

The safety of your information is our top priority

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.

Information from the census helps decide how services are planned and funded in your area, for example, schools, health services and libraries. It also helps charities and community groups plan services and secure funding.

The next census is happening in March 2021. Find out more at www.census.gov.uk.

Who runs the census?

The census in England and Wales is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics. Our main responsibilities are collecting, analysing and sharing statistics about the UK's economy and society, as well as organising the census.

The ONS and the statistics we generate are independent from government. Although we report to the UK Parliament, our work is protected from political interference.

We will handle your data securely

Electronic data will be handled on systems securely managed to UK government standards and within the ONS's control. Paper forms will be securely scanned and passed to the ONS by a contractor meeting the ONS's security requirements.



You cannot be identified

When the ONS publishes statistics from the census, they're completely anonymous. We don't include any personal information and you cannot be identified via census data. Your personal census information is protected by law. It is a crime for anyone to share it.

Government departments dealing with any applications you've made, or any payments or services you receive, cannot see your census information. For example, it cannot be used to influence benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or taxes. Private organisations and individuals such as landlords will not have access to your personal information.

We'll never sell your data

Your personal information will not be used to sell you anything or to find you. In turn, we'll never sell your information.

We keep census records secure for 100 years. Only then can they be viewed by future generations, for example, by those interested in family history.

Find out more

Read more about the census and how we keep your information safe at www.census.gov.uk/privacy-and-data-protection

