

# Beyond 2011: user requirements for population and socio-demographic information

## Response from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

### Introduction

The Beyond 2011 programme is an ongoing programme within National Records of Scotland (NRS) to research suitable methods for producing population and socio-demographic information. The success of the Programme will depend on NRS having a clear understanding of user requirements and priorities and it is these requirements that this questionnaire is intended to capture.

This consultation aims to build upon previous consultations conducted by NRS as well as stakeholder engagement sessions. We would be grateful for your continued co-operation and ask you to help us by completing this questionnaire.

**Q.1** What area of interest do you represent?

**Please tick one**

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Central government department     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Charity / voluntary organisation  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Genealogy / family historians     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Funding body                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Government agency                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Higher / further education        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Individual / member of the public | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| International organisation        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Local government                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Private / commercial organisation | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):  |                                     |

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. The Council advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, by providing information and assistance to educational, health, and welfare organisations, representing the Jewish community in Scotland to Government and other statutory and official bodies, and liaising with Ministers, MSPs, Churches, Trades Unions, and others on matters affecting the Jewish community. The Council also provides a support network for the smaller communities and individuals and families who live outwith any Jewish community, and assists organisations within the Scottish Jewish community to comply with various regulatory requirements. SCoJeC also promotes dialogue and understanding between the Jewish community and other communities in Scotland, and works in partnership with other organisations and stakeholders to promote equality, good relations, and understanding among community groups. SCoJeC is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438.

**Q.2** What are your or your organisation's main uses of population and socio-demographic data?

**Please tick all that apply**

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Academic/social research            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Canvassing                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Genealogical or historical research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Funding bids                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Marketing research                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Policy development                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Policy monitoring and evaluation    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Resource allocation                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Service planning                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify): .....       |                                     |

**Q.3** What data/information sources do you or your organisation currently use?

**Please tick all that apply**

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Census                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Government Surveys            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Authority data          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health Board data             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Education data                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Own surveys                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify): ..... |                                     |

### **Section B: User requirements for data**

The questions in this section ask you to think about your current population and socio-demographic statistical/information requirements under the following broad themes:

#### **Population**

Age  
Sex  
Marital Status

#### **Household and family structure**

Number of Households  
Household structure  
Relationship of individuals  
Marital/civil partnership status

#### **Housing**

Tenure of accommodation (and type of landlord)  
Type of accommodation  
Number of rooms or bedrooms  
Accommodation self-contained or not  
Second residence

#### **Education**

Academic and vocational qualifications

**Labour market and socio-economic**

Economic activity  
National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)  
Occupation  
Income  
Industry  
Hours worked

**Transport**

Car ownership/access  
Transport to place of work  
Transport to place of study

**Ethnicity, national identity, religion, language and sexual orientation**

Ethnicity and national identity  
Religion or belief  
Language  
Sexual orientation

**Health and Community care**

Health status  
Long-term illness  
Disability  
Nature of illness or disability  
Carer responsibilities

**Migration**

Intention to stay in the UK  
Country of birth  
Internal migration  
Citizenship (type of passport)  
Country of previous residence  
Address a year ago

**Q.4** What information requirements have **emerged** or **increased** in importance to you or your organisation over the last five years? If possible please also give the reasons for the change in priority and the specific area that the change relates to.

Theme	Tick all that apply	Reasons
Population	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Jewish community in Scotland is increasingly an aging community, and knowledge about the age distribution, gender, and marital status all assist in planning for appropriate service provision. We are also increasingly aware of the geographical diversity of the community as a result of our various "outreach projects". Despite the shortcomings of the census data outlined below, nonetheless the published regional and local data are a guide to the <u>relative</u> size of the Jewish population in each area.
Household and family structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data about the relative numbers of entirely and partially Jewish households provide us with a better picture of the demographic of the Jewish community, and also to plan more effectively for appropriate service provision.

Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data about housing provide us with information that assists the Jewish community in effective welfare planning, particularly in relation to housing provision for older people, and, in the light of recent welfare reforms, for single people.
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Labour market and socio-economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Religion and ethnicity have always been the most important census data for us, and this continues to be the case, in order to assist the Jewish community to plan appropriate service provision. Unfortunately because of the deficiencies in the census questions, the community is obliged to reinterpret the published data using evidence from elsewhere, and even to conduct its own surveys.</p> <p>By asking “what religion or faith you do belong to?”, rather than, as in England and Wales “what religion or faith are you?”, the “current religion” question discouraged some Jewish people from identifying as such. Many people throughout Scotland, especially in rural areas, but also some parts of the major cities, do not have a local organised Jewish community or local synagogue to join, and consequently do not think of themselves as “belonging” to the community, despite the fact that they may identify very strongly as Jewish. In our experience, such people may make use of a variety of remote facilities, especially using the internet. Asking “what religion or faith are you?”, as in E&amp;W, rather than “what do you belong to” would, therefore, have resulted in a more accurate, and therefore more useful data.</p> <p>We are also concerned at the loss of the “religion of upbringing” question in the 2011 census, as this to some extent compensated for the wording of the current religion question. This is apparent from the cross-tabs which show 6448 people responding that they are currently Jewish, but almost exactly 1000 more who said that they were brought up as Jewish. Evidence from our recent SG-funded <a href="#">Being Jewish in Scotland</a> project shows that many of those who were brought up as Jewish but now</p>

		<p>say they “belong” to no religion, nonetheless will make use of communal facilities at some point in their lives.</p> <p>For similar reasons we regret the lack of a “Jewish” tickbox in the ethnicity question. Even though it is possible to use the “write-in” option, this has inevitably resulted in a reduced count of those who identify very strongly as ethnically Jewish even though they may not regard themselves as in any sense religious. By comparison, the 2001 Canadian census, which permitted “Jewish” as a response in both the religion and ethnicity questions, found that 27.63% more people described themselves as Jewish by either religion or ethnicity than by religion alone, correlating quite strongly with the data from the cross-tab of the two Scottish questions referred to above. We know that a significant number of people in the Scottish Jewish community identify as ethnically but not religiously Jewish, and, in default of accurate census data, the community is obliged to extrapolate from such other data when, for example, planning service provision.</p> <p>In addition, and even in the major urban communities, many people who were brought up as Jewish but do not belong to a formal community, or who no longer subscribe to Judaism as a religion, nevertheless prefer to use communal welfare and social facilities where available. Since the census data are not sufficiently accurate, some communal organisations have had to undertake their own demographic surveys to ensure adequate planning for future demand on welfare services, and other communal resources.</p>
Health and Community care	☒	<p>Jewish Care Scotland, the largest welfare organisation in the Jewish community, has recently received many more, and a wider range of calls on its services, than previously, and data about health and community care helps this and other communal organisations to ensure adequate planning for future demand.</p>

Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In the course of SCoJeC's <i>Being Jewish in Scotland</i> project, in 2011-12, a number of Israelis reported to us that, although they all felt at home in Scotland, they often encounter hostility as a result of local people's attitudes to Israel. Many of them also told us that they long for opportunities to come together to share experiences, and gain mutual support. Data about migration from Israel enables us to plan more effective support and service provision for this group.
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Q.5** What information requirements have **declined** in importance to you or your organisation over the last five years? If possible please also give the reasons for the change in priority and the specific area that the change relates to.

None

Theme	Tick all that apply	Reasons
Population	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Household and family structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Labour market and socio-economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and Community care	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Q.6** What would be the impact (including **financial** and **legal**) on you or your organisation if NRS data was not available to support your information requirements under the following themes?

Theme	Tick all that apply	Reasons
Population	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>In the absence of NRS data, the Scottish Jewish community would have to rely on other, much less comprehensive, sources of data, and also to carry out its own surveys. This would inevitably mean diverting money from service provision to data gathering, and, despite shortcomings in existing census data, the resulting data would be far less complete than are currently available. The only means by which the Jewish community can gather information itself is through synagogue membership figures or by extrapolation from level of demand for other communal services such as burial. It is self-evident that this will not include people who are less religiously committed or who do not have a synagogue nearby, perhaps because they live in a rural area, so that figures collected in this way could provide information necessary for effective planning of service provision.</p> <p>This would, therefore, result in far less effective service provision than at present, particularly outwith the larger Jewish communities. The resulting loss of services would have a catastrophic impact, particularly on Jewish people living outwith the central belt.</p>
Household and family structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See above and Q4, especially as regards sheltered housing etc.
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Labour market and socio-economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See above.
Health and Community care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See above and Q4, especially as regards welfare provision etc.
Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See above.
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Q.7** What new work, policies or emerging priorities/interests are likely to affect your information requirements over the next five years?

SCoJeC is currently following up the issues raised by participants in our [Being Jewish in Scotland](#) project with the NHS, local authorities, education authorities, employers, faith groups, and others. These include the availability of kosher food in hospitals and schools, education to improve understanding of Judaism, and more effective policies in schools, universities, and workplaces for dealing with name calling and racist incidents. In the absence of reliable independent data to demonstrate the presence of Jewish people in areas outwith the formally constituted Jewish communities in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen, these organisations are likely to be much less receptive, particularly in the current financial climate. This is already a concern about the effect of localism on minority communities in general (see Q16), and would be exacerbated by were NRS data not available.

SCoJeC makes use of census data in planning for and allocating funding to important outreach activities that are very much appreciated by those living outwith the settled communities, such as our recent [Klezmatize](#) tour, events for [Israelis living in Scotland](#), and our [Jewish Inter-Links](#) project to support isolated elderly people.

**Q.8** Are there any **alternative data/information sources**, which you think we should investigate for producing population and socio-demographic information? These could be **national, regional** or **local** information data sources.

Population	
Household and family structure	
Housing	

Education	
Labour market and socio-economic	
Transport	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	The evidence we have obtained from our <i>Being Jewish in Scotland</i> project suggests that the nature and level of antisemitic and anti-zionist activity in Scotland makes many people feel unsafe, threatened, and alienated, to the extent that some told us they felt compelled to hide their Jewish identity. The kind of stories they tell suggests that those who are increasingly reluctant to identify themselves as Jewish would be less likely to do so the more local and less anonymous the enquiry, so that data would not only not be substituted but would in fact be further depressed.
Health and Community care	
Migration	See above – this is even more true of Israelis living in Scotland.
Other	

### **Section C: Key statistical requirements**

In looking at possible methods of producing population and socio-demographic information/statistics there are many factors that need to be considered.

Each option that we consider will have its own set of advantages and possible disadvantages to current users of our statistics. These will vary by topic and some possible changes may have a larger impact on the work of particular user groups than others.

The aim of this section of the consultation is to determine the importance of accuracy, frequency, geographic detail of and level of aggregation for each of the main topic areas described earlier.

The current format of the census is such that it:

- produces statistics at high levels of accuracy
- produces statistics at very small geographical areas (including output areas, which contain an average of 100 people)
- outputs are every 10 years
- forms/provides the base data for many secondary statistics

Some methods for producing population and socio-demographic information may offer more frequent results but may result in a reduction in other aspects such as accuracy or geographic detail.

Improvements in one aspect, such as frequency, need to be balanced by any possible reduction in the other key aspects outlined above.

In the following questions we would like you to think about your data requirements, and the level of detail required by you/your organisation to carry out your work or interest area effectively.

Any views expressed here are not binding but the results of this consultation will allow us to evaluate the possible options for producing population and socio-demographic information and to assess the cost/benefits of each one.

**Q.9** Please indicate the **minimum frequency** you or your organisation require population and socio-demographic statistics to be made available and indicate the reasons why this level of frequency is needed, including any financial and legal implications if this was not possible:

- More frequently than once a year
- Yearly
- Every two years
- Every five years
- Every ten years
- Less frequently than every ten years

An example response for someone working in housing might be that they need to know the number of dwellings in an area every five years to allow them to model how housing is changing over time.

Theme	Frequency level required	Reasons
Population	10 years  2–5 years	The demographic of the Jewish community in Scotland is not changing so rapidly as to make more frequent updates a necessity. Provided that intelligible questions are asked, and accurate data obtained, ten yearly updates are sufficient to enable the Jewish community to extrapolate trends, and plan for appropriate service provision.  The one exception would be birth statistics, for which 2 or 5 year intervals would assist with planning, especially for general and <i>bar</i> and <i>bat mitzvah</i> (coming of age) education.
Household and family structure	10 years	See above.
Housing	n/a	
Education	n/a	

Labour market and socio-economic	n/a	
Transport	n/a	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	10 years	See above.
Health and Community care	n/a	
Migration	10 years	See above.
Other		

**Q.10** Please indicate the **minimum geography** you or your organisation require population and socio-demographic statistics to be made available and indicate the reasons why this level of geography is needed, including any financial and legal implications if this was not possible:

- Output area (contains an average of 100 people)
- Data zone level (contains an average of 800 people)
- Postcode level
- Local Authority level
- Health Board level
- Community Health Partnerships
- Electoral ward
- Intermediate geographies (contains 2,500 - 6,000 people)
- Scotland level
- Other (please specify)

An example response for someone working on migration might be that they only need to know the level of migration at a local authority level. This would help them to determine how the population of an area changes over time and to allocate resources accordingly. They may have no requirement to know the level of migration for smaller areas as this is highly variable and could lead to higher inaccuracies.

Theme	Geographic level required	Reasons
Population	Local Authority Postcode	Local Authority data would be sufficient to enable us to plan for effective provision of most services. However, some, such as the location of synagogues, require to be within reasonable walking distance.

Household and family structure	n/a	
Housing	n/a	
Education	n/a	
Labour market and socio-economic	n/a	
Transport	n/a	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	Post code	Whilst appreciating the importance of ensuring that individual people are not identifiable, detailed data about the distribution of Jewish people is not only required to enable the community itself to plan for appropriate service provision, but, especially in view of the localisation agenda, also to demonstrate to local service providers that there is a need for culturally-appropriate and faith specific services.
Health and Community care	n/a	
Migration	Local Authority	This level of data is sufficient to enable us to plan for effective service provision.
Other		

**Q.11** Please indicate what **disaggregation** of characteristics you or your organisation require population and socio-demographic statistics to be made available and indicate the reasons why this level of disaggregation is needed, including any financial and legal implications if this was not possible.

An example for someone working with population data is that they only require population by specific age bands, e.g. 0 – 5yrs, 6 – 10 yrs etc and do not require data by individual year.

Theme	Disaggregation required	Reasons
Population		
Household and family structure		
Housing		
Education		

Labour market and socio-economic		
Transport		
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation		<b>ALL</b> ethnicity data require to be disaggregated from the current unintelligible categories that confuse and conflate race, ethnicity, culture, and geographic origin. See also Q14.
Health and Community care		
Migration		
Other		

**Q.12** Please indicate the **minimum level of accuracy** you or your organisation require population and socio-demographic statistics to be made available and indicate the reasons why this level of accuracy is needed, including any financial and legal implications if this was not possible:

- Very high (e.g. 95 % or higher)
- High (e.g. 90% or higher)
- Medium - High (e.g. 80% or higher)
- Medium (less than 80%)

An example response might be that for someone working in housing that they do not need the data to be very accurate at the lower geographies but at local authority level they would need to have a high level of accuracy in the results as this is the level at which funding allocations are calculated.

Another example could be that for someone working in education they need very accurate education statistics every three years to report on the impact of a specific policy/intervention but it would be beneficial if they could have lower accuracy data annually to monitor the impact of the policy/intervention.

The bandings above give an indication of what we mean by the different levels of accuracy.

Theme	Accuracy level required	Reasons
Population	Medium	Because of the inadequacies of the present census data (see Q4 in particular), we already have to cope with this level of data to plan for effective service provision.

Household and family structure	n/a	
Housing	n/a	
Education	n/a	
Labour market and socio-economic	n/a	
Transport	n/a	
Ethnicity, identity, religion, language and sexual orientation	Very High	<p>Whilst appreciating the importance of ensuring that individual people are not identifiable, we are concerned that the deliberate misreporting of data for reasons of confidentiality – principally the random reallocation of small numbers of individuals to different geographical areas – gives misleading information about the distribution of small minority communities such as the Jewish community.</p> <p>Although the smaller the group the more disclosive the data, the more significant the falsehood; i.e. it matters more if the published data switch a Jew from Lewis with a Sikh from Orkney, than if they switch a Catholic from Wishaw with a Protestant from Leith! Taken together with the Scottish Government "localisation" agenda this means that our very limited resources could be targeted at communities that do not exist - which vitiates the main public purpose of NRS data!</p> <p>We suggest that confidentiality could be reconciled with accuracy, for example by releasing accurate figures below 200 for broader areas of aggregation, consistent with administrative boundaries for population groups of 30,000 people or more, designated by grouping wards.</p>
Health and Community care	n/a	
Migration	Medium	This level of data is sufficient to enable us to plan for effective service provision.
Other		

**Q.13** What is your or your organisation's opinion on the use of a flexible question set, which would possibly allow more targeted socio-demographic questions in specific areas?

For example, a different set of questions could be asked of respondents in urban areas compared to those in rural areas.

Views are also welcome on the possible limitations of this approach.

A flexible question set would not be of particular benefit to the Jewish community – in fact, quite the contrary. In many parts of the country, principally rural, the total minority population is a fraction of one per cent, and diverse, distinct, individual minorities barely detectable. The omission of questions about religion and ethnicity could have a devastating effect, since the smaller and more isolated these groups are, the more vulnerable they are. As noted above (Q7), catering to culturally and faith specific needs for these very small communities is already often not a spending priority at local level, and anything that served to increase the invisibility of these groups, could only result in increasing levels of isolation and vulnerability.

## **Section D: Final comments**

**Q.14** If you have any further comments regarding your or your organisations population and socio-demographic statistical/information requirements, please provide details below.

### **Religion**

As noted above, we are concerned that the wording of the religion question in both 2001 and 2011 has discouraged people who identify very strongly as Jewish from ticking the relevant box, since the notion of “belonging” to a community implies, for example, paying membership fees, e.g. to a synagogue. Since there are only synagogues in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, people living outwith these areas may not feel able to say they “belong” to the Jewish community although they may be in no doubt that they “are” Jewish.

In order to assist with the interpretation of the 2011 census figures when published, we recently invited readers of our quarterly newsletter *Four Corners* to tell us whether they ticked “Jewish”; exactly one third of respondents who recall how they answered the question told us that they did not do so.

We therefore urge that in future the religion question should be changed to use the same wording as in England and Wales, namely “What is your religion?”. As formal research by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research has demonstrated, this will still not produce an accurate count, but it would certainly be better than the present data, and in addition would be comparable with the rest of the UK.

*(The Jews of Leeds in 2001: portrait of a community)*

The vast majority (82 per cent) of the survey sample reported that they had stated in the Census that they were Jews by religion. The remaining **18 per cent of the sample comprised respondents who did not report their religion as ‘Jewish’** (i.e. they stated that they had no religion or entered another religion), who refused to answer the voluntary religion question or did not complete a Census form, who could not remember or who failed to answer the question posed by the survey.

### **Ethnicity**

Partly as a result of the 2001 classifications, “Black” and “White” have come to be used as if they were synonymous with “minority” and “majority” communities. This has had the effect that some minority communities are excluded both from the majority and from the officially recognised minority, and is particularly important at a time when the largest communities of new immigrants are from Eastern Europe.

When 'black' is used as if it were synonymous with 'minority community' non-black communities such as the Polish, Jewish, and Gypsy Traveller communities are excluded because they are not in any sense black. When 'white' is used as if it were synonymous with 'the majority community' these same communities are excluded once again because they are not part of the majority community. This double exclusion is particularly divisive and alienating.

The Scottish Government has now rejected this nomenclature, stating "The term Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BME) should not be used, as it is a very general term, offensive to some people and inaccurate (because some categories under the White section are also small in number." (most recently, in [Collecting Equality Information Guidance on Asking Questions on: Ethnic Group](#), May 2012) We strongly endorse this long-standing guidance from Government, and find it difficult to understand why NRS does not implement it in the one single universal survey of the population; the effect can only be to alienate a significant body of respondents and so to reduce the reliability of their responses.

There is no single factor identifiable as 'ethnicity'. Instead there are a variety of factors that contribute to an individual's sense of 'identity', including the respondent's nationality, descent, race, religion, culture, and language, among others, and all of these must be taken into consideration if NRS data are to provide useful information in this complex and often sensitive area. We therefore urge that the ethnicity question should allow people to self-define their identity, either by a simple write-in answer, or else by an instruction to "*tick as many boxes as relevant*". This would enable two different figures to be derived: one for the number of people identifying to some degree with a particular group (which would obviously exceed 100%); and the other a "one number" count by counting each person's contribution to each category as a fraction. These figures are clearly different, but both are significant.

**Q.15** If you have any other general comments about this consultation, or the Beyond 2011 Programme more widely, please provide details below.

We do not wish to make any additional comments.