



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

4 August 2025

Dear Delyth,

I recently shared with the Committee a letter to the chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Robert Chote, regarding the Authority's recommendations to the UK government about future population and migration statistics.

The UK government has now officially responded to the Authority's recommendations and confirmed that they are [commissioning the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) to conduct a mandatory, questionnaire-based, whole-population census of Wales and England in 2031](#).

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the ONS in planning for Census 2031, building on the lessons learned from Census 2021. The census needs to meet the needs of users in Wales for timely, inclusive, and high-quality population statistics that will inform policy, allocate resources, and support the delivery of public services across Wales in the future. We will also work closely with the devolved governments in Scotland and Northern Ireland as they carry out their own censuses in 2031.

As census preparations develop, the Committee may like to hear from the Office for National Statistics in future to scrutinise their plans. I have also written to the Chair of the Finance Committee on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.