

1.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 10:47 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Yes, thanks – we have a note of it and Cabinet Secretariat aware it's coming.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – are PO OK to take forward the SCANCE note for tomorrow? Let me know if you need anything else.

Parly Clerks – Grateful if the GIQ can be added to the PQ system.

Many thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 7:01 PM
To: Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under

Many thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture CabSecCEAC@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 5:17 PM

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

<CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;

NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell

<Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <v@nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <v@gov.scot>; v

<v@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Alister McAlpine

<Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; Alison Bryne <Alison.Bryne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken

<Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Mr Hepburn notes the publication and the publication dates for the next two topic releases from the 2022 census.

Mr Hepburn is content to clear the GiQ for his interests.

Many thanks,

**[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business – Jamie Hepburn MSP
The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Email: MinisterPB@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 5:10 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;

NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell

<Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <v@nrscotland.gov.uk>; v <v@gov.scot>; v <v@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Alister McAlpine <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; Alison Bryne <Alison.Bryne@gov.scot>; Catherine McMeeken <Catherine.McMeeken@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Ewan Crawford <Ewan.Crawford@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Submission - Urgent - Pre-release statistics - Scotland's Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: Contains pre-release statistics. Not for sharing with others until after 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

**PS/Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture
 PS/Minister for Parliamentary Business**

1. I attach in Word a submission for “urgent” attention (14 pages total, including annexes) providing pre-release access to the latest outputs from Scotland’s Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion. The full publication is available in the html file attached.
2. NRS are seeking clearance from Cab Sec CEAC and the Minister for Parliamentary Business on the GIQ (Annex A) to be asked by Clare Adamson MSP on Tuesday 21 May.

3. NRS are seeking clearance from Cab Sec CEAC on a SCANCE contribution (Annex B) for Cabinet on Tuesday 21 May. This can be taken as read.
4. A copy of the news release (Annex C), to be issued Tuesday 21 May by NRS is included for information.
5. NRS officials are meeting with Ministers on Monday 20 May 2024 to discuss key points from the publication.
6. Finally, you are also asked to note that NRS announced today (16 May 2024) the publication dates for the next two topic releases from the 2022 census. These are:
 - A. 'Armed Forces veterans' – 09:30, 13 June 2024
 - B. 'Sexual orientation and trans status or history' – 09:30, 27 June 2024

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | NRS Head of Policy
National Records of Scotland
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

2.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 2:39 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Janet Egdell <Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Scotland's Census - Ethnicity, national identity, language and religion - Ministerial briefing session - 20 May 2024

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Thanks for the attached, which DFM has noted. Unfortunately due to diary pressures, DFM is not available to join next Monday, 20 May. Whenever available, please send any further briefing to the DFM for her to consider/be aware of for her portfolio interests.

Much appreciated

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – Kate Forbes MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | **M:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] |
Email: DFMCSSEG@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 12:02 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEGE@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>;

NRS : RG-Keeper Mailbox <RG-Keeper@nrscotland.gov.uk. Janet Egdell

Janet.Egdell@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Subject: Scotland's Census - Ethnicity, national identity, language and religion - Ministerial briefing session - 20 May 2024

PS / Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic

1. I attach in Word a routine submission (6 pages total) to serve as background information. This was issued to Ministers in April to inform them that National Records of Scotland (NRS) was announcing the next release from Scotland's Census 2022, due for publication **21 May 2024**. The next release from the 2022 census will include topic data on:
 - ethnic group;
 - country of birth;
 - national identity;
 - language (including BSL, **Gaelic** and Scots); and,
 - religion.
2. You will note that we recommended that Ministers (with portfolio interest) meet with NRS officials within the 5 day pre-release window to discuss the key findings from the publication. This session will take place **13:00-14:00, Monday 20 May**. As Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic, we would like to extend that invite to you.

Background

3. Scotland has relied for more than 200 years on the information the census provides. It remains the best way to gather vital information which government, councils, the NHS and a range of users in the public, private and third sectors need. The first outputs from Scotland's Census 2022 were published 14 September 2023. NRS are now publishing outputs for local areas and detailed univariate topic reports from May-September 2024. Further detail on the release schedule can be found here.
4. A question on Gaelic skills was first included in Scotland's Census in 2001. There was a slight difference between the 2001 and 2011 Census questions on Gaelic skills, relating to understanding, with the 2001 question asking respondents whether they can 'understand spoken Gaelic' and the 2011 question asking respondents if they 'understand Scottish Gaelic'.

5. Prior to the 2011 census data users requested changes to questions so that data could be collected on proficiency in Gaelic, how often it is used, people's opportunity for learning Gaelic and whether or not it is people's first language. Bord na Gaidhlig were particularly interested in additional questions on Gaelic, specifically around how many persons were raised, or are being raised, with Gaelic in the home. In the 2011 census, people were asked to tick a number of boxes to assess whether they could understand, speak, read or write in English, Scottish Gaelic or Scots.
6. Following further user testing, the 2022 census specifically asked users "can you understand, speak, read and write Scottish Gaelic". Users were asked to tick all applicable responses in a proficiency matrix or indicate whether they had no skills in Scottish Gaelic or Scots.
7. We imagine there will be significant public and media interest in the Gaelic skills outputs. We are meeting with SG Policy leads today (14 May) to provide pre-release access to support further Ministerial briefing.
8. We are keen to provide Ministers with a standalone session to allow for early sight of the publication and to answer any data related queries. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have ahead of time.

Kinds regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | NRS Head of Policy

National Records of Scotland

Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

3.

Clare Adamson MSP
Convener, Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Email

By

21st May 2024

Dear Convener,

You will be aware that the legislation for Scotland's Census 2022 was subject to scrutiny by the previous Culture Committee. Members of that Committee, in their legacy report, recommended that a successor Committee continue to monitor progress in delivery of Scotland's Census 2022.

I am writing to make you aware that National Records of Scotland have today (21 May) published the latest results from Scotland's Census 2022. The publication includes unrounded population estimates and the first set of topic data from the 2022 census. The topic data includes census tables for the following variables:

- Ethnic group
- National identity
- Country of birth
- Religion
- Passports held
- Main language
- Gaelic language skills
- Scots language skills
- English language skills
- British Sign Language

These statistics give a fascinating insight into religion, ethnicity, national identity and language use across Scotland and how they have changed over the years. The full results can be found on the Scotland's Census website.

This publication is the first of seven topic reports to be released in 2024. More detail about the schedule for future reports can be found [here](#). The reports will provide unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including information on the labour market, education and housing. In June, data on armed forces veterans (13 June), sexual orientation and trans status or history (27 June) will also be published. We will confirm nearer the time the exact release dates in August and September for the other topics.

From winter 2024, Multivariate census outputs, combining multiple topic variables in the same table, will be published at all geographies down to output area.

Scotland's Census results are designated as Accredited Official Statistics and form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, awards Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

For more than 200 years Scotland has relied on the valuable data the census provides and it remains the best way to gather vital information about Scotland's people that data users in the public, private and third sectors need.

I hope this information is of assistance. If any members of the committee require further information please do not hesitate to contact:
censuscorrespondence@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Janet Egdell

Registrar General for Scotland

National Records of Scotland

4.

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener, Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Email

By

21st May 2024

Dear Convener,

I am writing to make you aware that National Records of Scotland have today (21 May) published the latest results from Scotland's Census 2022. The publication includes unrounded population estimates and the first set of topic data from the 2022 census. The topic data includes census tables for the following variables:

- Ethnic group
- National identity
- Country of birth
- Religion
- Passports held
- Main language
- Gaelic language skills
- Scots language skills
- English language skills
- British Sign Language

These statistics give a fascinating insight into religion, ethnicity, national identity and language use across Scotland and how they have changed over the years. The full results can be found on the Scotland's Census website.

This publication is the first of seven topic reports to be released in 2024. More detail about the schedule for future reports can be found [here](#). The reports will provide unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including information on the labour market, education and housing. In June, data on armed forces veterans (13 June), sexual orientation and trans status or history (27 June) will also be published. We will confirm nearer the time the exact release dates in August and September for the other topics.

From winter 2024, Multivariate census outputs, combining multiple topic variables in the same table, will be published at all geographies down to output area.

Scotland's Census results are designated as Accredited Official Statistics and form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, awards Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

For more than 200 years Scotland has relied on the valuable data the census provides and it remains the best way to gather vital information about Scotland's people that data users in the public, private and third sectors need.

I hope this information is of assistance. If any members of the committee require further information please do not hesitate to contact: censuscorrespondence@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Janet Egdell

Registrar General for Scotland
National Records of Scotland

5.

By Email

21st May 2024

Dear Members of the Scottish Parliament,

You will be aware that the legislation for Scotland's Census 2022 was subject to scrutiny by the previous Culture Committee. Members of that Committee, in their legacy report, recommended that a successor Committee continue to monitor progress in delivery of the Scotland's Census.

I am writing to make you aware that National Records of Scotland have today (21 May) published the latest results from Scotland's Census 2022. The publication includes unrounded population estimates and the first set of topic data from the 2022 census. The topic data includes census tables for the following variables:

- Ethnic group
- National identity
- Country of birth
- Religion
- Passports held
- Main language

- Gaelic language skills
- Scots language skills
- English language skills
- British Sign Language

These statistics give a fascinating insight into religion, ethnicity, national identity and language use across Scotland and how they have changed over the years. The full results can be found on the Scotland's Census website.

This publication is the first of seven topic reports to be released in 2024. More detail about the schedule for future reports can be found [here](#). The reports will provide unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including information on the labour market, education and housing. In June, data on armed forces veterans (13 June), sexual orientation and trans status or history (27 June) will also be published. We will confirm nearer the time the exact release dates in August and September for the other topics.

From winter 2024, Multivariate census outputs, combining multiple topic variables in the same table, will be published at all geographies down to output area.

Scotland's Census results are designated as Accredited Official Statistics and form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, awards Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

For more than 200 years Scotland has relied on the valuable data the census provides and it remains the best way to gather vital information about Scotland's people that data users in the public, private and third sectors need.

I hope this information is of assistance. If any members of the committee require further information please do not hesitate to contact: censuscorrespondence@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Janet Egdell

Registrar General for Scotland
National Records of Scotland

6.

**[redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]** NRS Head
of Policy
National Records of Scotland

22 April 2024

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION DATE FOR RELEASE OF DETAILED POPULATION DATA AND ETHNICITY, NATIONAL IDENTITY, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION TOPIC DATA.

Priority and Purpose

1. **Routine.** To inform you that NRS will announce the publication date for the next release from Scotland's Census 2022 tomorrow, Tuesday 23 April 2024. The announcement will confirm a publication date and time of 09:30 am, Tuesday 21 May 2024.
2. To provide you with information on handling for both the announcement of the publication date and the release.
3. To seek your nomination for a MSP to ask a GIQ on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

Recommendation

4. Recommends that you:
 - A. Note the process for announcing the publication date.
 - B. Note the proposed handling prior to publication.
 - C. Nominate a MSP to ask a GIQ on the day of publication.

Context and Issues

Background

5. In line with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Statistics (section T3.1), National Records of Scotland (NRS) are required to publish the specific release date and time for each statistical publication at least four weeks in advance. NRS will publicly announce on 23 April 2024 that the next release from Scotland's Census 2022 will be published on 21 May 2024.
6. The next release from the 2022 Census will include:
 - Unrounded population by age and sex at all geographies down to output area of approximately 50 households.
 - Unrounded number of households at all geographies down to output area of approximately 50 households.
 - Univariate topic data on: ethnic group, country of birth, national identity, language (including BSL, Gaelic and Scots) and religion.
7. This release will mark the beginning of a series of single variable topic releases over summer / autumn 2024. These will include tables with one topic variable (e.g. ethnicity) broken down by age and sex. Data will be published at the lowest geographic level possible given our assessment of disclosure protection. Following

this, in winter, we will publish multivariate census outputs - combining multiple topic variables in the same table.

8. The exact date for each publication will be stated at least four weeks in advance via the census outputs schedule on the Scotland's Census website. For each release, we will notify you of the intended publication date and provide you with details of handling.
9. There are likely to be two further releases prior to parliamentary summer recess. These are: 'Armed Forces veterans' and 'Sexual orientation and trans status or history'. Given the nature of the data being released, we expect significant stakeholder, public, political and media interest in each topic publication.

Announcement of publication date – 23 April

10. Proactive communications activity is planned for the announcement of the date of publication. This will include social media activity and a stakeholder newsletter as well as updated information on scotlandscensus.gov.uk. Key messages will be to highlight the date of publication and what data will be published.

Publication day – 21 May

11. On publication day, NRS will issue a news release and social media content at 9.30am to time with the publication of the statistics alongside a stakeholder newsletter. We expect national and local media interest on the results from the topic release and will develop full briefing and lines to take. As with the previous census release, NRS communications officials will host a pre-release briefing session with invited broadcast media and data journalists. We will also have an NRS spokesperson available for interview on the day.
12. NRS comms will continue to liaise closely with SG News colleagues on handling, including around a ministerial quote to issue on the day.
13. There is a statutory requirement to print and lay all census outputs before Parliament. In line with the code of practice, the next outputs will be laid before parliament on 21 May 2024 shortly after publication at 09:30. The publication will be made available to MSPs via the daily Business Bulletin.
14. NRS recommend that you bring the publication to the attention of Parliament through a Government Inspired PQ. NRS will also write directly to the conveners of both Constitution and FPA Committees. Both committees have an ongoing interest in census operations. A full Q&A and core brief has been developed in advance of publication.

Options Considered and Advice

15. We have been working in partnership with Scottish Government analysts under the strict pre-release conditions of the code of practice so they can directly contribute to our quality assurance (QA) processes.

16. Following the conclusion of the QA process, NRS will provide you with pre-release access to the publication w/c 13 May and share the draft GIQ and SCANCE note for approval. We will engage with your office ahead of time to arrange an "in-person" briefing session for you and relevant Cabinet colleagues.
17. We will also engage directly with the relevant SG Policy leads to ensure they too can prepare appropriate subject matter briefing in relation to the release.
18. Please note, ahead of the first topic release for the 2011 census, the then Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, raised a parliamentary motion to seek agreement on the value of census data.

Assessment of Options

- 19., [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)b]
20. NRS recommends that you nominate a suitable MSP to ask the GIQ on 21 May 2024. NRS will share a draft with you for approval w/c 13 May.
21. We also recommend that you and Cabinet colleagues (with portfolio interest) meet with NRS officials w/c 20 May to discuss the key findings from the publication.
22. We are keen to consider any further engagement work, prior to publication, that you think may provide additional value.

Contribution to the Government's Three Missions

23. Census outputs provide the underpinning statistical analysis required to target activity under all three Missions, with this release particularly pertinent to the Community Mission.

Delivery

24. Not applicable.

Bute House Agreement Implications

25. Not applicable.

Verity House Agreement Implications

26. Not applicable.

Financial Considerations

27. Not applicable.

Legal Considerations

28. Not applicable.

New Deal for Business Implications

29. Not applicable.

Sensitivities

30. Given the high profile nature of the programme, any announcement has potential for further media and political scrutiny on the design and delivery of Scotland's Census 2022. NRS communications and policy leads continue to work closely to establish robust lines to take and Q&A. We will continue to engage with SG comms and SpAds throughout.

31. Drawing on our experiences during the question testing and collect phase, we expect the subject matter of the upcoming release to attract significant political and media interest. We will ensure you are briefed on any sensitivities ahead of the publication.

Quality Assurance

32. This Submission has been approved by Janet Egdell, Interim Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland.

Conclusions and next Steps

33. You are invited to:

- A. note the external confirmation of the publication date;
- B. nominate a MSP to ask a GIQ on 21 May;
- C. agree to meet with NRS officials w/c 20 May and,
- D. note that NRS will seek your approval for various material w/c 13 May and provide you with pre-release access to the publication.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] NRS Head of Policy

22 April 2024

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice			X		
1. Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills			X		
Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees			X		
Minister for Parliamentary Business			X		

Minister for Victims and Community Safety			X		
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development					X

Permanent Secretary
 DG Strategy and External Affairs
 Janet Egdell, NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 NRS
 Ally McAlpine, SG Chief Statistician
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 Alison Byrne, SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 Catherine McMeeken, SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
SGLD
Parliamentary Clerks Office, SG
Ewan Crawford, Special Advisor
David Hutchison, Special Advisor
Colin McAllister, Special Advisor

7.

[redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)] NRS Head
of Policy
National Records of Scotland
16 May 2024

To:

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Minister for Parliamentary Business

Copied:

Deputy First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
Minister for Victims and Community Safety
Minister for Equalities

**SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022 – ETHNIC GROUP, NATIONAL IDENTITY,
LANGUAGE AND RELIGION (TOPIC RELEASE)**

Priority and Purpose

1. **Immediate.**
2. To provide you with pre-release access to topic outputs from Scotland's Census 2022. This follows a separate submission sent to you on 23 April 2024, in which we informed you of the date of publication and handling arrangements. The publication date has been pre-announced and the figures contained in this submission and its attachments are strictly embargoed. **Please treat the attached**

statistics and any indication of the results as restricted until their public release at 9.30 am on 21 May.

3. To seek clearance from you and the Minister for Parliamentary Business on the GIQ (Annex A) to be asked by Clare Adamson MSP on Tuesday 21 May. We also seek your clearance on the SCANCE note to be shared with Cabinet on the same day.

Recommendation

4. Recommends that you:
 - A. Note the publication.
 - B. Clear the GIQ and SCANCE note contained in annexes.
 - C. Meet with NRS officials Monday 20 May for further “in-person” briefing.
 - D. Note the publication dates for the next two topic releases: ‘Armed Forces veterans’ and ‘Sexual orientation and trans status or history’.

Context and Issues

[redacted under FOISA Section.25(1)]

Announcement of further publication dates

5. NRS will announce today (16 May 2024) the publication dates for the next two topic releases from the 2022 census. These are:
 - ‘Armed Forces veterans’ – 09:30, 13 June 2024
 - ‘Sexual orientation and trans status or history’ – 09:30, 27 June 2024
6. This releases will include tables with one topic variable broken down by age and sex. Data will be published at the lowest geographic level possible given our assessment of disclosure protection. NRS will publish the remaining four topic publications in August and September 2024. From winter 2024, we will publish multivariate census outputs - combining multiple topic variables in the same table.

Options Considered and Advice

7. Given the range of messages contained in the publication, an “in person” virtual pre-release briefing has been arranged for you and Cabinet colleagues on Monday 20 May. We have already engaged with the relevant SG Policy teams and SG News to ensure they are aware of any potential policy sensitivities and are able to brief their respective Ministers and prepare lines to take in advance.
8. We will publish on the Scotland’s Census website at 9:30 a.m. on 21 May.
9. The publication will be laid before parliament on 21 May (SSI no: SG/2024/89). A GIQ will further alert MSPs to the publication.

Assessment of Options

10. As above.

Contribution to the Government's Three Missions

11. Census outputs provide the underpinning statistical analysis required to target activity under all three Missions, with this release particularly pertinent to the Community Mission.

Delivery

12. Nothing specific to note.

Verity House Agreement Implications

13. None

Financial Considerations

14. None

Legal Considerations

15. Section 4.(1) of the Census Act 1920 requires the Register General for Scotland to prepare reports on the census returns, with every such report to be printed and laid before Parliament.

New Deal for Business Implications

16. None.

Sensitivities

17. Given the high profile nature of the programme, there is potential for further media and political scrutiny on the design and delivery of Scotland's Census 2022. NRS communications and policy leads have established robust lines to take and Q&A. We will continue to engage with SG comms and SpAds throughout.

18. **[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)]**

19. SG Policy related sensitivities to be communicated separately via the relevant SG Policy leads.

Quality Assurance

20. This Submission has been approved by Janet Egdell, Registrar General for Scotland and Jon Wroth-Smith, Director of Census Statistics.

Conclusions and next Steps

21. You are invited to:

- A. note the publication of 'Scotland's Census 2022 – Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion' on 21 May.
- B. Clear the GIQ and SCANCE note (Annex A and B).
- C. Meet with NRS officials on 20 May.
- D. Note the announcement of the publication date for the 'Armed Forces veterans' and 'Sexual orientation and trans status or history' topic releases.

22. We would be grateful if you and copy recipients could please seek NRS consent before sharing any information in this submission and its enclosures prior to 09:30 on 21 May 2024.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] NRS: Census and Statistical Policy

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister			X		
Deputy First Minister			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice			X		
Minister for Victims and Community Safety			X		
Minister for Equalities			X		

Permanent Secretary
 DG Strategy and External Affairs
 DG Education and Justice
 DG Communities
 DG Health and Social Care
 Janet Egdell, NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
 NRS
 Ally McAlpine, SG Chief Statistician
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
 Alison Byrne, SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
 Cat McMeeken, SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], SG
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]SG
Parliamentary Clerks Office, SG
Ewan Crawford, Special Advisor
David Hutchison, Special Advisor
Colin McAllister, Special Advisor
SpAds admin

GIQ

For clearance – to be issued shortly after 09:30, 21 May 2024.

To ask the Scottish Government when the Registrar General will publish the next results from the 2022 Census and what topics will be included.

(Clare Adamson MSP)

I have asked Janet Egdell, Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland to respond. Her response is as follows:

National Records of Scotland have today published: “Scotland’s Census 2022: Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion”.

The publication includes unrounded population estimates and the first set of topic data from the 2022 census. Topic data includes census tables for the following variables:

- Ethnic group
- National identity
- Multiple ethnic groups
- Country of birth
- Religion
- Passports held
- Gaelic language skills
- Scots language skills
- English language skills
- British Sign Language

Topic variables are broken down by age and sex. Where possible, data will be published at the lowest geographic level possible following assessment of disclosure protection.

Scotland’s Census results are designated as National Statistics and form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the [UK Statistics Authority](#), awards Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

More detail about the schedule for future reports can be found [here](#).

SCANCE CONTRIBUTION

Cleared contributions must be sent to Cabinet Secretariat by Private Office by 1 p.m. on Mondays, (unless an extension has been agreed). Private Office will have its own deadline ahead of this.

ACTION FOR PRIVATE OFFICE

MPO should indicate if this SCANCE note is to be included in (check relevant box):

Part 1 of the SCANCE paper

(This is for notes that your Minister wants to talk to in Cabinet and feels may need some discussion. This should be reserved for the most pressing, high-profile issues.)

Part 2 of the SCANCE paper

(This is for items to be noted by Cabinet and taken as read without any discussion. Ministers will not be invited to speak to these items in Cabinet.)

TOPIC HEADING: Scotland's Census 2022 – First Outputs

MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Written Note

National Records of Scotland have today published the latest results from Scotland's Census 2022. The publication includes unrounded population estimates and the first set of topic data from the 2022 census. Topic data includes census tables for the following variables:

- Ethnic group
- National identity
- Multiple ethnic groups
- Country of birth
- Religion
- Passports held
- Gaelic language skills
- Scots language skills
- English language skills
- British Sign Language

The full report is available on the Scotland's Census website. This publication is the first of seven topic reports to be released in 2024. The reports will provide unique insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including information on the labour market, education and housing. In June, data on armed forces veterans (13 June), sexual orientation and trans status or history (27 June) will also be published.

From winter 2024, Multivariate census outputs, combining multiple topic variables in the same table, will be published at all geographies down to output area.

Scotland's Census results are designated as National Statistics and form an integral part of the statistical system in the UK. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, awards Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

An evaluation of Scotland's Census 2022 will be prepared for Ministers and provided to Parliament by the end of 2024.

Speaking Note

- The information published through census outputs will help to shape Scotland for future generations and is an asset for Scotland.
- For more than 200 years Scotland has relied on the valuable data the census provides and it remains the best way to gather vital information about Scotland's people that data users in the public, private and third sectors need.
- The results help local authorities, businesses and the government plan a wide range of vital public services, to improve the lives of those living and working in Scotland.
- Following the collection of Scotland's Census 2022, NRS has been processing and quality assuring the data, and making use of other administrative data sources.
- NRS updated its statistical methods to ensure outputs represent 100% of Scotland's population.
- This approach was commended by the independent Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) who awarded Scotland's census outputs Accredited Official Statistics designation based on the high quality and good practice of the statistics.
- The innovative statistical approaches applied were steered by a group of international independent census and statistical experts.
- NRS has committed to set out these lessons upon conclusion of the census programme in an evaluation report, laid before parliament, in 2024.
- A commitment has been made for the Registrar General for Scotland to provide a recommendation to Scottish Ministers on work required to determine the future of population statistics in Scotland.

Name of Official: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Extension Number: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]