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## **Census Q & A**

### **What is the census?**

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The information you give helps decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

It asks questions about you and your household to build a picture of all of us. It looks at who we are and how we live. There's no other survey that gives as much information about our society and future needs.

### **When is it happening?**

Census day is March 21. However, households will receive a letter in the post in early March, giving them details of how to take part in the mandatory survey. They will also receive a unique access code, inviting them to complete the survey online, although paper questionnaires are available on request.

### **Why should I take part?**

The census helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future. The information it collects helps with decisions on the planning and funding of services in your area. This could include schools, doctors' surgeries, emergency services or even local support groups.

Charities also use census information to help get the funding they need. Businesses use it to decide where to set up, which creates job opportunities.

### **How long will it take?**

The census will take around 10 minutes per person to complete. It's easy to do and can be done on any device, including a computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

### **What if I don't speak English or Welsh?**

Translation booklets are available to download. If your language is not represented, please contact the customer contact centre on 0800 141 2021.

### **How can I get help to complete my questionnaire?**

The help pages at [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) explain how you can get help. These include general guidance, language assistance and a wide range of accessible formats including video and audio guides (English and Welsh). You can also phone the contact centre on 0800 141 2021 or visit one of our support centres offering assistance.

### **What happens if I don't complete my questionnaire?**

You could face prosecution, a hefty fine (up to £1000) and a criminal record.

*Please visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) for more information, and any questions you have, about the census.*

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021.

### **Use March 15<sup>th</sup> onwards – Census is here**

#### **Short version: Census day is here**

Census 2021 is in full swing in Herefordshire.

The letters, with your unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

Operating in line with the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

To complete your census, and find out how you can get help, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call 0800 141 2021.

#### **Longer version: Census day is here**

With March 21 literally around the corner, Census 2021 is in full swing in Herefordshire.

The letters, with your unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

"A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future. We've had a fantastic response so far, with so many of you completing the questionnaire on your laptops, phones and computers.

"It takes just 10 minutes per person to take part and if you can't get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history."

Operating in line with the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

This census is the most inclusive yet. Everyone can identify as they wish using search as you type online and write-in options on paper if they need it.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To complete your census, and to find out how you can get help, please visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call 0800 141 2021.

### **Census facts**

At the time of the last census...

- 189,000 people lived in Herefordshire.
- There were an average of 87 People per KM2
- 51% of the population were female and 49% of the population were male.
- 11.3% of the Herefordshire population were providing unpaid care.

### **Social media posts**

- We're getting ready for #Census2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The information you give helps decide how services are planned and funded in our area
- The census happens every 10 years. Each household in our area will be asked to take part. Find out more about what the census means for you at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or follow @census2021
- There's nothing quite like the census. It helps us plan many of the services we provide across Herefordshire. The next census is taking place 21 March 2021
- The next census is taking place on 21 March 2021. Do you know we use the information it collects to help us plan the services we provide? This includes everything from transport to education #Census2021
- The @ONS has launched primary and secondary school programmes to inspire the next generation to get involved in #Census2021. Schools in Herefordshire can now sign up for free resources. Visit [www.census.gov.uk/education](http://www.census.gov.uk/education) to find out more
- Schools in our area can now sign up for primary and secondary school programmes all about #Census2021. Developed by @ONS, these free programmes provide interactive activities for all year groups. Visit [www.census.gov.uk/education](http://www.census.gov.uk/education) to find out more
- The #LetsCount primary school programme, developed by @ONS, provides interactive activities and flexible lesson plans to teach pupils all about #Census2021. Schools in Herefordshire can now sign up. Visit [www.census.gov.uk/education](http://www.census.gov.uk/education) to find out more
- The team at @Census2021 are bringing the census to life for young people. They've launched a secondary school programme to empower students and engage them with #Census2021. Schools in our area can now sign up! Visit [www.census.gov.uk/education](http://www.census.gov.uk/education) to find out more
- Predicting future healthcare needs is never easy, which is why it's vital for everyone in Herefordshire to complete their #Census2021. Public health organisations use the information to apply for funding and plan their services