

census
2021

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Brentwood and Ongar
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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 census is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in England and Wales. The ONS is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics.

The information you and your constituents give helps to inform decisions on how to plan and fund services in your local area. This includes services such as transport, education and healthcare. It will also provide vital information for future decisions made by Parliament.

Census 2021 will ask questions about you and your household to build a picture of all of us. It looks at who we are, what we do and how we live. The census is important because it gives the most detailed information we have about our society.



From the 2011 Census, we found that Brentwood and Ongar had:

- **38628** households
- **1621** families with three or more dependent children
- **232** ethnic groups in the area

We also found that within this population:

- **19.72%** of usual residents (aged 16 years and over) are retired
- **49.67%** of people drive to work
- **94.45%** of people have English as their main language



What will Census 2021 tell us?

The only way to understand the needs of people in England and Wales fully is if everyone takes part in the census. The ONS needs every community across England and Wales to engage with the census.

Census 2021 is the first digital-first census.

Households will get a letter in the post with an access code, which they can use to log into the website.

They will be able to complete the online census questionnaire on smartphones and tablets, as well as laptops and desktop computers. Support, including paper questionnaires, will be available to those who need it.

It's important that the census sheds light on long-term trends while also reflecting the changing society in which we live today. Census 2021 will ask people aged 16 years and over questions on three new topics. These are:

- previous service in the UK Armed Forces
- gender identity
- sexual orientation

The sexual orientation and gender identity questions are also voluntary, like the religion question. As with all questions about identity, people can answer in the way that best represents them by using the response options, including write-in options, provided. For the ethnic group, religion and national identity questions, this ability is further enhanced online by search-as-you-type functionality.

How you can help

This pack includes a census Q and A to help constituents who may contact you about the census. You can support the census by using the suggested social media posts in this guide and becoming an ambassador for Census 2021 in your constituency. You could also use local media, such as blogs and newspaper columns, to promote the census to your constituents and share why it's important to take part.

Please contact the [ONS Parliamentary Unit](#) if you have any questions about how you can help or visit www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk for more information.

Answering FAQs

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 census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in.

All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without Census 2021, it would be much more difficult to do this.



When is the census happening?

Census Day is Sunday 21 March. Households will receive a letter in the post in early March, which will explain how to take part. The letter will contain a household access code, which you should use to complete the census online. You can also request a paper version if you prefer.

Why should I take part in the census?

The census tells us what our needs are now and what they're likely to be in the future. Knowing what your community's needs are helps plan and fund public services in your area and across England and Wales. This means the information you give in the census informs things that affect all of us, like transport, education and healthcare.

Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It also helps businesses to understand us as customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops.

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





Who runs the census?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales. The ONS is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics. The ONS reports directly to the UK Parliament, but does not work for any political parties. It is part of the UK Statistics Authority that works to promote and safeguard the production and publication of statistics that serve the public good.

The ONS works with National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). These agencies run the censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Together they make sure the three censuses create a clear picture of the UK.

The census in Northern Ireland will be held on the same day as in England and Wales. Scotland's census will be held a year later in 2022.

How long will it take to complete the census?

The census should take around 10 minutes per person to complete. You will be able to complete the online census questionnaire on smartphones and tablets, as well as laptops and desktop computers. Support, including paper questionnaires, will be available to those who need it.

What if I do not speak English or Welsh?

You can visit www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk where translation booklets are available to download. You can also order translation booklets through the contact centre, which you can call free on **0800 141 2021** (England) or **0800 169 2021** (Wales). If your language is not included, please phone the language helpline free on **0800 587 2021**.

Support can also be found online by:

- visiting www.census.gov.uk/languages where you can access translated information about the census in 49 languages
- visiting www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk/ieithoedd if you'd prefer the site in Welsh to access translated information about the census in 49 languages
- visiting www.census.gov.uk/downloadable-resources where there is a large range of translated written information available
- visiting www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk/adnoddau-sydd-ar-gael-iw-lawrlwytho if you'd prefer the site in Welsh to access a large range of translated written information

How can I get help to complete my census questionnaire?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is aiming to make it easy for everyone to take part in Census 2021. But if you need help, you can visit www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk where there will be an online help area. There will also be a dedicated contact centre offering help through phone, webchat, email, social media or text message. You can call the contact centre free on **0800 141 2021** (England) or **0800 169 2021** (Wales). Support, including paper questionnaires, will be available to those who need it.

If you cannot get online or need help completing the census online, you can also visit one of the Census Support Centres, if it's safe and within government guidelines about coronavirus (COVID-19) for the ONS to open them.

The ONS will also be offering guidance in a range of languages and accessible formats. This includes translation booklets in multiple languages and a translation service through the free language helpline, which you can call on **0800 587 2021**. It also includes accessible formats such as large print, braille and British Sign Language (BSL) videos. The online census questionnaire is also compatible with most assistive technologies.

What happens if I do not complete my census questionnaire?

If you live in England and Wales, you must fill in the census form by law or you could be fined up to £1,000.

How will my information be kept safe?

The census asks questions about you, your home and the people who live in it. The census has a proud 200-year history of keeping this personal information safe.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has a strict security regime that follows government standards. This includes physical and IT security measures to protect your data, covering people, processes and technology.

What's more, no one can tell who you are in the statistics that the ONS publishes. The ONS makes sure that they include none of your personal information.

All ONS systems, staff, suppliers and processes must protect your confidentiality by law.

If you cannot find the answer to your constituent's question here, please email our [Parliamentary Unit](#). We will help you to provide a response.
parliamentary.unit@ons.gov.uk

Social media content

Downloadable resources, such as logos and images, are available on the [census website](#). If you prefer, you can also access these resources on the [Welsh site](#).

You can also help by following us [@Census2021](#) and [@Cyfrifiad2021](#) on Twitter. There you can learn more about the census, including our primary and secondary school programmes. You can also share information about Census 2021 on your own social media channels.

The images on the following pages can be downloaded by visiting <https://census.gov.uk/assets/Social-media-posts-Facebook-Instagram-English.zip>

What the census is

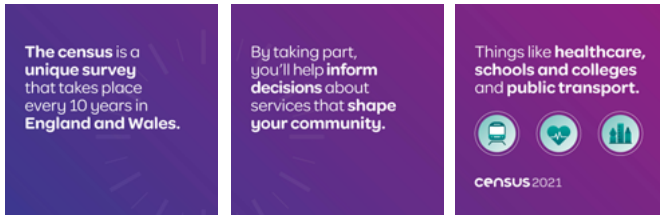
Facebook/Instagram:

The census is coming on Sunday 21 March.

By filling in your census, you will help shape your community for the next 10 years.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk

[option to tag @Census2021 or @Cyfrifiad2021]



102_Introducing the Census_What the census is_IGFB

102_Introducing the Census_What the census is2_IGFB

102_Introducing the Census_What the census is3_IGFB

Twitter:

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Find out more @Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021 or www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk



202_Introducing the Census_What the census is_TW

When the census is coming

Facebook/Instagram:

The census is for everyone.

It's a unique survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a snapshot of all the people in England and Wales.

It tells us what your needs are – helping inform decisions about services, like healthcare.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk

[option to tag @Census2021 or @Cyfrifiad2021]



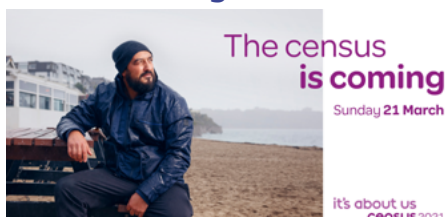
103_Introducing the Census_It's coming_IGFB

Twitter:

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It tells us what your needs are – helping inform decisions about services, like healthcare.

Find out more @Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021 or www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk



203_Introducing the Census_It's coming_TW

Data security

Facebook/Instagram:

Your census information is protected by law.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk or
www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk

[option to tag @Census2021 or @Cyfrifiad2021]

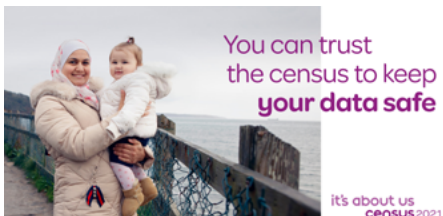


105_Introducing the Census_DataSafe_IGFB

Twitter:

Your census information is protected by law.

Find out more @Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021
or www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk



205_Introducing the Census_DataSafe_TW

Help and support

Facebook/Instagram:

Nearer the time, you will receive a letter with an access code to take part online.

There's plenty of help available for those who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk

[option to tag @Census2021 or @Cyfrifiad2021]



106_Introducing the Census_Help_IGFB

Twitter:

Nearer the time, you will receive a letter with an access code to take part online.

@Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021 will provide plenty of help to those who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk or www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk



206_Introducing the Census_Help_TW

Longer form content

The following content is to assist with articles either on your website or in local media.

Story for early March

Have you got your census letter?

Households across [your constituency] are being asked to take part in Census 2021.

Census Day is on Sunday 21 March, but households will now be receiving letters with access codes that explain how they can complete their forms online. If you do not get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the Census 2021 contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

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. It's been happening for over 200 years.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk or call the contact centre on **0800 141 2021** (England) and **0800 169 2021** (Wales).

Use from 15 March onwards – Census is here

Short version: Census Day is here

Census 2021 is in full swing in [your constituency].

Letters with an access code, so that people can complete the census online, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To complete your census, and find out how you can get help, visit www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk or call **0800 141 2021** (England) and **0800 169 2021** (Wales).

Longer version: Census Day is here

With Sunday 21 March around the corner, Census 2021 is in full swing in [your constituency].

Letters with an access code, so that people can complete the census online, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

“A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales,” Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician at the Office for National Statistics (ONS, said.

“It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future. We’ve had a fantastic response so far, with so many of you completing the questionnaire on your laptops, phones and computers.”

“It takes around 10 minutes per person to complete the census and, if you cannot get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history.”

This census is the most inclusive yet. People can answer in the way that best represents them using the options, including write-in options, provided. For the ethnic group, religion and national identity questions, this ability is further enhanced online by search-as-you-type functionality.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size, identity and employment. Census 2021 will also ask people aged 16 years and over questions on three new topics. These are about previous service in the UK Armed Forces, gender identity and sexual orientation. The sexual orientation and gender identity questions are also voluntary.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To complete your census, or to find out how to get help, visit www.census.gov.uk and www.cyfrifiad.gov.uk or call **0800 141 2021** (England) and **0800 169 2021** (Wales).