

John Griffiths MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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28 October 2025

Dear Mr Griffiths,

As Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Government Statistical Service (GSS) would welcome your contribution to two consultations launched today.

The ONS has launched the Census 2031 topic consultation, asking for your views about the topics you think should be included in the next census. For more than two centuries, a decennial census has provided information about the population and housing, helping to inform decisions about public services and to better understand the economy, public health and inequality. While the core topics of age, education and jobs have remained the same over time, other topics such as armed forces veterans have been added based on the needs of users. This 14-week consultation will provide evidence to inform what topics will be included in the next census of England and Wales in 2031.

The GSS has also launched a consultation asking for your views on additional response options for ethnicity data. The GSS would like to understand your needs for data on additional ethnic groups, with the goal of making the harmonised ethnicity standard more inclusive.

Responses submitted over the 14-week period will feed into a new standard for ethnicity data collection, which will be recommended for use by collectors of ethnicity data across the GSS, including teams working on future censuses.

We would welcome your contributions to these consultations before they close on 4 February 2026. You can respond to the consultation in Welsh or English.

Both consultations are live on the [ONS consultations web page](#).

Yours sincerely,



**Emma Rourke, Acting National Statistician & Darren Tierney, Permanent
Secretary, Office for National Statistics**