

Subject: Request for information on Scotland Census 2021 definitions.

FOI reference: 202000032466

Date received: 25 April & 2 May 2020

Date responded: 27 May 2020

Information requested:

Request for information on Scotland Census 2021 definitions.

There were some questions asked following on from our responses of 28 February and 23 March 2020 and in addition

“and provide a complete set of definitions for ALL terms to which you have, or intend to refer, re. Sex, sexuality, and Genderism, and the census within the short term - definitions that have a rational basis and internal logic. All that have been used and are intended for use.”

NRS Response:

As explained in our previous responses the definitions paper is the most current version of the definitions being used for Scotland’s Census 2021. 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.

Also, as we previously noted, 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. If there are any specific terms you are interested in on our website or in the definitions document, we would be happy to try to answer any questions you have about them.

Please find below our responses to the additional questions.:

“*Why are all names redacted?*”

The names are redacted because they are the personal data of third parties. An exemption under section(38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA applies to the personal data of third parties because disclosing this information would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

"Please clarify the experience and qualifications supporting and substantiating Equality Network input."

NRS does not have the information requested. However, the Equality Network can be contacted directly and may be able to help with this query.

The contact details for the Equality Network are:

Contact page on website: <https://www.equality-network.org/about/contact/>

Email: en@equality-network.org

Address: Equality Network, 30 Bernard Street, Edinburgh EH6 6PR

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that NRS does not have the information requested.

"... what are the sources, validation and ratification processes related to the NRS acceptance of SOGI/SOGIESC."

After our topic consultation, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) were the two topics that NRS committed to look at and SOGI is simply the abbreviation NRS used for this topic area.

"Please provide the empirical evidence from creditable sources in support of gender identity's existence, and importantly, of gender superceding sex as a fundamental physical distinction in medicine, social and sexual interactions, and its usefulness, relevance and verifiability in statistics, to support the NRS definitions."

National Records of Scotland is not proposing to ask a question on gender identity in the 2021 census. We will ask a binary question on sex.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that NRS does not have the information requested.