



2011 Census Outputs

Designed to meet the needs of users

Joe Traynor

Head of 2011 Census Outputs Design

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Census Outputs



Commercial needs

“The Census is of vital importance to the commercial world, whatever the scale of the business. Access to data is critical for the sound basis on which all organisations need to make their decisions.”

- Alison Green ‘The 2001 census and its Significance for the commercial world ’

How do we ensure census outputs meet the needs of the commercial world:

- **Open consultation over 2 years**
- **Regular monthly meetings with the MRSCGG**
- **Periodic meetings members of ACD, DUG**
- **Presentations/Roadshows/Advisory and Working Groups**

Design

- **User focus**
- **Awareness of constraints – particularly disclosure**

What's new



- **Additional tables on new topics**
- **Additional tables on 2001 equivalent data**
- **Alternative population bases**

- **New Workplace geography**

- **New disclosure control policy**
 - Targeted record swapping
 - No post tabular disclosure control
- **New ONS website**
 - Easier access and ability to find the information you need
 - Access to an improved set of UK harmonised outputs
 - Greater flexibility
 - Improved access to meta data
 - API

What's the same



- **Stable geography – OA**
- **Support for wide range of geographies**

- **2001 table designs**
 - Translated from 2001
 - Similar levels of detail at lower geographical levels
 - Access to tables

Review of MRSCGG/ACD report



“The purpose in preparing this note is to record what, in the view of these groups, went well with the processing and publication of the 2001 Census – and what went less well. The reason for our belief that this is important is that the planning of the 2011 Census has already started, but we are concerned that the ONS team in place at the time of taking that Census and its subsequent processing will, inevitably, have changed from the team in place for the 2001 Census. Consequently there is a danger that lessons learned in the period 2001 to date will not be available to the 2011 team.”

A Users view of the 2001 Census MRSCGG & ACD- 2005

Report findings – “What went well”



- Free data for users at point of use
– Maintained
- 100% coding of all questions and responses
-Maintained
- The Census consultation process (generally – with some exceptions)
Extensive and ongoing
- Purpose-designed Output Areas
– Maintained – plus new Workplace geography
- Free Output Area boundaries
OA boundaries remain free

Report findings – “What went well”



- Agreement to code Social Grade as an output
Maintained
- Distribution of data by a variety of electronic means, including NeSS website, and bulk delivery via CDs/DVDs –
Improved ONS website- Bulk delivery maintained – Via hard media
- Using postcodes as ‘building bricks’ for OAs, therefore better linkage to postal geography
Maintained

Report findings – “What went less well”



- **Timescales – particularly delays to OA-level data; CAS, univariates, and origin-destination data**
Proposal that OA outputs released before other geographies
- **Quality Control on CAS data output, leading to need for reissues**
Dedicated QA team – Additive tables- Consistent
- **Some problems with bulk delivery – particularly regarding formats (and particular problems with GROS and NISRA data)**
Aim to resolve this issue
- **predefined table production**

Report findings – “What went less well”



- Commissioned tables proving to be non-viable for commercial users, because of quoted delays in processing
Dedicated commissioned table service – separate from
Lack of consistency between England/Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland; not so much in terms of ‘special’ questions, but in terms of table layouts (where relevant), common tables where practicable.

increased UK harmonised tables –OA level

- Although end-users could obtain OA boundaries (free) from the Census Offices, problems with the O.S. agreement, lingering for many months, have frustrated would-be resellers of these data

Issues resolved

Report Findings – “What went less well”



- **The early promise of Social Grade was sullied by lack of collaboration with MRS experts at latter stages of processing, resulting in flawed results.**
2001 coding issue - Not repeated in 2011
- **The absence of income data was frustrating to all user sectors**
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Planning



- **To continue the dialogue with the intention to keep users updated on developments and issues as they arise**
- **Further work**
 - Flow data
 - Microdata
 - Analytical products
 - Develop new detailed outputs relating to geographical areas where minority groups are concentrated

Delivery mechanisms



Main Statistical series

- **Continue to work in partnership (SASPAC NOMIS)**
- **New ONS website**
 - greater flexibility
 - Predefined views – table layouts
- **Hard media – bulk data**

Flow data

Microdata

Running order



First release – July 2012

Population counts – 5yr age bands/sex/UALA

Second release

Univariate data

Equivalent of KS , UV tables, headcount data (OA first)

Third release

Multivariate data

CAS, CAST

Fourth release

Standard, Theme Tables (MSOA?)



Joe.Traynor@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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