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# *Census (Amendment) Bill*

## [HL]

**Bill 100 of 1999-2000**

This Bill amends the *Census Act 1920* so that a new question on religion can be asked in the 2001 Census in England and Wales. The question will be voluntary.

The question has been asked in Northern Ireland since 1969 and, in 2001, will be asked in Scotland for the first time.

The Bill is a Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Lord Weatherill, with government support.

Joe Hicks and Grahame Allen

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## Summary of main points

On Sunday 29 April 2001 a Census of the Population of the UK will be held. Under the *Census Act 1920* questions on the following topics can be asked:

- Name, sex and age
- Occupation, profession and trade or employment
- Nationality and birthplace
- Race and language
- Place of residence and character of dwelling
- Marital condition and relationship to head of family
- Children born in marriage

A question on religious belief is not included; this Bill amends the Act so the question can be asked.

The Departments of Health, Education and Employment and Social Security proposed that the question on religion be asked. Religious groups and members of the South Asian community living in the UK support the question. It is hoped that a religious profile of the population will supplement the question on people's ethnic background. For some communities living in the UK, religion is an important part of their ethnic identity.

The Bill is a Lords' Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Lord Weatherill, with government support. At the Lords Committee stage of the Bill an amendment was made to make the question voluntary, in recognition of the sensitivity of the subject.

Jonathan Sayeed MP is the sponsor of the Bill in the Commons. The Bill is listed for its Second Reading on Friday 7 April 2000. As it is eighteenth on the list of Bills for that day, it is unlikely that there will be time for debate. If there are no objections, the Bill could get its Second Reading without debate. Alternatively, government time might have to be given to enable progress to be made this session.

If the Bill is passed an order amending the Census Order (made on 15 March 2000) will be laid before Parliament.

## CONTENTS

<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
	1. Historical background	7
	2. Legal basis	7
	3. The need for census information	7
	4. Confidentiality	8
	5. International recommendations	8
	6. Coverage and Publication of the Census	9
<b>II</b>	<b>The Proposed Question on Religion</b>	<b>10</b>
	A. Why ask a question on religion?	12
	1. England and Wales	12
	2. Scotland and Northern Ireland	14
	B. A voluntary question?	15
<b>III</b>	<b>Changes to the ethnicity question and other proposed questions</b>	<b>16</b>
	1. Income	18
	2. General health	19
	3. Provision of unpaid care	19
	4. Time since last employment	19
	5. Supervisor status and size of employing organisation	20
	6. Travel to place of study	20
	7. Lowest floor level of accommodation	21
<b>IV</b>	<b>The Conduct and Processing of the Census</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Standardised Anonymised Records (SARs)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Progress of the Bill</b>	<b>24</b>
	<b>Appendix A: Topic coverage of the Census of Population, England and Wales, 1841-2001</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Appendix B: Useful Resources</b>	<b>26</b>

# I Introduction

The *Census (Amendment) Bill* is a Private Member's Bill with government support. It amends the *Census Act 1920* so that the 2001 Census in England and Wales includes a question on religious belief. Lord Weatherill sponsored the Bill in the House of Lords and it was passed with one amendment. The amendment ensures that the question on religion is voluntary. In Northern Ireland a question on religion has been asked since 1969. In Scotland, the *Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill* was passed in the Scottish Parliament on 15 March 2000<sup>1</sup>. The new Act authorises the Scottish Census Office to ask a religion question in 2001.

## 1. Historical background

In 1801, the first full census in England and Wales was taken. It was used for two purposes: to determine manpower during the Napoleonic Wars and to calm fears of excessive population growth<sup>2</sup>. Between 1801 and 1831 censuses were planned by John Rickman, a clerk of the House of Commons. In 1840, the General Register Office (GRO) took on the task and the GRO census of 1841 is accepted as the first modern census.<sup>3</sup> Apart from World War Two, and an extra census in 1966, a census has been held every decade. The date of the next UK Census is Sunday 29 April 2001.

## 2. Legal basis

The census is carried out by the Registrars General with the approval of Parliament under the *Census Act 1920* (England, Wales and Scotland) and the *Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969*. The Act does not determine the timing of the censuses: parliamentary approval is required for a census to be taken on a certain day. In Scotland, the census is a devolved matter and parallel arrangements have been made. The Scottish census is held on the same day as in England and Wales.

## 3. The need for census information

The census provides statistical information about the population and households for all parts of the country. Topics included in the census are those that the Government thinks are most needed by central and local government, businesses and professions. When the data is collected users can view the information at many geographical levels from the whole of the UK to individual postal districts.

The information collected helps government to form policy, plan services and direct resources. Unlike some other countries in Europe, such as those in Scandinavia, the UK makes little use of data derived from registration or administrative sources. In the UK

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<sup>1</sup> SPOR 15 March 2000 c675

<sup>2</sup> Malthus published his famous *Essay on the Principles of Population* in 1798.

<sup>3</sup> *A Clearer Sense of the Census* Higgs 1996

many regular series of data are based on large-scale sample surveys (the *General Household* and *Labour Force* surveys, for example). These, however, cannot provide local-area data, and one of the main reasons for having a census is to provide data for particular localities.

#### **4. Confidentiality**

The need for census data has to be balanced against the need to keep the information confidential. The UK Census Offices take various steps to protect the privacy of citizens by ensuring questions are not considered so intrusive as to invade individual privacy. They use both confidentiality and anonymity mechanisms to ensure that the highest degree of security is attached to the data collected. This is provided for in four main ways<sup>4</sup>:

- It is an offence for any member of the census organisation to reveal personal census information to others without lawful authority. They are liable, on conviction, to imprisonment or a fine under the terms of the Census Act.
- Those in charge of public records have a duty to make safe arrangement for the disposal of any records important enough to warrant preservation. The census forms are processed under the highest security and then locked away, for 100 years in England & Wales, before being freed for historic research.
- The names and addresses of individuals on the census forms are not entered into the computer that holds the main census database. The computer systems used have safeguards to ensure that unauthorised access cannot occur.
- The information will only be used to provide anonymous statistics, which do not enable individual persons or households to be identified.

#### **5. International recommendations**

The European Union has guidelines on both the timing and the content of censuses. EU guidelines have no legal force and are regarded as recommendations by member states. The UK will conform to the vast majority on content, although two questions will not be covered: 'citizenship' and 'age of building'.<sup>5</sup> Religion is not included in the guidelines. Similar to the EU recommendations, the UN has 'Principles and Recommendations for the 2000 round of Censuses'. The last set applied to the 1980 round and some changes have been made for 2000. There is no legal force behind the guidelines, but all countries

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<sup>4</sup> *The 1991 Census User's Guide*, Edited by Angela Dale and Catherine Marsh, HMSO.

<sup>5</sup> Census News, No. 38, July 1997

will be asked to provide a core set of tables. As with the EU recommendations, two questions, that cover residents' citizenship and the age of buildings, will not be asked.<sup>6</sup>

## **6. Coverage and Publication of the Census**

As in previous years, all households have a statutory obligation to return the census form; in 1991 it was estimated that 98% of the UK population were recorded. The population coverage is hoped to be higher in 2001. The Census results will be published to a set timetable, to be announced in the near future.

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<sup>6</sup> *Recommendations for the 2000 censuses of population and housing in the ECE region*, UN/ECE Statistical Division, August 1996. At: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/census/2000/CensusRecommendations.html>

## II The Proposed Question on Religion

The *Census Act 1920* allows the census in Great Britain to include questions on any of the topics listed below.<sup>7</sup>

- Name, sex and age
- Occupation, profession and trade or employment
- Nationality and birthplace
- Race and language
- Place of residence and character of dwelling
- Marital condition and relationship to head of family
- Children born in marriage

The text of the Act, which might have allowed a question on religion, reads:

“any other matters with respect to which it is desirable to obtain statistical information with a view to ascertaining the *social* or *civil* condition of the population.”<sup>8</sup>

Legal advice has been that religion is not a matter of either ‘social’ or ‘civil’ condition and that a change to the legislation is necessary. So the schedules to the *Census Act 1920* must be changed for the question to be asked. This Bill will amend the schedules and insert religion into the list above. The question will be voluntary.

When the Bill was presented, the question on religion was not planned to be voluntary. But, at the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Lords, concern was expressed at the legal requirement to answer the question on religion.<sup>9</sup> At the Committee stage, Lord Weatherill successfully proposed an Amendment to his Bill, so

“no person shall be liable to a penalty under subsection (1) for refusing or neglecting to state any particulars in respect of religion”<sup>10</sup>

This means that the question will not be a legal requirement. It is likely that this will be stated as such on the front of the form and, given space, next to the question as well.

The proposed question for England and Wales is shown overleaf. In Scotland, the Christian denominations will be separated and people will be asked for the religion in which they were brought up.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Government proposals for the 2001 Census of the Population*, ONS (4 March 1999)

<sup>8</sup> Italics added. Information supplied by the ONS.

<sup>9</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c1709

<sup>10</sup> HL Deb 3 February 2000 c364

<sup>11</sup> SPOR 16 February 2000 c1078



**The proposed question in England and Wales:**

**What is your religion?**  
Tick one box only

None  
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant  
and all other Christian denominations)  
Buddhist  
Hindu  
Muslim  
Sikh  
Jewish  
Any other religion, *please write in below*  
.....

## **A. Why ask a question on religion?**

### **1. England and Wales**

The question was proposed by the Census Office at the request of the Departments of Health, Social Security and Education & Employment. Other census users also expressed their enthusiasm for such a question.

When assessing whether or not to ask the new question, the Census Office undertakes an assessment of the 'business case' and asks the following questions:

1. Who will use the new information?
2. Will it meet census users' needs?
3. Could other surveys substitute the information collected?

Since many organisations expressed enthusiasm to the new question (point 1) and points 2 and 3 resulted in 'yes' and 'no' answers, the question was tested on the public in June 1997, and the Census Rehearsal in 1999, to find out the people's response.

The results of both tests showed that the question was well received, especially among some South Asian ethnic groups. Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs felt strongly that religion played an important role in the definition of their ethnic identity and the question on religion was a valid supplement to the 'ethnic group' question.<sup>12</sup> Among other groups, there was little to suggest that they were unwilling to answer a question on religion, compared to the questions asked already.

The Commission for Racial Equality and the Home Secretary's Race Relations Forum<sup>13</sup> were in favour of the question as well, along with a raft of other faith groups:

- the Muslim Council of Britain;
- the Board of Deputies of British Jews;
- the Network of Sikh Organisations;
- the Buddhist Society;
- the National Council of Hindu Temples;
- the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe; and
- representatives of various Christian Churches.<sup>14</sup>

The press has also tended to favour the new question. One reporter discussed the advantages of learning about differences within Indian and Pakistani communities. She quoted a police officer who said:

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<sup>12</sup> *The 2001 Census of Population*, Cm 4235, March 1999 White Paper.

<sup>13</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c1709

<sup>14</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c 1716

“I was very surprised when I realised that the Pakistani man who telephoned me was Christian – it made me think about my stereotypes”<sup>15</sup>

Obviously, police officers will not be told the religious background of individual residents on their beat; but the question will be expected to make policy makers aware of possible differences between and within the ‘ethnic group’ communities classified in 1991.

For this reason, Government departments support the question on religion. The Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions will use the data for regeneration policy. The Department for Education and Employment will use the data for policy development and identifying disadvantage and educational priorities<sup>16</sup>; the Department of Health will study health indicators and inequalities. The Home Office will carry out ethnic monitoring and add value to its race relations research programme.<sup>17</sup>

Academics and other census users also hope that the question on religion will fuel debate on any link between religion and social exclusion. Researchers hope to map economic differences on top of religious divides in British communities; and the Census will allow this to be done in localities not studied before. They hope to explain trends in the diversities of wealth between the many ethnic and religious groups.

The question might also be helpful during the reform of the House of Lords, since some form of representation of different religions is anticipated in the new second chamber.<sup>18</sup>

However, reservations have been expressed about the format of the question. The proposed question has a ‘tick-box’ layout and the Christian denominations are grouped together as one religion. At the Second Reading of the Bill in the Lords, the Bishop of Lincoln and Lord Newby suggested that the Christian denomination box could include sub-categories of Roman Catholic and Church of England or Protestant. In Scotland the question will have such a format.<sup>19</sup> The Bishop of Lincoln suggested that distinguishing the Christian religions might help the Church of England’s understanding of its congregation, especially in regions where the Church of England is the only denomination with a place of worship.<sup>20</sup>

And, The Secular Society has expressed concern that if the question on religion is asked, then it will over-estimate the actively religious population. The Society argues that the majority of people will state that they are Church of England, or Christian, even though

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<sup>15</sup> The Herald, 8 February 2000, ‘Keeping Faith in the Census’.

<sup>16</sup> Nearly 11 per cent of the UK population aged under 25 is from an ethnic minority (compared to 6 per cent of people of all ages).

<sup>17</sup> Information supplied by the ONS.

<sup>18</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c1711

<sup>19</sup> SPOR 16 February 2000 c1078

<sup>20</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c1712

they rarely, if ever, go to church.<sup>21</sup> Alternatively, many people may refuse to answer the question. Since the question is voluntary and, in England and Wales the question will not ask for people's religion in childhood, agnostics might skip the question completely.

But, the question will still give more comprehensive results than a survey. And, the sensitivity of the subject must be recognised. Section B discusses this in more detail.

More broadly, the 'Big Brother' challenge has to be faced. To what extent can the state question citizens' beliefs? In the 1970s proposals to ask a question on ethnic origin resulted in activists burning their forms in Trafalgar Square.<sup>22</sup> In the 1950s, in the United States, protests made the government change its mind about asking a question on religion.

But, the evidence suggests that it is the religious minorities who are calling for the Census Office to ask the question. Perhaps the State is trusted more than in earlier decades. The list of organisations that have shown support for the question offers some evidence. And, although the United States may not ask the question because of public protest in the 1950s, many other countries do: in Canada, Australia, South Africa and Ireland a question on religion is asked.

## **2. Scotland and Northern Ireland**

In Scotland there was controversy over whether the question should be asked. In the Government's white paper, it was argued that:

There [is] a far less strong business case for information to be collected on religion there [in Scotland] in the 2001 Census. This is consistent with the requirement for less detailed information on ethnic group than is being collected in England and Wales.<sup>23</sup>

But, following consultation with the Equal Opportunities Committee and other non-parliamentary groups, the Executive decided that a question on religion should be asked. The *Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill* was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 15 March 2000.<sup>24</sup> The question in Scotland will distinguish the different Christian faiths and ask for the religion in which people were brought up.<sup>25</sup>

In Northern Ireland, the census of population is carried out by the Census Office for Northern Ireland (CONI). A question on religion has been asked in the Census since 1969. The response rate to the question was not very high in the 1970s and 1980s and this caused considerable difficulty to enumerators collecting the forms in this period.

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<sup>21</sup> Letter to the Guardian Newspaper, 6 January 1999, p17

<sup>22</sup> The Sunday Times (Opinion), 'Why we have to answer the sectarian question?' 13 February 2000.

<sup>23</sup> The 2001 Census of Population, Cm4235, March 1999

<sup>24</sup> SPOR 15 March 2000 c675

<sup>25</sup> SPOR 16 February 2000 c1078

## B. A voluntary question?

When the Bill received its Second Reading in the Lords on 27 January, the debate focused on whether or not the question should be voluntary. Should state intervention extend to force people to disclose their religion?

Lord McIntosh of Haringey argued that a voluntary question was ‘not a good idea’.<sup>26</sup> He explained why, and his points raise the main arguments in favour of keeping the question compulsory:

- The value of the census is that it encompasses the whole population of the country at a single point in time.
- The purpose of a religious question is to complement the question on ethnic group. Many different faith groups support a compulsory question and this is sufficient evidence that any sensitivity about the question can be overcome.
- When the question was tested it was no more sensitive than any other question traditionally asked in the census.
- If one question is voluntary then it may lead to confusion about other questions and whether they are voluntary too.
- The census will be confidential. If any member of a household does not want his or her answers revealed to anyone else, they can request a separate form and an envelope, to return separately. And, government departments do not know the identity of anybody giving a specific answer to a question.

But, others<sup>27</sup> argued that religion was a private matter and that the state should not force people to disclose such personal information. At the Committee Stage of the Bill, Lord Weatherill, as the sponsor of the Bill, proposed an amendment to make the question voluntary. The amendment was considered necessary so that the Bill could progress to the Commons with unanimity. Lord McIntosh of Haringey agreed that the amendment was required.

And, given that the information available on people’s religious beliefs is from very small-scale surveys, most often conducted by the religious groups themselves, a voluntary question on the subject will give better results than anything available now.

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<sup>26</sup> HL Deb 27 January 2000 c1717

<sup>27</sup> Lord Stoddart of Swindon and the Earl of Northesk.

### **III Changes to the ethnicity question and other proposed questions<sup>28</sup>**

In the 1999 Census Rehearsal the Census Office tested questions on the following topics:

- A new question on ethnicity
- Income
- General Health
- Time since last employment
- Supervisor status and size of employing organisation
- Travel to place of study

People will not be asked for their income, but it is likely that the other questions will be asked. The exact questions to be asked and the format of the questionnaire are still to be announced.

#### **1. A new question on ethnicity**

In 1991 the census included a question on ethnic group for the first time. In 2001 the question will be re-phrased. Different versions of the question will be used in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the question will be most detailed. The proposal has been researched over the last ten years and it should strike a balance of comparability with 1991 and acceptability to the 'Black British' and 'Asian British' communities. The 2001 form for England and Wales is likely to include an additional category of 'White Irish', which was not an option in 1991.

The proposed format of the question is shown overleaf.

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<sup>28</sup> Assistance from Graham Vidler and his Research Paper 00/01: The Draft Census (Scotland) Order 2000, for the Scottish Parliament.

**What is your ethnic group?**

Choose one section from (a) to (e) then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

**a) White**

British

Irish

Any other White background

*please write in below*

.....

**b) Mixed**

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed background

*please write in below*

.....

**c) Asian or Asian British**

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background

*please write in below*

.....

**d) Black or Black British**

Caribbean

African

Any other Black background

*please write in below*

.....

**e) Chinese or Other ethnic group**

Chinese

Any other

*please write in below*

.....

## 2. Income

When the income question was asked, the test showed a reduced response to the whole Census questionnaire (3 percentage points overall). In a follow up survey, 15 per cent of individuals who received the census test form with the question objected to it. Of those given the form without the income question 29 per cent replied that they would have objected had the question been included. Recognition of the risks of asking the question led the Government to seek other ways in which the relevant information can be secured from other sources before it will make final proposals.

In a consultation paper from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the strengths and weaknesses of including a question on income in the 2001 Census were assessed against<sup>29</sup>: income related benefit data from the DSS and modelled income data from various other sources. The paper concludes that:

Whilst there is a strong demand for small area income data, the inclusion of an income question in the 2001 Census has the potential to adversely effect overall response rates, potentially risking the effective collection of a wealth of socio-demographic information that is critical to resource allocation, policy development and evaluation, and the provision of essential services. Users' needs for income information must be considered in the context of such concerns.<sup>30</sup>

**What is your total current gross income from all sources?**

*Do not deduct* Tax, National Insurance, Superannuation  
or Health Insurance payments

Tick the box that covers your income

*Count all income*, including

Earnings

Pensions

Benefits

Interest from savings or investments

Rent from property

Other (for example maintenance payments, grants)

Per week

*or*

Per year (approximately)

Nil

Nil

Less than £60

Less than £3,000

£60 to £119

£3,000 to £5,999

£120 to £199

£6,000 to £9,999

£200 to £299

£10,000 to £14,999

£300 to £479

£15,000 to £24,999

£480 or more

£25,000 or more

<sup>29</sup> ONS *Income Data for Small Areas*, September 1999, [www.ons.gov.uk/census\\_f.htm](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census_f.htm)

<sup>30</sup> ONS *Income Data for Small Areas*, *ibid.* Page3.



### 3. General health

Survey results showed that this question will help to predict the need for health and personal care services.

<p><b>Over the last 12 months would you say your health has on the whole been:</b></p> <p>Good? Fairly good? Not good?</p>
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### 4. Provision of unpaid care

Again, this question will show the need for additional social services.

<p><b>Do you provide unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability?</b> Include problems which are due to old age. Personal help includes help with basic tasks such as feeding or dressing.</p> <p>Yes, 1-19 hours a week Yes, 20-49 hours a week Yes, 50+ hours a week No</p>
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### 5. Time since last employment

This question will show the duration of time out of employment.

<p><b>Have you ever worked?</b></p> <p>Yes, please write in the year you last worked: .....</p> <p>No</p>
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## 6. Supervisor status and size of employing organisation

This question will provide data for the Government's new social class groups.

<p><b>Do (did) you supervise any other employees?</b> A supervisor or foreman is responsible for overseeing the work of other employees on a daily basis. Yes No</p> <p><b>How many people work (worked) for your employer at the place where you work (worked)?</b> If you are (were) self-employed, show how many people you employ (employed). 1-9 10-24 25-499 500 or more</p>
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## 7. Travel to place of study

A question on the means of travel to work is asked already. This question will broaden the responses to those people who are studying or still at school and will use a similar format.

<p><b>How do you usually travel to your main place of work or study (including school)?</b> Tick one box only. Tick the box for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey. Not currently working or studying Work or study mainly at home Train Underground, tube, metro or light rail Bus, minibus or coach (public or private) Motorcycle, scooter or moped Driving a car or van Passenger in car or van Pedal cycle On foot Other <i>please write in below</i> .....</p>
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**8. Lowest floor level of accommodation**

A question on the lowest floor level of accommodation is also planned for England and Wales. The question was asked previously in Scotland. The number of people living in high-rise accommodation will be made known by this question. The question asked in Scotland in 1991 is shown below:

**Which is the lowest floor on which any of your household's living accommodation is situated?**

Tick box or write number of floor

Basement

Ground Floor

.....

## **IV The Conduct and Processing of the Census**

In 1991 the census had output errors and a postponed release date. The Census Office hopes it will process and collect the 2001 census forms faster and more efficiently than in the past. New collection methods and up-to-date processing technology will hopefully reduce such problems.

The census will be conducted by a delivery and post-back method. An 'Enumerator' will visit each household and deliver a census form; they are responsible for an 'Enumeration District' (ED) of about 200 postal addresses. The Census Offices will employ about 90,000 temporary enumerator staff. Unlike previous censuses, householders will post their forms back to the relevant processing centre. In communal establishments, such as hotels or prisons, each resident will receive a census form. The manager or governor will issue and collect the forms, but residents can return them directly to the Census Office if they wish.

The forms will have a different design and layout to those used in 1991 so they are easier to complete. When the forms are processed the Census Office will use Optical Mark Recognition and Optical Character Recognition technology to read all 'tick-box' and most 'write-in' questions. Unlike 1991, when the census took up nineteen miles of shelving twelve feet high, computers will scan and 'read' the forms. Lockheed Martin, ICL and Polestar won a £50 million joint contract to produce and process the forms.<sup>31</sup>

As in the past, all households will have a statutory obligation to return the form in 2001. Any individual who refuses to return a completed form is liable to prosecution and a fine, to a maximum of £1,000.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Press Association, 25 February 1999

<sup>32</sup> *The 2001 Census of Population Cm 4253 ( this excludes the question on religion)*

## V Standardised Anonymised Records (SARs)

The Census Offices for England & Wales and Scotland released the first samples of anonymised records after the 1991 census. Negotiations are still taking place with the Census Office of Northern Ireland to decide whether comparable data can be provided. Census data is generally only available in standard tables, but SARs can be transferred, subject to the correct agreement, to the user's own computer environment. This enables the manipulation of data in a familiar setting, thereby increasing its value to social researchers.

Two samples of anonymised records were drawn randomly from the 10 per cent of fully coded records in the 1991 Census. The first file contains a 2 per cent sample of individuals with full housing information. A geographical scheme was used to classify them into large local authorities or groupings of smaller ones. The second file contains a 1 per cent sample that classifies the data into the ten standard geographical regions of Great Britain. The two samples have been drawn in such a way that there are no overlapping sub-samples.

For the 2001 Census it is argued that the development of sub-local authority samples of anonymised records would make it possible to provide indicators for policy purposes that are more precise.<sup>33</sup> The move to Unitary Authorities also requires a change in the geographical base of the 2001 samples of anonymised records by comparison with 1991. The main argument against smaller geographical areas, and samples of anonymised records generally, has been the need to ensure strict confidentiality. In a recent report on the risk of disclosure, using the 1991 samples of anonymised records, Mark Brown & Angela Dale concludes that; "...the overall risk of identification of any one individual in the SARs is unlikely to be greater than [first] suggested and may well be less".<sup>34</sup> The extensive tests, reproduced in their report, suggests that the confidentiality of individuals in the proposed 2001 samples of anonymised records, given their reduced size, will be upheld.

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<sup>33</sup> *A report on the disclosure risk of proposals for SARs from the 2001 Census*, CCSR, Working Paper No 5, March 1998

<sup>34</sup> *A survey of SAR users, their requirements for 2001 SARs and their views on dissemination and support*, Mark Brown & Angela Dale, <http://les.man.ac.uk/ccsr/2001sars/survey.htm>

## VI Progress of the Bill

Stage of the Bill	Date
<b>Lords</b>	
First Reading	16 December 1999
Second Reading	27 January 2000
Committee	3 February 2000
Report	3 March 2000
Third Reading	14 March 2000
<b>Commons</b>	
First Reading	20 March 2000
<b>Lords<sup>a</sup></b>	
Third Reading	28 March 2000
<b>Commons</b>	
First Reading	28 March 2000
Second Reading	7 April 2000

a) The Bill was vacated at its First Reading in the Commons and the Order for Second Reading was discharged. The Bill was sent back to the Lords. The financial implications of the Bill were not made known at the Third Reading in the Lords on 14 March 2000.

## Appendix A: Topic coverage of the Census of Population, England and Wales, 1841-2001<sup>a</sup>

Question topic	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	1961	1966	1971	1981	1991	2001 <sup>a</sup>
Age	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marital status		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birthplace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nationality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Ethnic group																✓	✓
<b>Religion<sup>b</sup></b>		✓															✓
Usual residence										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industry									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Qualifications												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fertility								✓			✓	✓		✓			
Marriage duration								✓			✓	✓		✓			
Cars													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economic position				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Journey to work													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Occupation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Time since last employment</b>																	✓
Place of work									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Size of workforce</b>																	✓
<b>Supervisor status</b>																	✓
Infirmity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
<b>General health</b>																	✓
<b>Provision of unpaid personal care</b>																	✓
Limiting long-standing illness																✓	✓
Housing (number)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rooms (number)							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tenure												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Lowest floor level of accommodation</b>																	✓
Household amenities											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: Based on a table in the *1991 Census User's Guide* (Table I.2, Page 12).

✓ Topic first included in the census, or proposed for 2001 (see section III for discussion)

a) Proposed for inclusion in the 2001 census.

✓ Topic included in the census

b) Places of worship were counted and recorded by religion in 1851.

## **Appendix B: Useful Resources**

### **Important papers**

Draft Census Order 1989, Fourth Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments, Tuesday 19th December 1989. (SI HC29-iv 1989/90)

*The 2001 Census of Population*, Cm 4235, March 1999.

*Census Legislation Timetable*, Advisory Group Paper (99), 14 September 1999.

*An Introductory Guide to The 1991 Census*, 1993.

*Census News*, a regular publication available on the ONS website (see below).

*The 1991 Census User's Guide*, edited by Angela Dale and Catherine Marsh, HMSO.

*Government proposals for the 2001 Census of the Population*, ONS, 4 March 1999.

*A Clearer Sense of the Census*, Higgs, 1996.

*A report on the disclosure risk of proposals for SARs from the 2001 Census*, CCSR Working Paper No 5, March 1998.

### **Useful Websites**

Office for National Statistics (ONS) homepage, Census 2001:  
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

The Census Office for Northern Ireland  
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/index.htm>

The General Register Office for Scotland  
<http://wood.ccta.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Division:  
[http://www.unece.org/stats/stats\\_h.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/stats_h.html)

The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, SAR's:  
<http://les.man.ac.uk/ccsr>