

Subject: Request for information relating to the data users for the question of sex in Scotland's Census 2021

FOI reference: FOI/19/02128

Date received: 13 September 2019

Date responded: 4 October 2019

Information requested:

A list of the different needs relating to the data users for the question of sex in Scotland's Census 2021

NRS Response:

There are a number of data users for this question and a list of the key data users who responded to our Topic Consultation is included in the Annex to this response.

We invited views on Scotland's Census 2021 between 8 October 2015 and 15 January 2016, the report of which can be found [here](#).

https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/census2021/Sex_and_Gender_Identity_Topic_Report.pdf

The consultation was a key step towards understanding what information users will need from the census in 2021, and helped build strong cases to justify the inclusion of topics. The focus of the consultation was on information required at topic level, not the detail of the questions that should be asked on the questionnaire.

Following the consultation, we worked closely with stakeholders through follow-up events, meetings, focus groups and online surveys to gather more detailed information about data requirements to ensure user needs were understood. There were 47 responses received through the topic consultation on the subject of basis demographics, which includes sex. A summary of these responses can be found in the [Topic Consultation Report](#).

https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/census2021/Scotlands_Census_2021_Topic_Consultation_Report_August_2016.pdf

While we know that there is a well-established user need for the key demographic variable sex, it is not possible for NRS to know all of the ways in which this data is used by the various organisations. We do know that, along with age, the sex variable is a vital input to population estimates and household projections which are used by central and local government to inform resource allocation, target investment, and carry out service planning and delivery. Sex is a protected characteristic as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the data is widely used to inform equality impact assessments and to ensure public authorities meet their Public Sector Equality Duty.

The data is also essential for analysis and research conducted by a wide range of users, including public bodies and third and private sector organisations.

NRS will continue to engage with a wide range of data users and stakeholders to identify user need.

ANNEX

DATA USERS

Scottish Government
Local Government
Sport Scotland
Carers Scotland
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Demographics User Group
NHS National Services Scotland
UK Data Service
Health Analytical Services, Scottish Government
Health Boards
Transport Scotland
Carers Trust Scotland
Glasgow Centre for Population Health
Tayside Population Health Intelligence Network
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
National Aids Trust
Wheatley Group
Scottish Government Equality Unit
HIV Scotland
Scottish Council on Deafness (now Deaf Scotland)
Market Research Society
LGBT Youth Scotland
Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory
National Park Authorities
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Church of Scotland
Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Universities and other academic institutions (such as the Scottish Longitudinal Survey)
David Simmonds Consultancy Ltd
Scottish Ambulance Service
Transport Scotland