

Response ID ANON-XQVE-RETG-P

Submitted to **ONS Census 2021 Output Geography Policy, products and services**

Submitted on **2020-12-11 11:46:34**

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:

Ian White

Are you answering this consultation on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Organisation (please include organisation name below)

Organisation:

Market Research Society - Census and GeoDems Group

What sector do you work in (if applicable)? This will assist us in monitoring the range of users that have responded to this consultation.

Commercial

Other sector of work:

We may wish to contact you in relation to your response to this consultation. Would you be happy for us to do so? If so, please include your email address below.

Yes

email address:

i.white1234@btinternet.com

To support transparency in our decision-making process, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include the name of the responding organisation or individual. Please confirm that you're content for your name to be published. We won't publish personal contact details. Please be aware that any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if requested under a Freedom of Information request. Please be aware that if you're responding as an individual but then name your organisation in any of the open questions, that name will be published.

Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response

2021 Census Output Geography Policy

1 Do you have any comments on the proposed maintenance plans for OAs and SOAs?

Proposed maintenance plans for OAs and SOAs:

There is a balance to be kept between having output areas that are as small as possible for finer granularity (it is noted that OAs in Scotland are smaller than in the rest of the UK) while maintaining a consistent output geography to provide comparability with the outputs from the previous census. On balance, the argument for geographic comparability is the stronger.

2 Do you support our recommendation to continue to publish ward and parish outputs using an OA best fit approach, but additionally aligning some OA boundaries to wards and/or parish boundaries? If not, it would be helpful if you could please provide comments below, as to why. Do you for example prefer an alternative option, or have any issues or concerns with the recommendation? Please provide any examples if appropriate.

Yes

Recommendation to continue to publish ward and parish outputs:

3 Do you have any other comments on the proposed policy?

Do you have any other comments on the proposed policy?:

2021 Census Geography Products and Services

4 Please consider: are there any additional products or services which you would find useful to those listed in the attached consultation document?

Please consider, are there any other products or services which you would find useful?:

It is hoped that digital boundaries will be freely available (subject to agreement with relevant third parties).

5 We shall be producing Census counts for 1km grid squares. Would you like to be kept informed about our plans for doing this?

Yes (please add email contact details below)

We shall be producing Census estimates for 1km grid squares. Would you like to be kept informed about our plans for doing this?:

i.white1234@btinternet.com

6 Would the creation of a comparable UK small area geography be of interest to you?If so, please also respond to question 7.

Yes

7 If so, do you have any thoughts on how this could be best achieved?

If so, do you have any thoughts on how this could be best achieved?:

See comment at Question 1.

On a more general point about UK outputs, it seems clear that with the postponement of the Census in Scotland until 2022 the key criteria of simultaneity and coherence of the census throughout the UK will be lost. It will be necessary therefore for ONS to convince users that the "creative thinking" referred to in the recent 2021 Census Output Webinar in reference to UK outputs will result in any meaningful census estimates irrespective of any common small area geography.