

cyfrifiad census 2021

How the census counts everyone

The census works by collecting information through households. A household is usually defined as one person living alone or a group of people, who don't have to be related, living at the same address. They share cooking facilities and a living room, sitting room or dining area.

We know that there are people who don't fit this definition of a household. That's why we have processes to make sure everyone can be counted. Depending on your situation, there are a few different ways to take part in the census.

If you live in a house or flat

If you live in a house or flat you'll get a pack through the post with a code which you can use to log in to the online questionnaire. If you would prefer a paper questionnaire, you can request one by calling our contact centre. The number will be available on our website, www.census.gov.uk, nearer to census time.

Some people will get a paper questionnaire delivered (if they live in an area with low internet access).

After Census Day, households which haven't yet completed a questionnaire will get reminder letters through the post. Field officers will start to visit homes to give help and encouragement. They can answer any questions and offer advice. If you'd prefer us not to visit you, the best thing to do is to complete your census form as soon as possible.

If you live at a registered site

Anyone living at a registered caravan site will get a visit from one of our field staff, who will deliver their census pack by hand. The pack will include a paper questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope to post it back. You can complete on-line if you prefer.

Each household unit or caravan will get a questionnaire. A household space doesn't have to be self-contained - one "household" can live across more than one caravan. Family groups living in more than one caravan still only receive one household questionnaire. If you need to fit more than five people on a paper form, you can order continuation questionnaires. We'll contact someone at your site in advance so they can tell us how many questionnaires your site will need.

Our field staff will be there to help anyone who needs it.

After Census Day, where it is safe to do so given COVID-19 restrictions, field officers will start to visit homes to give help and encouragement. They can answer any questions and

offer advice. If you'd prefer us not to visit you, the best thing to do is to complete your census form as soon as possible.

If you live at an unregistered site or move around

If you live on an unregistered site or move around in a caravan or a boat, we'll count you over a three-day period from Saturday 20 March to Monday 22 March. This helps to lower the risk of missing anyone or counting them twice.

Your local authority or community organisations will help guide census staff to your temporary location where they'll deliver paper questionnaires by hand. These will come with a pre-paid envelope so they can easily be posted back.

If you have internet access and want to fill in your questionnaire online, there is an access code printed on the paper questionnaire. If you don't see a census officer you can get a code sent to your mobile phone by calling our contact centre. It's OK if you fill in the questionnaire outside of the 3-day window.

Each household unit, boat or caravan will get a questionnaire. A household space doesn't have to be self-contained - one "household" can live across more than one caravan. Family groups living in more than one caravan or boat still only receive one household questionnaire. If you need to fit more than five people on your paper form, you can order continuation questionnaires.

People without a fixed address won't get reminder letters or visits from census field staff after Monday 22 March but they can still complete after then or call our free phone helpline for assistance or additional materials.