

Assembly Resource

Read through the information about this year's census below. Talk about the importance of the census. Are you surprised to learn that this may be the last census?

What is a census?

A census is a survey that happens periodically and gives a country a picture of all the people and households who live there. Someone from every household needs to complete the survey, it is against the law to not complete the census.

This is the first year the census can be completed completely online!



What happens to the information collected?

Information from the census is collected and analysed to help a wide range of people and organisations do their work. All of the data is kept secure for 100 years.

It helps:

- ⇒ Local councils run services such as schools, health services, roads and libraries.
- ⇒ Businesses, who use the information to help understand their customers. For example, a supermarket might use data to decide if they need to open a new store.
- ⇒ Voluntary organisations, who rely on census data to learn and understand about the communities they are working in to serve them in the most effective ways.

What information is collected?

The survey is expected to take 10 mins per household and 10 mins per person living in the household.

The questions include:

- ⇒ How many people live in your house and their relationships to each other.
- ⇒ Your age, sex and religion.
- ⇒ Any jobs of people who live in your house.

What is the future of the census?

The 2021 census is expected to cost the government about £1 billion to complete, this is more than double the last census and so UK's National Statistician, Professor Sir Ian Diamond, is exploring ways to replace the one-every-10-year survey with a cheaper and more efficient way. Some people believe that there are too many changes in 10 years, so the information needs to be looked at more often.

As a lot of data is already collected from other places including from doctors' surgeries, council tax records and driving licences, it's thought that this could be collected together.