

Census 2021

A census of the resident population of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will take place on Sunday 21 March 2021. The census for Scotland was postponed and is now scheduled to take place on 20 March 2022.

What is the census?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The next census takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021.

Your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.

Why you should take part in the census

Taking part in the census is your chance to help make sure you and your community get the services you need for the next 10 years and beyond.

The census helps show what we need

The information you give in the census helps provide the best picture of the needs of everyone in England and Wales.

Organisations such as local authorities and charities use this picture to plan and fund the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it'd be much more difficult to do this.

When to complete your census

Every household should complete the census on **Sunday 21 March 2021** or as soon as possible after. The census should take about 10 minutes for the household questions and 10 minutes per person.

You must complete the census by law or you could be fined up to £1,000

Some questions are labelled as voluntary. It is not an offence if you do not answer these.

Who living in an SLA should be counted as usually resident at the military base?

Anyone stationed in the UK who does not have a permanent or family address elsewhere, should be recorded as usually resident at their base address in the appropriate Census questionnaire.

This includes:

- UK residents who live at this establishment and *have no usual residence elsewhere*

- UK residents who live or plan to stay at this establishment for six months or more

- non-UK residents who live or plan to stay in the UK for three months or more and have no other permanent UK address

For these people, an individual letter with UAC (or paper questionnaire and privacy envelope, if required) will need to be requested by the CO when the census field officer makes contact. (your Unit Enumerator/Point of Contact will do this).

If you do not meet the criteria above, you will instead be counted at your main home (including SFA), even if most of your time is spent at the base. Personnel staying at a Unit/Base overnight on census day will be counted as visitors.

Guidance for Service Personnel

All Service personnel usually resident in England and Wales should be recorded in the 2021 England and Wales Census at their main place of residence. For some questions, there is a particular approach to answering that Service personnel should take. All Service personnel must therefore follow the guidance set out overleaf.

Special Instructions for MOD Personnel when completing the Census

The instructions for Service and civilian personnel in England and Wales for completing specific census questions are shown in Table 2. For personnel in Northern Ireland, this annex should be read in conjunction with your local guidance.

It is essential that these instructions are followed.

For all other questions, complete as normal.

Question guidance is available online if required:

<https://census.gov.uk/help/how-to-answer-questions/>

Table 2 - Special instructions for MOD personnel for completing census

Household questions (household questionnaire only)		
Question number (on paper)	Question	Special instructions for MOD personnel
H12	Does your household own or rent this accommodation?	Select "Rents (with or without housing benefit)" if living in SFA
H13	Who is your landlord?	Select "Employer of a household member" if living in SFA
Individual questions (on household and individual questionnaire)		
Question number (on paper)	Question	Special instruction for MOD personnel
6	<p>Do you stay at another address for more than 30 days a year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No- Yes, an address within the UK- Yes, an address outside the UK	<p>If answering "Yes, an address within the UK" enter the post code only - do not enter the full address.</p> <p>Answering online:</p> <p>You must select manually enter address.</p> <p>On the first line of the address field, enter the post code only.</p> <p>Selecting manually enter the address is important as this will over-ride the address auto-complete function.</p>

7	<p>What is that address?</p> <p><i>(Only asked if answered yes to question 6)</i></p>	<p>Do not answer this question</p> <p>Answering online:</p> <p>Leave blank and select 'Save and continue' to move on</p> <p>Answering on paper:</p> <p>Leave blank and go on to question 8.</p>
13	<p>One year ago, what was your usual address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The address on the front of this questionnaire - Student term-time or boarding school address in the UK, write in term-time address below - Another address in the UK, write in below - OR outside the UK, write in country 	<p>If answering about another address, enter the post code only - do not enter the full address.</p>
32	<p>Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, previously in Regular Armed Forces - Yes, previously served in Reserve Armed Forces - OR no 	<p>If you're a current serving member or active member of the UK Armed Forces, please select "No".</p> <p>This new question on past service in the UK Armed Forces is included to help service providers and others to support veterans in line with the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
33	<p>In the last seven days, were you doing any of the following?</p>	<p>Select "Working as an employee"</p>
41	<p>What is the name of the organisation or business you work for?</p>	<p>Do not answer this question</p>

42	What is your full job title?	Answer "Crown Servant" – do not give further information
43	Briefly describe what you do in your main job?	Do not answer this question
44	What is the main activity of your organisation, business or freelance work?	State "Public Service" only
50	What is the address of your workplace?	<p>Enter the post code only - do not enter the full address.</p> <p>If you're serving on a ship, give the postcode of your Home Port or Naval Base address if it's in the UK. If it's abroad, just enter the country.</p> <p>Answering online:</p> <p>You must select manually enter address.</p> <p>On the first line of the address field, enter the post code only.</p> <p>Selecting manually enter the address is important as this will over-ride the address auto-complete function</p>
Individual questions (on individual questionnaire only)		
Question number (on paper)	Question	Special instruction for MOD personnel
A1	What type of accommodation is this?	<p>Select "Communal establishment" if living in SLA</p> <p>Select "A private or family household" if living in SFA or private accommodation</p>
A2	What is your position in this establishment?	Select "Resident" if living in SLA

	(Only asked to those living in SLA)	
Visitor questions		
V4	What is this person's usual UK address?	<p>For each Service person staying with you overnight who usually lives on a base in SLA or SFA.</p> <p>Enter the post code only - do not enter the full address.</p> <p>Answering online:</p> <p>You must select manually enter address.</p> <p>On the first line of the address field, enter the post code only.</p> <p>Selecting manually enter the address is important as this will over-ride the address auto-complete function.</p>

Confidentiality

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has a strict security regime that follows government standards. This includes physical and IT security measures to protect information, covering people, processes and technology. ONS publish statistics from the census so that local councils and central government can better understand the needs of the people living in different areas.

Information is anonymised before statistics are published, so no personal details are released. The statistics will not show information about individuals. An individual's census record will be kept secure for 100 years. Only then can it be seen by future generations. For example, in January 2022 you will be able to see what people put on their census forms in 1921.

Laws in place that cover protection of information include:

- a. Data Protection Act 2018

- b. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- c. Census Act 1920
- d. Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

More on the census, including instructions for unit enumerators (points of contact) are contained in the [DIN here](#).