

**Subject:** Request for a copy of the Scotlands Census 2021 Definitions paper.

**FOI reference:** 202000019137

**Date received:** 2 March 2020

**Date responded:** 23 March 2020

**Information requested:**

A copy of the definitions paper and the definitions of terms used in discussions, committees and working groups, as of today.

**NRS Response:**

The definitions paper requested is already available from the 'What Do They Know' website as the paper has previously been released under FOISA under the case reference number FOI/18/03424.

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/533496/response/1307428/attach/4/NRS%20FOI%20Request%20FOI%2018%2003424%20Scotland%20s%20Census%202021%20Definitions%20re....pdf?cookie\\_passthrough=1](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/533496/response/1307428/attach/4/NRS%20FOI%20Request%20FOI%2018%2003424%20Scotland%20s%20Census%202021%20Definitions%20re....pdf?cookie_passthrough=1)

We are also sending a copy with this response.

This paper is the most current version of the definitions being used for Scotland's Census 2021. The Scottish Parliament is currently considering subordinate legislation for Scotland's Census 2021 and it is planned for the legislation to be in force by summer 2020. Following that, the definitions for Census will be considered again and updated as appropriate.

For now the definitions in this document remain the current ones in use. The purpose of the definitions, and the definitions working group is to provide clear and concise definitions, and to ensure consistent understanding and use of definitions across Scotland's Census 2021 Programme, for internal use.

Please note that the definitions used by the Programme may not be the same as those used on the Scotland's Census website. This is because this is the outputs website, and it still very much focusses on 2011 outputs. The definitions on the website are not being updated, because these are the definitions that apply to the 2011 outputs, and this is the main purpose of the website. Changing these could lead to people conflating 2021 terms with 2011 outputs, and potentially misunderstanding the outputs.