

Including asylum seekers in Census 2021

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

The information you give in the census informs public services that affect everybody, like transport, education and healthcare. That's why it's really important that the information the census collects represents everyone in the population.

Will my information be safe?

The ONS keeps all the information you give in the census safe and confidential by law. Published statistics won't include any personal information, so you can never be identified.

Government departments dealing with any applications you've made, or any payments or services you get, cannot see your census information. For example, it cannot be used to influence benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or taxes.

Landlords, or any private organisation, will not be able to see your personal information either.

Who needs to fill in the census?

You must complete the census by law or you could be fined up to £1,000. Some questions are labelled as voluntary. It is not an offence if you do not answer these.

You must complete the census if you have been in the UK for more than 3 months, or are intending to stay for longer than 3 months.

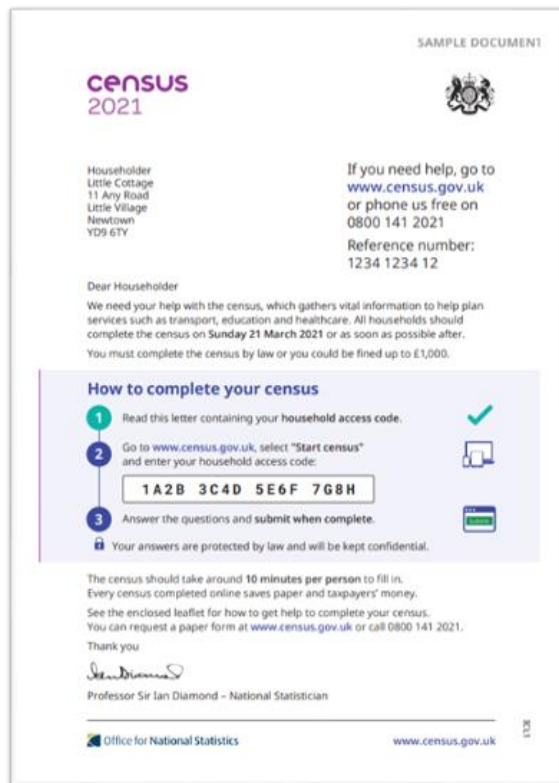
What do I have to do?

In early March you'll be sent a letter at the address where you are staying, inviting you to take part in the census. Census day is 21 March 2021.

Your letter will contain a unique access code, allowing you to log in and complete the questionnaire online. If you would like a paper form, you can request one by calling our free contact centre (the number is below).

If you have been (or are planning to be) at a hotel for six months or more, or if you have no other permanent UK address, the hotel manager should give you a letter with an access code.

The letter looks like this:



What support can I get?

The questionnaire is simple to fill in, but there's plenty of support for anyone who needs it. This includes:

- a free contact centre to answer any questions or for paper questionnaires. Call **0800 141 2021** (in England) or **0800 169 2021** (in Wales)
- [materials to download](#) that explain the census
- [guidance in many languages](#) and a language line offering translation support. Call **0800 587 2021**
- a help section on the census website at www.census.gov.uk/help
- internet access and face-to-face help in [Census Support Centres](#). These will open in local areas where it is safe to do so

There are 200 Census Engagement Managers working across England and Wales who are able to help housing providers and/or asylum seeker community groups. Email 2021.local.engagement@ons.gov.uk to be put touch with your local one.