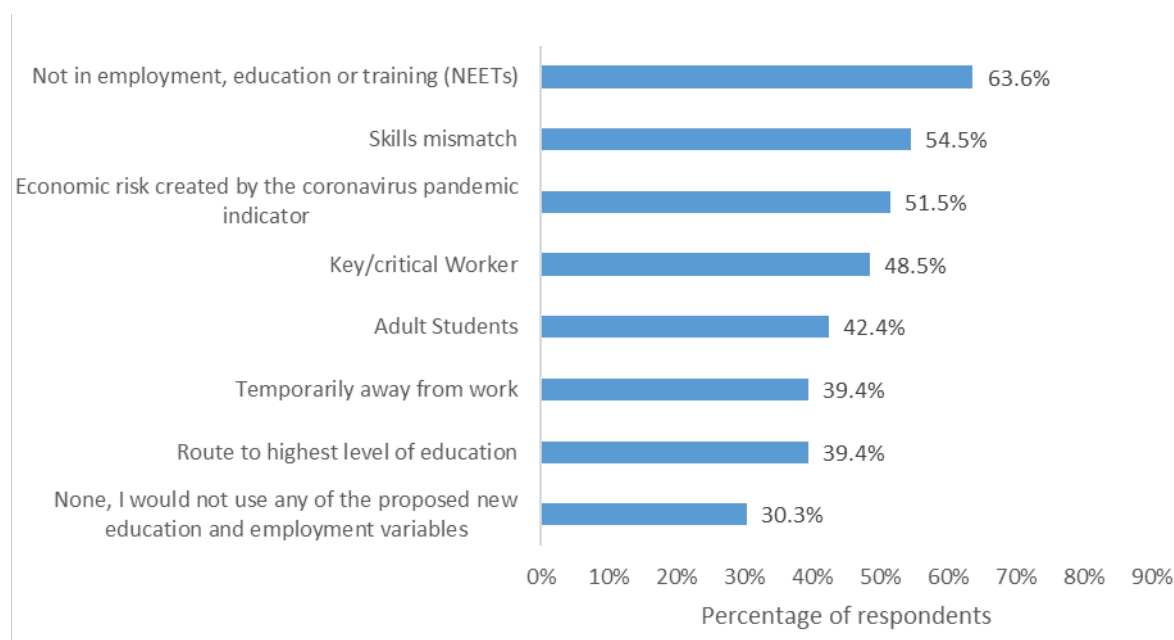
Following the consultation, NISRA will use the feedback to prioritise those for which user need has been evidenced. However, the release of information remains dependant on further analysis, to prove the resultant variable is of sufficient quality to meet data users' needs.



### 3.5.1. Education and employment

Respondents were provided with a range of proposed new variables on education and employment (shown within Figure 10) and were asked to select any of which they would have data needs for?

**Figure 10: Responses to the question: If available, which of the proposed new variables on education and employment would you have data needs for?**



If a respondent indicated that they would have used one or more of the new variables, they were asked to describe any additional analysis that they planned to do using the variable(s) they had identified from the list and the benefits of undertaking this research. The following is a selection of responses received to this question, the full responses are already on the [NISRA website](#):

- It will be useful for adult students variable, create a variable to indicate lifelong learning. For example, students aged 25 and over enrol into FE or HE;
- All the above variables should be analysed by employment status, housing status and by the equality groups with the nine s75 equality grounds, to enable the Commission to identify key inequalities / differentials between those equality groups;

- Below are responses from House of Commons Library specialists on some of the selected topics. Route to highest level of education: "I would be interested to know the proportion of a) nation b) region c) local authority d) constituency e) ward with highest level of education 1) no qualifications 2) GCSEs or equivalent 3) A Levels or equivalent 4) higher education or equivalent. Receive questions from Members on this topic fairly regularly (on average twice a month I would say), currently use the APS estimates to answer these questions. "Key / critical worker: "We've been asked a lot about the demographics of key workers (which people are most vulnerable to the health risks of Covid) so anything by age, gender, ethnic group, disability status would be great. And ideally by constituency/small area. Data for key workers is available but not in this detail." Skills mismatch: "By age and ideally constituency/small area. We get asked about graduate opportunities, and intergenerational inequality. A skills mismatch seems to be especially relevant at the end to the CJRS." Economic risk created by pandemic: "Jobs most at risk during Covid, workers most at risk by age, gender, ethnic group, disability status. Anything for small areas. We've been asked a lot about which workers/people have been most impacted by the pandemic";
- I imagine that one of the main research areas in the late 2020s, 2030s, and 2040s, will be on the long-term effects of the pandemic. To know who was at economic risk in 2019- 2021 will be important now but even more important in following the fortunes of demographic groups later. Can I also suggest that a serious attempt is also made to curate and store administrative data across government for research purposes on the birth cohorts of 2018 through 2022? These might include, for instance, maternal health, birthweight etc. If these are available for linkage to the census, other surveys, and other administrative data, it will be possible to trace the effects of the pandemic through the life course;
- If available at LGD level, the data for the above could be useful in providing insight into educational development and potential employment needs in the borough. This would allow council to see where additional areas of need may be and work to provide improvement in the future. It would also be of value

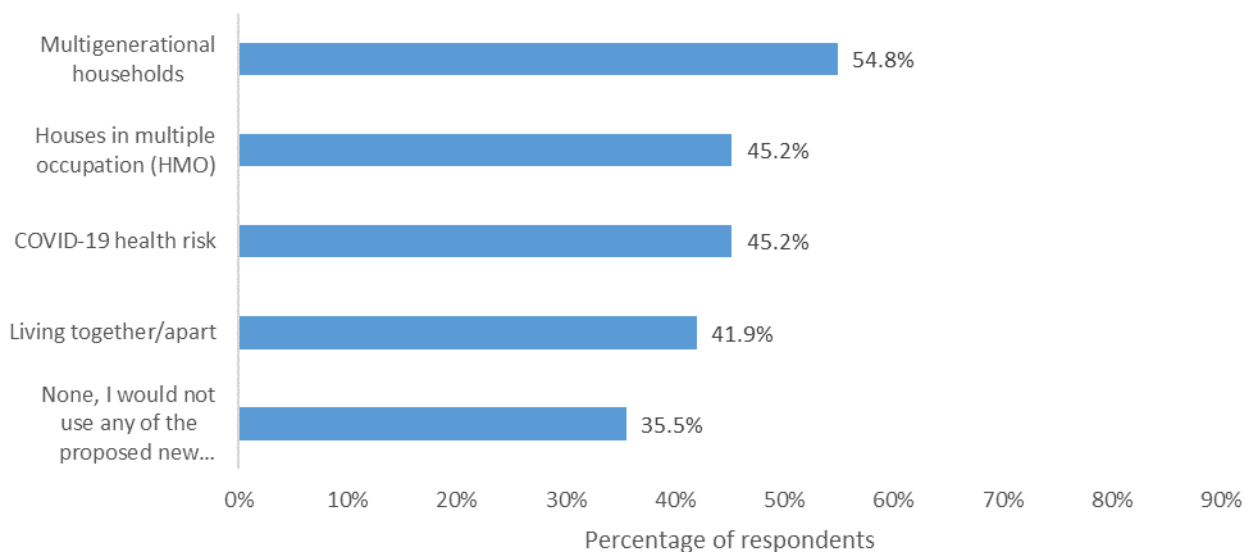
for council to observe and report on any economic impact of coronavirus. Such research would allow council to prepare for future planning;

- Proportion of variables accounted for by minority ethnic communities. Much reported impacts of COVID on minority ethnic communities, so would be interesting to see the data from 2021 Census;
- because the Armed Forces are the biggest provider of apprenticeships in the UK, information linked to how veterans are employed would be useful for purposes of employability and educational need;
- All of the above would greatly assist in developing more detailed profiles for each of our Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. Information above would also be useful evidence to help inform potential labour market/employment programmes;
- Would be interested in how these variables may impact in more rural areas of NI and potential they may have to contribute to out migration from rural areas and small settlements to larger settlements/cities;
- We would use the above selected factors if they were cross tabulated with the UK veterans data output. Whilst overall employment levels within the UK veteran population appear to mirror the general working age population, there is evidence to suggest that under-employment is a significant concern amongst the population, and that long term employment outcomes after leaving service are more variable. We would therefore welcome census data to provide more comprehensive statistics to provide a greater understanding of this within the veteran population in Northern Ireland;
- The WPG would like to see a gender breakdown of each of these variables, particularly those relating to women's economic activity, the economic impact of the pandemic on women.

### 3.5.2. Health and living arrangements

Respondents were provided with a range of proposed new variables on health and living arrangements (detailed within Figure 11) and were asked to select any of which they would have data needs for.

**Figure 11: Responses to the question: If available, which of the proposed new variables on health and living arrangements would you have data needs for?**



If a respondent indicated that they would have used one or more of the new variables, they were asked to describe any additional analysis that they plan to do using the variable(s) they had identified from the above list and the value of undertaking this research. The following are a sample of relevant responses to this question, the full responses are already on the [NISRA website](#):

- Identify the housing situation and COVID impact in the Borough;
- Below are responses from House of Commons Library specialists on some of the selected topics. 13 Covid-19 health risk: "We would provide constituency and small-area data for Members of Parliament on COVID-19 health risk in their areas. This allows MPs to understand and effectively represent their areas. This means that the constituency geography would be most relevant to us. An age breakdown would also be important." HMOs: "As above, we would use this variable to provide data for MPs. This is likely to be most useful for small areas, including parliamentary constituencies, as well as local

authorities. Data on the number of HMOs in a given area would be useful; even more useful would be cross-tabulations with measures of housing quality (e.g. overcrowding, central heating)." Multigenerational households: "This variable could be useful for a range of analyses, including helping to understand the level of Covid-19 transmission risk in an area";

- Living together/apart is important for migration research;
- If available at LGD level, it is possible MEABC could use some of the data from the variables listed above when reviewing housing needs in the borough;
- Availability of housing in NI for single men Security implications for veterans accessing housing in certain areas across NI Relationship breakdown;
- All of the above would greatly assist in developing more detailed profiles for each of our Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. HMO and multigenerational households would also be useful for development of housing policy;
- The WPG would like to see a gender breakdown of each of these variables, particularly those relating to the number of women in multigenerational households.

### 3.5.3. Accommodation type

Respondents were provided with a proposal for new accommodation type variable which related to an indicator of whether an individual was a care home resident. NISRA wished to know if any of the consultation respondents would have a user need for such data. Table 29 shows that just over half of respondents indicated a need for this variable.

**Table 29: Responses to the question: If available, would you have any data needs for a care home resident variable?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 53.3% of respondents stated that they would have a need for a care home resident indicator (N=16)</p> <p>No - 46.7% of respondents stated that they would not have a need for a care home resident indicator (N=14)</p>

If a respondent indicated that they would have a need for this new variable, they were asked to describe any additional analysis that they plan to do using the variable. The following section shows a sample of responses provided:

- This will be an important variable for our age friendly programmes;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to an evidence led approach. Should have as much data as possible, as interacting with care home residents will become more important;
- Sexual Orientation and care home resident, to identify where there may be particular needs for ageing LB women;
- Data on care home residents is patchy from other sources and this has proved a serious analytical deficit during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been unable to provide MPs with useful information on care home residents in their constituencies. Introducing this indicator would allow us to do so;
- Vital in assessing clinical and other vulnerabilities;
- This would identify the health care needs of injured and elderly veterans;
- To identify if any UK Armed Forces Personnel are living in Care homes;

- As someone working in healthcare we are frequently try to identify specialised populations such as those living in care establishments...note those living in care establishment may be under various programmes of care such as mental health, learning disability, older peoples etc. not just older people so it would be really useful if "type of care home" could be differentiated;
- The WPG would like to see a gender breakdown of each of these variables, particularly those relating to care homes.

NISRA then wished to know if there were any new derived variables respondents required that had not been discussed within this consultation. Table 30 shows that most respondents had no additional needs.

**Table 30: Responses to the question: Are there any new derived variables you require that have not been discussed in this consultation?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	29
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 86.2% of respondents stated that they did not require any new derived variables (N=25)</p> <p>Yes - 13.8% of respondents stated that they did require any new derived variables (N=4)</p>

If a respondent selected yes, they were asked to describe any new derived variables that they required, the definition of the variable, and any additional analysis that they would plan to do using this variable along with the value of undertaking this analysis. A sample of responses to this question are provided:

- The ONS has proposed a number of other derived variables for England and Wales census results which would be useful to have for Northern Ireland too if possible, including: Type of vacant address - "We have seen substantial interest from MPs on the topic of second homes and holiday lets. We would use this data to provide MPs with information about the number of second homes and holiday lets in their areas. It would be useful to be able to provide this both at constituency or local authority level, and for smaller areas where the issue is particularly acute." Resident in a mobile or temporary structure

Homeless population - "MPs are interested in the size of the homeless population, particularly at local level (local authority and/or parliamentary constituency). Census data on homelessness would be extremely useful, as it would be more comprehensive than current statistics on statutory homelessness and rough sleeping. We would carry out analysis on the number of homeless people (or households), but would also want to use cross-tabulations on a wide range of topics including age, general health, employment status, disability, ethnicity and country of birth.";

- Service Veterans;
- The results for indicators on education, training and apprenticeships need to be disaggregated by gender and other protected characteristics under Section 75, particularly in the context of rebuilding the economy post-COVID-19.

### 3.6. Population base specification

For Census 2021, there will be three types of population bases:

- the main population bases (usual residents, households etc.);
- alternative population bases; and
- small populations.

The focus of this consultation is on the alternative and small population bases. For more information on the main population bases, please refer to the [2021 Census outputs consultation document](#).

#### 3.6.1. Alternative population bases

Alternative population bases are those that:

- move usual residents to different locations based on their characteristics; and/or
- report on a population that is not usually resident.

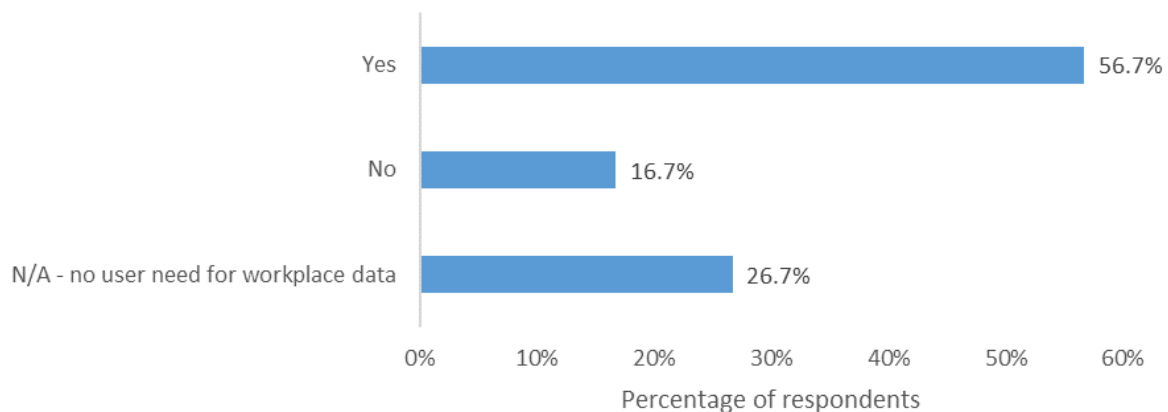


Some or all of the alternative populations may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Refer to the [2021 Census outputs consultation document](#) for more details on the possible impact as well as details on the proposed geographies for these populations.

### Workplace population

The workplace population of an area is defined as all usual residents aged 16 to 74 who are in employment and whose workplace is in the area. This definition remains unchanged from 2011. NISRA wished to know whether the proposals for workplace population outputs met the data user needs. Figure 12 shows a summary of the responses to this question with most respondents indicating their needs would be met.

**Figure 12: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for workplace population outputs meet your data user needs?**



If a respondent selected no, they were provided with additional space to specify details of their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Respondents indicated that they had a need for ward level data, failing that DEA. One respondent stated that information would be useful on the working from home population. The following shows a sample of the responses to this question:

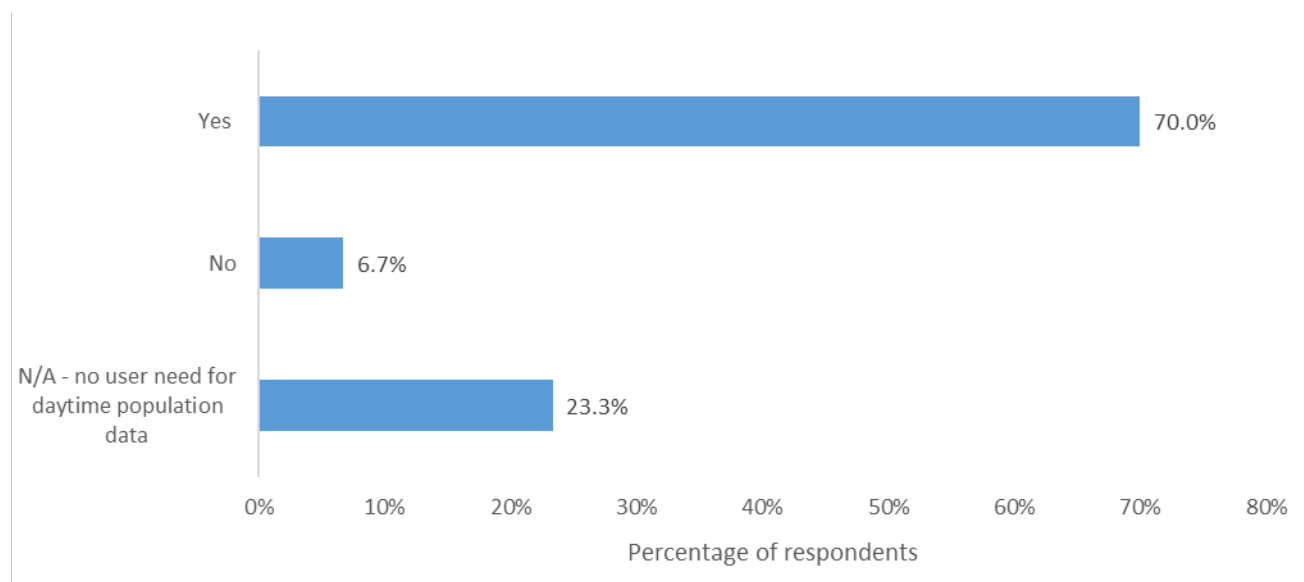
- Veteran workplace data required;
- If possible would be useful to include data on people who were temporarily away from work rather than count them at their workplace address as this

could be used to give an indication of the extent of home working (although accept this category will include significant proportion of people who were furloughed). Numbers of people WfH has significant potential for reducing commuting and making rural communities more attractive to live in. Would be useful to have some data on this as DAERA (and possibly other Departments) consider policy initiatives to support remote working.

### Daytime population

The daytime population is an estimate of the population of an area during the working day. It includes all usual residents who are either in employment or full-time students in the area, or are neither in employment nor full-time students and live in the area. This definition remains unchanged from 2011. NISRA wanted to know whether the proposals for daytime population outputs met the data user needs. Figure 13 shows a summary of the responses to this question with the majority of respondents indicating their needs would be met.

**Figure 13: Responses to the question: Do the proposals for daytime population outputs meet your data user needs?**



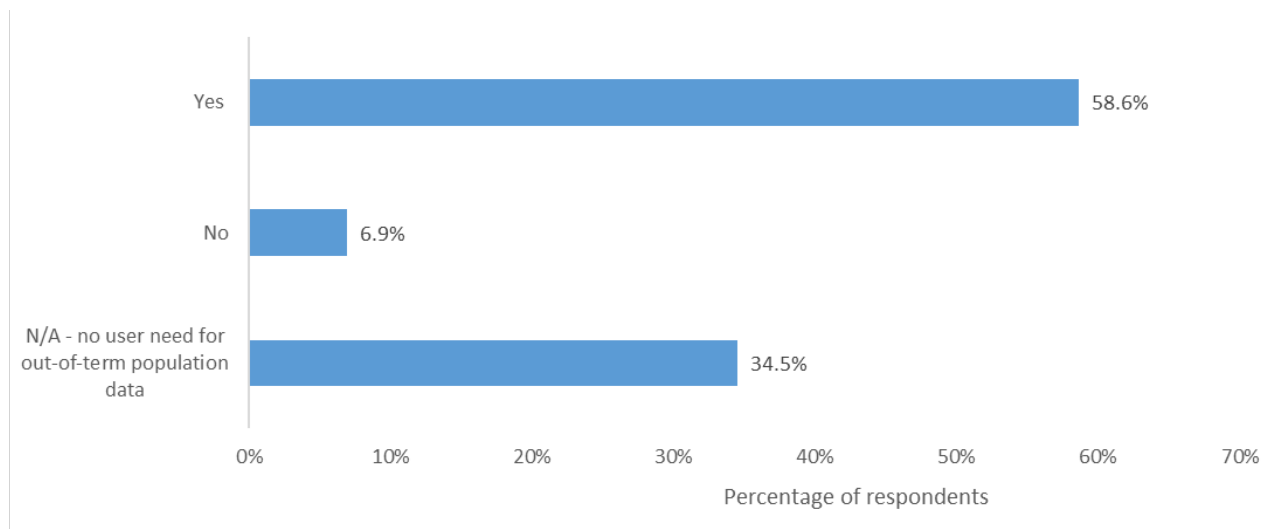
Where a respondent selected no, they were asked to provide their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Respondents expressed a preference for this data to be provided at the SOA level. The following is the responses to this question:

- It's not clear why SOA is mentioned at workplace population and SA at daytime population. More fundamentally, based on the presumption that statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to ward and, failing that, DEA geographies, as these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.;
- Would be much more useful if data can be produced down to SOA level - if possible.

### Out-of-term population

Data for this population base was not available in 2011. NISRA is hoping to trial its development for Census 2021 outputs. The out-of-term population is the usually resident population redistributed to their out-of-term address if they have one, so the difference relates to the location of some students and schoolchildren. NISRA wished to know whether the proposals for out-of-term population outputs met the data user needs. Figure 14 shows the outcome of this question with just over half indicating their needs would be met.

**Figure 14: Responses to the question: Do our proposals for out-of-term population outputs meet your data user needs?**



Respondents were provided with additional space to provide details of their requirements and explain why they needed this information. The following is the only response received:

- As a possible alternative to LGD, I think consideration should be given to analysis by settlement categories A-E (5,000 population and over), even if it means grouping some of these together, for instance, the Coleraine / Portstewart / Portrush 'triangle area' that houses many of the students attending UU Coleraine.

### 3.6.2. Small populations

For Census 2021, it may be possible to offer small population tables that provide information on population groups based on key characteristics of people, defined by a cultural background. These small population data would be produced only for geographic areas in which the small population being counted exceeded a set threshold.

A sample set of table layouts for small populations, using “Country of Birth: Poland” as the example, is available at Annex 2 of the [2021 Census outputs consultation document](#). NISRA wished to know whether there were any requirements for census information for a small population group. Table 31 shows that just over half respondents indicated they would need data on a small population.

**Table 31: Responses to the question: Do you have any requirements for census information for a small population group?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	30
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 53.3% of respondents stated that they required information from the census for a small population group (N=16)</p> <p>No - 46.7% of respondents stated that they did not require information from the census for a small population group (N=14)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to provide further information on their requirements including the small population(s) for which they required census information, the variables they would like to see the small population(s) cross-tabulated by; and how they plan for their analysis to be used. The most commonly

noted populations within the responses received included veterans, section 75 groups, and faith and religious minority groups. The following is a sample of some of the responses received where a specific small population was referenced:

- Could potentially assist in identifying foreign and commonwealth veterans living in NI;
- Ethnic group Country of Birth National Identity Main Language Passports held Speakers of Irish and Ulster Scots and Migration. The analysis would be used for my research on the language ecology of Northern Ireland to continue my work in the 2011 Census;
- To establish the number of female members of the Armed Forces Veteran Community;
- The WPG advocate for census information to be released with regard to disaggregated data on ethnicity, nationality, and immigration status, as well as for faith groups including minority religions. This is crucial for understanding the scope and needs of ethnic minority and migrant populations in NI. This information may be used to better adapt statutory and voluntary services to meet demand for specialist services including service provision for those whose first language is not English. This information will be necessary for all the engagement and outreach of all government departments and statutory organisations, including the Health and Social Care Trusts, PSNI, and NI Housing Executive.

### 3.7. Taking a census during a period of change

We are currently in a period of significant economic and societal change. This change is not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also resulting from the EU-exit amongst other things. In this section of the consultation, NISRA discuss the impacts of taking a census in such a period of change.

The potential changes to the data collected that have been identified are outlined in the [consultation document](#). Through this consultation, NISRA aimed to understand

how data users' needs have changed and the positive and negative impacts of conducting a census in a period of social and economic change.

### 3.7.1. Place of residence

A likely area of data affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is place of residence. For example, this may include people with second residences choosing to reside permanently at that location or it might also include third level students who may have been studying from their permanent or family home address instead of a term-time address.

NISRA wished to understand the need for additional data on place of residence to supplement census data. Table 32 shows the responses in relation to the need for additional data on place of residence.

**Table 32: Responses to the question: Do you anticipate needing any additional data on place of residence to supplement 2021 Census data?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	28
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 7.1% of respondents stated that they needed additional data on place of residence (N=2)</p> <p>No - 92.9% of respondents stated that they did not need additional data on place of residence (N=26)</p>

If respondents selected yes, they were provided with additional space to specify details of their requirements and explain why they needed this information.

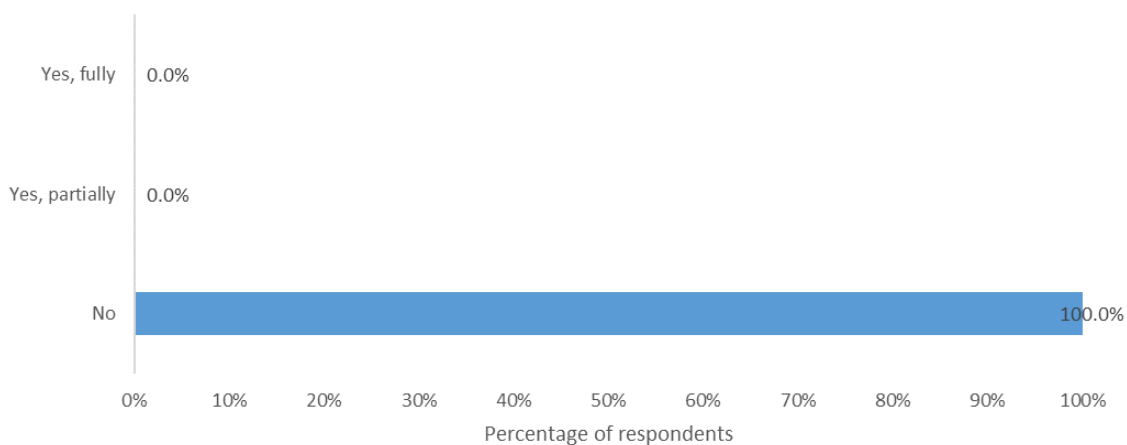
Comments received had a focus on the need for data on where students were residing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are the two comments received to this question:

- In the instance where higher education students who would normally be residing closer to their University of choice were living at home on Census day due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council is concerned that this might over-estimate the 18-24 population in the district;

- Covid-19 has had demonstrated substantial impacts on student residential choices, and we anticipate that there will be strong user demand for any additional data fields describing the places of enumeration and any processes applied by NISRA to transfer students into alternative term-time residential locations.

NISRA also wanted to see if there were any pre-existing data sources that may meet respondents' data user needs for place of residence data, either separately or in combination with census data. Figure 15 shows that respondents were unaware of any existing data on place of residence. There were 26 responses to this question.

**Figure 15: Responses to the question: Are there any existing data sources that may meet your needs for place of residence data, either separately or in combination?**



Had respondents selected yes, fully or yes, partially, they would have been asked to list the data sources and describe how they could meet their user needs. While none of the respondents selected yes, the following response was received:

- Not that the Council is aware of. The Mid-Year estimates in the long term may give an indication to the level of 18-24s who have returned to studying on-campus and residing close to their campus. However, if there is a revision to the Mid-Year Estimates based on Census 2021 data, this correction may not occur.

NISRA then wished to know if there was any new analysis of place of residence that they were planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and

economic change? Table 33 shows that most respondents had no plans for new analysis.

**Table 33: Responses to the question: Is there any new analysis of place of residence you are planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and economic change?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	28
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 85.7% of respondents stated that there was no new analysis of place of residence that the respondents were planning to use census data (N=24)</p> <p>Yes - 14.3% of respondents stated that there was a new analysis that the respondents were planning to use census data (N=4)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to describe the planned analysis and how it would be used. The following responses were received:

- May need further data for analysis of place of residence in relation to Brexit;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council would like to undertake analysis on place of residence - place of work (origin / destination) to understand commuting flows, particularly those who commute to ROI to work (and travel into the district from ROI to work). This study is related to Eu-Exit. It would also be ideal if the Council could examine commuting trends to examine the impact of Covid-19 on 'working from home' trends, which might benefit the District. However, it is recognised that the Census 2021 is unlikely to be the sole source of data to facilitate this;
- I plan a NILS project to explore (a) different address changing rates and (b) the degree to which destinations changed before/after the Pandemic;
- We need to know what veteran numbers are in hostiles and or rented accommodation.



### 3.7.2. Economic activity and employment

Another potential area of data impacted by the COVID-19 is aspects of economic activity and employment. Examples include an increase in people who were temporarily away from work because they were furloughed or self-isolating, and a likely increase in respondents who were not in paid employment.

NISRA wished to know if the respondents to this consultation anticipated any additional need for data on economic activity and employment to supplement the Census 2021 data. Table 34 shows that like place of residence the majority of respondents have no need for additional data.

**Table 34: Responses to the question: Do you anticipate needing any additional data on economic activity and employment to supplement 2021 Census data?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	29
<b>Key findings</b>	Yes - 17.2% of respondents stated that they anticipated needing additional economic data to supplement the 2021 Census data (N=5)  No - 82.8% of respondents stated that they did not anticipate needing additional economic data (N=24)

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to detail their data needs as well as how this data would be used. Respondents indicated that further data on economic inactivity, the self-employed, veterans, and gender differences in the impact of furlough would be useful. The following are some of the responses received to this question:

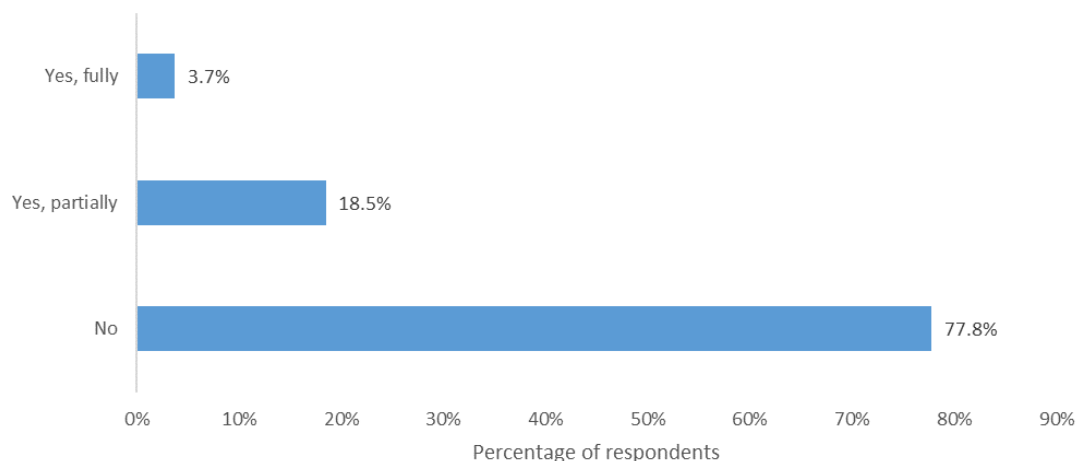
- The need for us to know were best to place our efforts, in the veteran's opinion, in relation to employment and their financial situation. We do our best to catch the veteran who is falling or has fell on hard times but the more information on need the better;
- There is going to be huge interest in interpretation of the entire range of 2021 census workplace questions due to disruption caused by Covid-19, including

furlough, temporary and permanent changes to labour market structure and likely difficulties interpreting the census questions. The temporarily away from work ill, on holiday or temporarily laid off' is likely to be essential for researchers to begin to tease out the relative contribution of these factors to the overall labour market picture revealed by 2021 census;

- The WPG anticipate needing additional data on economic activity and employment which is disaggregated by gender, specifically on women impacted by furlough, redundancy, care responsibilities, the economic impact on disabled women and women's unemployment rates.

NISRA also wished to know if there were any existing data sources that would supplement the respondents' needs for economic activity and employment data. Figure 16 gives a summary of these responses showing that there may be some existing sources of data.

**Figure 16: Responses to the question: Are there any existing data sources that may meet your needs for economic activity and employment data, either separately or in combination?**



Where respondents selected yes, fully or yes, partially, they were asked to list any existing data sources that may meet their needs and to describe how they met their needs. A number of additional sources were identified including: the labour force survey, the Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME), the Continuous Household Survey (CHS), Understanding society, Annual Survey or

Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and departmental universal credit administrative data. Some responses to this question are shown below:

- Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey, released quarterly and annually provides good data on employment and is reasonable in respect to analyses by equality groups/grounds;
- Fermanagh and Omagh Council believes that data accessible through the DIME database, which is utilised for the Multiple Deprivation Measure would be beneficial in answering those questions. It is recognised that there are 'legal gateway' issues with accessing and using this data, but this should be re-examined in light of the need for timely, robust data in an ever changing world;
- I guess the LFS, CHS, and Understanding Society will cater at least partly for this need. If ASHE data and benefits data were available, they would also fill in part of the picture;
- Labour force survey data and Departmental Universal Credit Administrative data.

NISRA then wished to know if there was any new analysis of economic activity and employment the respondent was planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and economic change. Table 35 indicates that the most respondents had no plans for new analysis.

**Table 35: Responses to the question: Is there any new analysis of economic activity and employment you are planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and economic change?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	27
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 18.5% of respondents to this question stated that there was new analysis of economic activity and employment that they were planning to use census data for (N=5)</p> <p>No - 81.5% of respondents to this question stated that there was no new analysis that they were planning to use census data for (N=22)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were provided with additional space to describe any planned analysis and how it would be used. Responses indicated that respondents wished to examine the data in relation to COVID-19, EU-exit and issues impacting veterans. The following is a sample of responses to this question:

- As noted in other responses in this section, the Council is likely to want to analyse economic activity trends and employment trends due to both EU-Exit and Covid-19, particularly cross-border issues, increased economic inactivity (potentially short term), self-employment and the impact of working-from-home on the district's labour market;
- The more we can capture this data the better. We'd use an in house system mostly but more import of data will make it a more successfully system which will benefit the veteran;
- There is going to be huge interest in interpretation of the entire range of 2021 census workplace questions due to disruption caused by Covid-19, including furlough, temporary and permanent changes to labour market structure and likely difficulties interpreting the 17 census questions. We anticipate additional researcher interest in Brexit impacts on the NI economy and pandemic impacts on employment, furlough and place of work.

### 3.7.3. Travel to work/school

Census provides a snapshot in time, and so captured travel to work and place of study patterns as they were on census day.

It is unclear how travel to work or study patterns will evolve following the pandemic. Work will be carried out, in conjunction with the ONS and NRS, to identify potential additional data sources that could help provide information to supplement the census data and provide a more current picture of travel to work patterns going forward.

NISRA wanted to know if any of the respondents to this consultation anticipated needing any additional data on travel to work/school to supplement Census 2021 data. Table 36 again shows that the majority of respondents did not think they would need additional data.

**Table 36: Responses to the question: Do you anticipate needing any additional data on travel to work/school to supplement 2021 Census data?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	27
<b>Key findings</b>	No - 81.5% of respondents stated that they did not anticipate needing any additional data on travel to work/school (N=22)  Yes - 18.5% of respondents stated that they did anticipate needing any additional data on travel to work/school (N=5)

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked to provide details on their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Respondents again focused on a need to examine working patterns in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU-exit. The following shows some responses to this question:

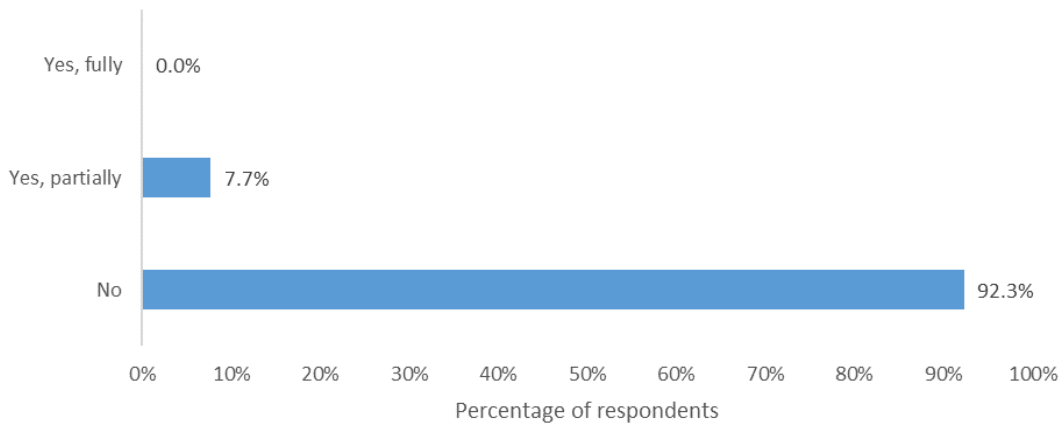
- Measuring the spatial shock of the pandemic and recovery from it. Comparing 2021 with 'normal';
- A cross tabulation (and/or ability to produce in table builder) that shows location of residence by location of workplace, the location (e.g. LGD or SOA)

rather than just distance travelled – including if possible cross border aspect. This would be useful for labour market interventions and plans;

- Unsure but we are keen to understand travel to work patterns out of rural communities as this has implications for housing demand, planning public services and planning of public transport as we seek to further de-carbonise over the coming decade. Obviously information collected via Census 2021 is impacted and more permanent changes to travel to work/school patterns may not emerge until the pandemic is over. In our work with rural communities we have had challenges in disaggregating data coming from BRES survey down to SOA due to disclosure issues. This prevents community organisations developing a more rounded picture of their local economy. It may be useful to cross tabulate broadband availability in rural SOAs with travel to work/school data as poor broadband will act as a push factor which will potentially encourage more workers to return to the office more quickly or full time even in jobs which could be successfully be carried out from home if decent broadband was available;
- Any cross-tabulation which might indicate the extent of working at home being different from usual place of work (employer address, other temporary working at home indicators) would be extremely valuable, otherwise the raw 2021 census travel to work data will likely be a very problematic basis for subsequent analyses on commuting, journey to work, energy use, time use etc.

NISRA then wished to know if there was any existing data sources that would meet the respondents needs for travel-to-work/school data, either separately or in combination with Census 2021 data. Figure 17 shows that there may be a very small amount of data available to partially meet this need. There were 26 responses received to this question.

**Figure 17: Responses to the question: Are there any existing data sources that may meet your needs for travel-to-work/school data, either separately or in combination?**



Where a respondent selected yes, fully or yes, partially, they were asked to list the data sources and describe how they met the respondents' data user needs. The following are the two responses to this question:

- As per the response to Q49, the DIME database may hold some relevant information on people's place of residence and place of work. However, it is recognised as a partial/potential solution only;
- I guess that our main deficiency will be in understanding the changed spatiality of society. The 2021 Census data should capture the exceptionalism of 2021 but the nearest comparator is 2011, and we also need to understand how far travel-to-work etc. reverts to normal.

NISRA then wished to know if there was any new analysis of travel to work that they were planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and economic change. In Table 37 it can be seen that the majority of respondents had no plans for new analysis.

**Table 37: Responses to the question: Is there any new analysis of travel to work you are planning to use census data for due to the current period of social and economic change?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	26
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 15.4% of respondents stated that they were planning on using the data for new analysis (N=4)</p> <p>No - 84.6% of respondents stated that they were not planning on using the data for new analysis (N=22)</p>

Respondents were provided with additional space to describe their planned analysis, where relevant and how it would be used. The responses to this questions are shown in the following section:

- Yes in relation to Brexit;
- I guess that our main deficiency will be in understanding the changed spatiality of society. The 2021 Census data should capture the exceptionalism of 2021 but the nearest comparator is 2011, and we also need to understand how far travel-to-work etc. reverts to normal;
- The very large community of UKDS users will be interested in every census question and topic. We anticipate a considerable effort on the part of the research community to attempt to disentangle Brexit and pandemic effects on census results.

#### 3.7.4. Workplace zones

NISRA are considering the need to produce workplace statistics by workplace zone for use in origin-destination data and other datasets, like the NILS and Microdata. Workplace zones are a small-area geography designed to contain a consistent number of workers. The zones provide much greater detail in areas with high numbers of workers and workplaces. NISRA wished to know if the respondents required any data published using the workplace zone geography. Table 38 indicates that the majority of respondents had no need to use workplace zones.



**Table 38: Responses to the question: Do you require data published using the workplace zone geography?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	27
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 22.2% of respondents stated that they require data published using the workplace zone geography (N=6)</p> <p>No - 77.8% of respondents stated they did not require data published using the workplace zone geography (N=21)</p>

Where a respondent indicated that they required data published using workplace zones they were asked to detail their requirements and how the data would be used. The following lists some responses to this question:

- This data may be useful, in that it may be similar to the Travel to Work Area statistics we request every ten years;
- I think that would help as it would show the geography of veteran build up which would help us channel our resources better;
- Workplace-zones have provided a more consistent UK view of working patterns/economic geography and also been highly effective in enabling a richer analysis of daytime population distributions and classification of workplaces. We anticipate continued user demand for these outputs;
- The WPG would like to see gender disaggregated data on rates of men and women currently working from home.

### 3.7.5. Impacts on other outputs

Respondents were provided with the following list of other potential areas of change due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- migration;

- general health and disability; and
- unpaid care.

This was not a comprehensive list of recent societal changes. It was included to illustrate the range of ways the COVID-19 has impacted society.

NISRA wished to know if the respondent anticipated needing any additional data to supplement the Census 2021 data. In Table 39 it can be seen that most respondents didn't anticipate needing any additional data.

**Table 39: Responses to the question: Do you anticipate needing any additional data to supplement 2021 Census data?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	27
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>No - 85.2% of respondents did not anticipate needing any additional data to supplement the Census 2021 data (N=23)</p> <p>Yes - 14.8% of respondents anticipated needing additional data to supplement the Census 2021 data (N=4)</p>

If a respondent selected yes, they were provided with additional space to detail their requirements and explain why they needed this information. Below are the relevant responses to this question:

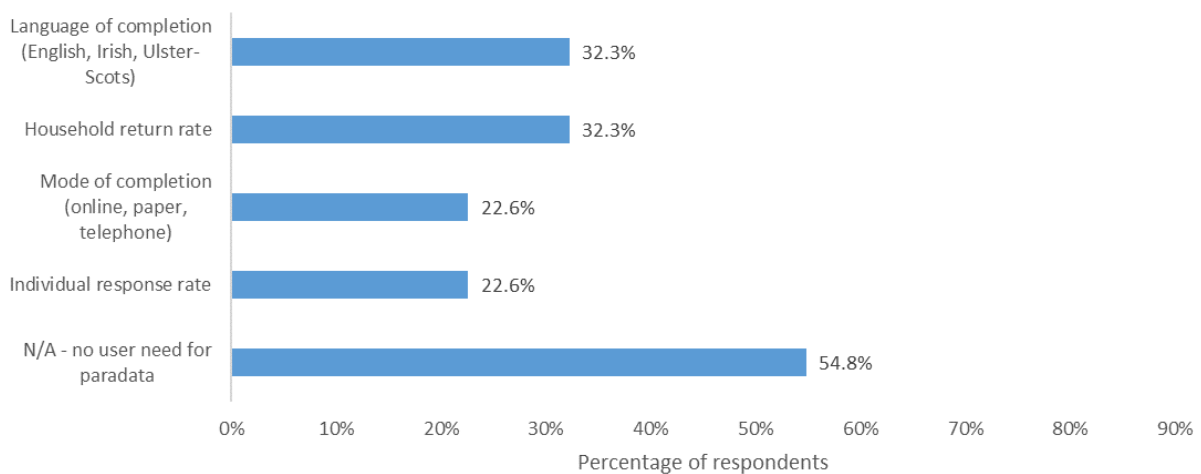
- I believe we will have the data from 2021 Census, but more about the approach in presenting the current data in respect of minority ethnic communities compared to 2011 Census;
- Again, useful data to have to direct additional health and social care and charitable resources;
- Own service activities dataset mapped to census output levels to gauge rates, population impacts etc.;

- The WPG anticipates needing additional data on the impact of COVID-19 on migration, women with disabilities, and unpaid care work.

### 3.8. Paradata

Paradata refers to information about how NISRA collected the census. They are separate from the statistical data that is produced from the census. In line with 2011 and previous censuses, NISRA will publish a General Report that will provide an overview of the complete census operation for further information on this [the Census 2011 General Report](#) can be referred to. Ahead of that, NISRA propose to publish some high-level paradata about how people completed their census returns. NISRA wished to know which of the proposed paradata for the 2021 Census the respondent would use. There were 31 responses to this question and the responses are shown in Figure 18.

**Figure 18: Responses to the question: If available, which of the proposed paradata for the 2021 Census would you use?**



If respondents indicated that they would use one or more of the paradata, they were asked to describe any additional analysis that they planned to complete using this data and the value of undertaking this research. Responses relevant to this question are presented below:

- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council expressed concerns regarding the use of the 'online first' collection methodology applied in the 2021 Census. Therefore, we would like to see the return rate by mode of completion to

examine if the poorer broadband availability in the district is an issue, and whether there is a difference in return rates in the Fermanagh and Omagh District vis-a-vis other LGDs and at the urban/rural level;

- The incidence of people answering the Sexual Orientation question, and whether this was e.g. lower on household returns or higher on paper returns;
- I would like to cross-tabulate language of completion with frequency of use of Irish and Ulster-Scots data as well as locations of Irish and Ulster-Scots speakers. N.B. It is disappointing that the Language of completion options are restricted to English, Irish and Ulster-Scots - especially when speakers of Polish and Lithuanian outnumbered the number of Irish speakers in Census 2011;
- The very large community of UKDS users are interested in every census question and topic. We have seen use of mode of completion, particularly, used as an input to understanding of digital exclusion and area classification;
- Paradata on language of completion will be a useful comparator with data on knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots.

### 3.9. Statistical Output Geography

By law, Census Office is bound to use an output geography based upon the current Local Government Districts. Consequently for Census 2021 data, to efficiently and safely meet this requirement, NISRA has concluded that the output geography must be revised. This is in line with the view expressed by respondents in the previous 2018 user consultation. Further information on the proposals for this area is contained in the [Census 2021 outputs geography paper PDF \(733 KB\)](#).

NISRA asked respondents what the demand for census statistical outputs aligned with geographies other than the current local government districts (LGD) would be. Table 40 shows the responses to this question with most saying they had no requirements for alignment to anything other than local government district.

**Table 40: Responses to the question: Other than the current local government districts, do you have any requirements for census statistical outputs aligned with any other geographies?**

<b>Number of responses</b>	32
<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Yes - 40.6% of respondents stated that they had requirements for census statistical outputs aligned with geographies other than LGD (N=13)</p> <p>No - 59.4% of respondents stated they did not have requirements for census statistical outputs aligned with geographies other than LGD (N=19)</p>

Where a respondent selected yes, they were asked which additional geographies they would need census statistical outputs to align with and why they needed this, including the analysis that they planned to do and the value of undertaking this analysis. Respondents expressed a need for census statistical outputs to align with electoral wards, District Electoral Areas (DEA), Travel to Work Areas (TTWA), Super Output Area (SOA), Small Area (SA), Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Health and Social Care Trust mapped to 2014 LGDs and data by river water body, groundwater body and river basin district if possible. One respondent asked if contiguous SOA or SA area geographies can be combined to provide data across a range of SOAs. The following is a sample of the responses received:

- DEA - In 2011, if outputs couldn't be published at geographies as low as SOA or ward level, the default was to publish at LGD, at a stage when 26 LGDs were in place, some of them with very small populations. We now have 11 LGDs, for the most part, with larger populations. Particularly if statistical and administrative geographies are going to 'nest' to a greater extent, I think consideration should be given to producing more outputs at DEA, as, besides being both similar in population size to each other and of sufficient size for analysis purposes, these are likely to be of interest to the likes of local political representatives and those involved in area planning, city deals etc.;

- Larger 'Travel to Work Area' geographies for the assessment of fair participation in the workforce;
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is one of 11 local government districts. We require data that is co-terminus with the two lower geographical tiers that the Council utilise on a regular basis: DEA 2014, Ward 2014. It is imperative that the data are published at these geographical tiers. In addition, we support the publication of data at a Settlement level where possible. This provides significant value to the Council, as we believe it will to other Councils. This will support the Council to fulfil its value as an evidence led organisation, support effective service planning and inform strategy development;
- We would require data by river water body, groundwater body and river basin district if possible. This data may help to form a diffuse pollution risk map based on density/land use in future;
- Neighbourhood Renewal Areas - developing detailed profiles;
- Can contiguous SOA or SA area geographies be combined to provide data across a range of SOAs? We have provided this data for rural community groups whose natural area of interest includes more than one SOA but this has involved downloading data for separate SOAs of interest and then combining to produce an average based on the data being looked at. Is it possible to build this function into future version of the NINIS website;
- It would be still useful to have census outputs at the old 26 council level as the HSCT catchment areas are mapped to be co-terminus with these and don't map to the new p council areas e.g. within the NHSCT the 10 former councils map to 4 "localities" within the trust catchment area, i.e. Antrim/Ballymena, Causeway (Ballymoney, Coleraine & Moyle), Mid Ulster (Cookstown/Magherafelt) and East Antrim (Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey) but for example in the new council setup "Causeway Coast and Glens council" includes the former council areas as Ballymoney, Coleraine, Moyle and Limavady (which is in the WHSCT catchment area).

Mapping to the former 26 councils would allow us to continue to collate results to "locality" area within the Trust;

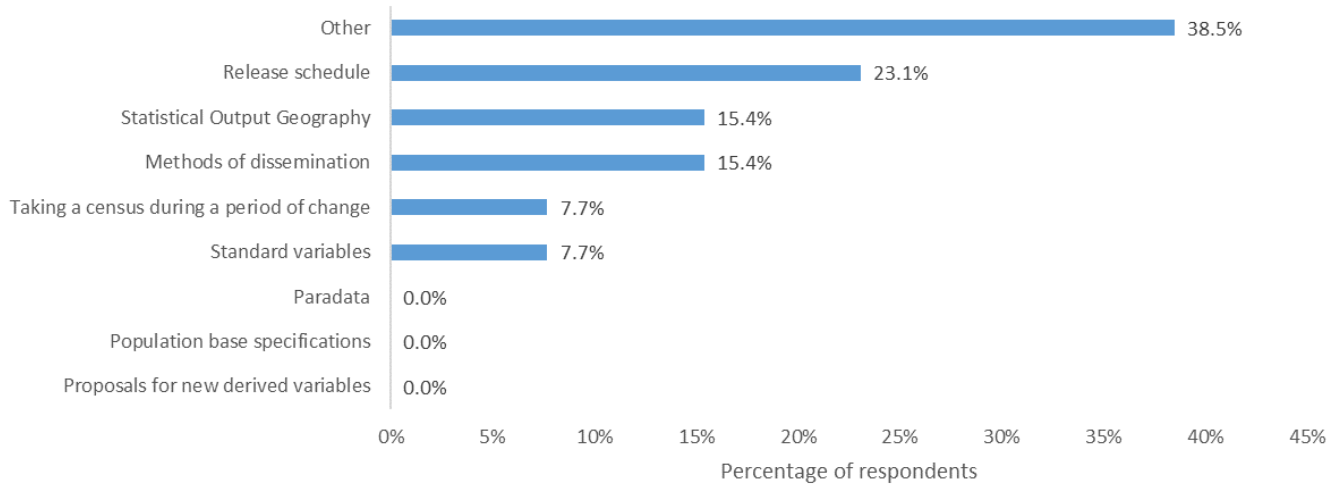
- There will be interest in (at least) an official NISRA lookup table or best-fit table to permit best-fitting of 2021 and 2001/11 geographies for analysis of small area change. This does not necessarily require another set of boundaries, but a single reference source for estimating the overlaps between the old and new small area geographies;
- It is important to be able to look at trends across years. This is difficult where the SOAs and Electoral Wards change (e.g. LGD 2014 changes). It would be helpful to be able to compare the same geography over a number of years. It would also be helpful if there was some easy way to cross reference postcodes and SOAs.

### 3.10. Any other comments

While we have aimed to make this consultation as comprehensive as possible, there are a wide range of Census 2021 topics and data users. As such, NISRA have focussed on areas of development, where what will be produced will be significantly different to 2011.

NISRA provided a list of all topic areas previously discussed in the consultation and asked respondents if they had any other data or analysis needs related to this list that will not be met, and they were not able to note elsewhere within the consultation. Respondents were asked to tick all of those which applied. There were 13 responses received to this question and a summary is shown in Figure 19.

**Figure 19: Responses to the question: Do you have any data or analysis needs related to any of the areas listed below that will not be met, and that you have not been able to note elsewhere in this consultation?**



If a respondent selected other, they were provided the opportunity to provide more information about the topic area for which they had unmet data needs. The comments received related mainly to the need for NISRA to provide training to the public if necessary to ensure ease of access to the flexible table builder, and the need for an enumeration report. Responses to this question are presented below

- The Council welcomes that the Census Office intends to provide the data in different ways. It intends to provide pre-defined tables which will be similar to those already available from previous census programmes. The Council refers to this data frequently and keenly awaits the updated information. It is also proposed to have an interactive table builder that will allow users to define their own tables, with the flexibility to select the geography, population base, and variables required. This is an exciting new addition to the census statistics outputs, which the Council welcomes. The Census Office has stated it will be using a new PxStat system which will allow users to export the data into other software packages. The Council urges the Census Office to ensure this is easily achievable and if required will provide training for non-experts on how to get the best results from the system. The Council would also request that the Census Office formats the statistics in a way which does not require the use of a 'lookup table';



- Anticipate a need for topic report (or other outputs) specifically addressing the question of census enumeration during time of Covid-19, which brings together all the many impacts on enumeration and interpretation of census questions, to serve as reference point for users. Could/should include potential additional metadata on how NISRA have made Covid-19 specific adaptations to data outputs.

Respondents were then provided with another open ended question to allow them to describe any unmet user needs, much of this had been discussed within responses to previous questions. The additional needs included:

- information on qualifications particularly in relation to NVQ level 4 and data on individual qualification levels rather than simply the highest obtained;
- increased information on parliamentary constituency, and this to be updated when the political boundaries are reviewed;
- need for NISRA to ensure the PxStat system is as accessible as possible, and if it is very technical for training to be made available; and
- additional breakdowns on section 75 categories, gender, postcode data, deprivation.

The [2021 Census outputs consultation responses](#) received have been provided in full already on the NISRA website, below is a sample of some comments not covered elsewhere in this document:

- As discussed in previous sections: The House of Commons Library is a research service used by MPs and their staff, and as such we are often asked to produce information for parliamentary constituencies. MPs really value constituency-level census data – it helps them understand the needs of their constituents in order to better represent them in parliament. We have a need for constituency data in order to provide a good level of service to our MPs. In addition, the Boundary Commission is currently in the process of reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries and will make recommendations by

2023. It's therefore likely that new constituency boundaries will be in place in the early 2020s, 19 making any data for May 2022 constituency boundaries obsolete relatively soon after it is published. We therefore also have a need for updated constituency data once the new constituency boundaries come into force. We have requested that the ONS do this for census data in England and Wales, and hope that NISRA are able to do this for Northern Ireland. MPs also have a strong interest in data on small areas below constituency level. Ward level data would therefore be extremely useful to us, as would data for Output Areas that would allow us to create custom totals for other small areas;

- The Council welcomes that the Census Office intends to provide the data in different ways. It intends to provide pre-defined tables which will be similar to those already available from previous census programmes. The Council refers to this data frequently and keenly awaits the updated information. It is also proposed to have an interactive table builder that will allow users to define their own tables, with the flexibility to select the geography, population base, and variables required. This is an exciting new addition to the census statistics outputs, which the Council welcomes. The Census Office has stated it will be using a new PxStat system which will allow users to export the data into other software packages. The Council urges the Census Office to ensure this is easily achievable and if required will provide training for non-experts on how to get the best results from the system. The Council would also request that the Census Office formats the statistics in a way which does not require the use of a 'lookup table';
- In designing service delivery, there is a need to compare users' postcodes and other statistical information around population, deprivation indicators, employment, ethnic background, etc. A means of cross referencing these would be helpful;
- It would be useful if data could be disaggregated on both sexual orientation and other demographics, including sex (in lieu of gender data). This is particularly important should the lesbian, bisexual and gay categories be collapsed. It is likely there will be some women who will have identified as

'gay', as well as bisexual men recorded in the bisexual output. We would like to be able to separate LGB women from collapsed outputs. We appreciate depending on the number of responses this may restrict other cross tabulations such as geography.

NISRA finally asked respondents if they had any further comments on the content of this consultation. Respondents indicated a number of areas for further information, interest or improvement including:

- need for a gender question alongside sex;
- need for data to be accessible to a wide range of audiences including those without strong technical knowledge (i.e. need to reduce Jargon, allow for a commissioned table service);
- need for additional section 75 breakdowns ;
- need for NISRA, ONS, and NRS to align outputs in quantity, topic and date wherever possible with a particular focus on veteran data within this particular response.

There were also a number of positives noted with a particular mention of the development of a flexible dissemination system. The following section presents a sample of part of some responses covering various aspects of the outputs. For a full list of responses to this section refer to the [2021 Census outputs consultation responses](#):

- We would particularly like to access disaggregated data on LGB Women to help inform our evidence base for policy development;
- The census information should be accessible to a range of audiences and therefore should be in a format that is easy to use and understand. The documents are in part technical and use jargon which immediately creates a barrier to full and open consultation. However, there are a number of issues which will impact on the Council's use of future census data. Geography and boundaries the consultation documents show that the Census 2021 data will be released by current local government district boundaries. The Council

would also request that the Census Office facilitates the easy access to comparable statistics over years to enable the Council and Community Planning Partnership to show trends and improvements in wellbeing.

**Dissemination of statistics** The Council welcomes that the Census Office intends to provide the data in different ways. It intends to provide pre-defined tables which will be similar to those already available from previous census programmes. It is also proposed to have an interactive table builder that will allow users to define their own tables, with the flexibility to select the geography, population base, and variables 20 required. This is an exciting new addition to the census statistics outputs, which the Council welcomes. The Census Office has stated it will be using a new PxStat system which will allow users to export the data into other software packages. The Council urges the Census Office to ensure this is easily achievable and if required will provide training for non-experts on how to get the best results from the system. The Council would also request that the Census Office formats the statistics in a way which does not require the use of a 'lookup table'.

**Timetable for the release of the statistics** The Council would like this timetable to be as expeditious as possible as the Census statistics are important in all delivery and monitoring of projects and programmes. Commissioning tables - It is welcome that this service is to be formalised. However, it is not stated if this service will be free of charge as in the past NISRA has requested payment for accessing statistics not readily available through the public access website. Small populations - The Council welcomes this as it will aid the planning of the Good Relations and Peace Plus programmes as well as other services.

**Summary** The suggested 2021 Census outputs, dissemination approach, release phases and content design are broadly supported by the Council with a few caveats such as a requirement to have technical expertise to extract relevant data and ensuring the timetable for release is as expeditious as possible;

- I am seeking future Census 2021 data, which clearly captures minority ethnic communities in NI. Given Census data will input into important government policies and decisions, we do not wish to under-represent already under-represented minority groups, through reporting lower than actual % of NI

population per Census 2011. Ultimately need to then be able to further drill into White Ethnic Group to identify more existing minority ethnic communities by national identity, language, country of birth and religion. As NICS Race & Ethnicity Champion and DoF Racial Equality Champion, am happy to work with NISRA colleagues;

- Identifying veterans through census data is something that we have long called for. We understand the difficulties within Northern Ireland of asking veterans to directly declare their veteran status due to perceived security concerns. Therefore, whilst we regret the lack of a direct veterans question within the census itself, we are grateful to NISRA for using data from the MoD's records to provide much needed census-like data on this cohort. This data will go some way to enhancing our understanding of UK Armed Forces veterans in Northern Ireland, however for the data to be most effective the following should be considered: Dependents and Families Capturing the number of veterans in Northern Ireland should not be seen in isolation and through cross referencing with other household members an attempt should be made to capture partners and dependents. NISRA should explore how the wider Armed Forces community, as encompassed by the Covenant, can also be identified. Interrogable Data RBL welcomes that UK Armed Forces veteran data will be cross referenced with other census data such as employment, health and disabilities. Our concern with the Local Government Department Data is for those areas where there are less than 100 veterans identified. Depending on the number of areas where there are less than 100 veterans, this may risk excluding a significant number of veterans whose needs cannot be captured as they are not able to be cross referenced with other data in the tables. We would like to see plans put forward on how to capture and cross reference the data for those areas where there are fewer than 100 veterans. Dissemination Methods RBL welcomes an interactive flexible table builder which will allow for data to be cross referenced by demographic, household and health statistics. For this to be most effective for third sector organisations and those who support veterans in Northern Ireland training should be provided so that they are able to effectively use the data from the tables. UK wide outputs In order to ensure that the census data on UK Armed Forces

veterans provides the most comprehensive picture possible of the population and their demographics, we urge NISRA, ONS, and NRS to align outputs in quantity, topic and date wherever possible. Reducing the output in one area of the UK risks a significant portion of the community, and any specific characteristics within that, being lost from tailored service provision initiatives.

#### **4. Summary**

In summary, for every question asked in the consultation the majority of respondents indicated that they were content with the plans for outputs from Census 2021. Most respondents stated they would use the pre-defined tables but those that would use the more specialist products were happy with the plans for these. However an underlying theme in responses about the various dissemination methods was that they shouldn't be so technical to use that they cause accessibility issues for users.

Any changes to the outlined plans will be notified to users through the Census 2021 Outputs Prospectus and this will be kept up to date as each release is announced and dates confirmed.