

**Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee
(Scotland)**

Planning for a census in 2021

The recommendation

1. On 27 March 2014 the National Records of Scotland announced that it intends to focus on planning for a census in 2021.

Moving forwards

2. National Records of Scotland (NRS) will focus on planning for a census in 2021 which will be primarily online, while offering alternative modes of completion where necessary. It also aims to make best use of technology and administrative data in its design, building on the online approach used successfully in the 2011 Census.
3. This work will be taken forwards by the Statistic Futures area, led by Amy Wilson.
4. This follows on from the aims of the Beyond 2011 programme, which closed following the recommendation. For more information visit the Background to Census 2021 section of the NRS website.
5. The decision to focus plans on a census in 2021 in Scotland was based on a variety of evidence, including results from research, stakeholder engagement, a user consultation and international experience. A final decision will be taken in 2016 on the basis of the business case.
6. A programme of consultation and engagement will continue by National Records of Scotland to understand user requirements and shape the design of the 2021 Census.
7. Further research will be carried out to enable greater use of administrative data and surveys in the future.

UK administrations

8. On the 27th March 2014 the Office of National Statistics independently recommended to hold a census in 2021. National Records of Scotland will continue to work with the Office of National Statistics through the design process, where applicable.

More information

9. For background information on all research carried out on the Beyond 2011 Programme visit the Research for the 2021 Census section of the NRS website. This section will also publish new research for the 2021 Census as it is conducted.

NRS: Statistical Futures