Census Public Engagement Campaign 2022 – Evaluation Report on Extension Activity (April – May 2022)



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1. Background

For over 200 years, Scotland has used 10-yearly census data to underpin national and local decision making. Census Day 2022 was Sunday 20 March, with households initially able to complete the census between 28 February and 1 May.

A marketing campaign was developed to work alongside other levers and communications to increase awareness of the importance of the census and encourage participation in the process, specifically with online responses. The campaign was aimed at the general population but also targeted specific groups identified as less likely to complete the census, or less likely to complete online.

Activity ran across three converging phases of Awareness, Persuasion and Action during February and March. The evaluation report on this activity was published on 8 July 2022 and can be found at the following link: Census campaign 2022: evaluation report - phase 1 (February to March 2022) - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).

At the end of April an extension to the 2022 census deadline was put in place to allow members of the public more time to complete their questionnaire. Campaign activity was therefore extended into April and May 2022 to support this and to encourage those who hadn't yet completed, to do so. Activity ran nationally, with a particular focus on regions and amongst specific audience groups where completion rates were lower (see below).

This paper reports on the evaluation of the campaign extension phase which ran in April and May 2022.

2. Campaign objectives

The campaign extension aimed to work with the other interventions put in place by National Records of Scotland (NRS) to increase the completion rate as far as possible by the end of May. Results against the SMART objectives set out at the original phase of advertising have been examined for the extension phase too.

3. Target audience

The target audience for the extension phase of communications was all adults (16+) across Scotland but additional efforts were made to target specific groups within the population identified as lower in terms of completions:

- Young adults (not living with parents) both students and non-students
- DE socio-economic groups/people with lower household incomes
- Parents of young children (aged up to 5 years old)
- Those in minority ethnic communities.

The extension campaign was also upweighted in geographical areas highlighted as below target by census returns data, most notably Glasgow, Dundee, North

Lanarkshire, Aberdeen City, West Dunbartonshire, the Western Isles, Argyll and Bute and the Highlands.

4. Campaign development and key audience insights

Extensive research was undertaken before the census to uncover audience insight to inform the development of the campaign to ensure it was evidence-led. This included desk research and in-depth quantitative and qualitative research, including an exploration of campaigns used in other countries, measurement of baseline awareness and knowledge of the census and research to understand barriers and motivators to completion.

Further desk research and qualitative research were carried out at the end of 2020, to assess how attitudes and barriers may have changed due to the pandemic, in addition to creative testing to identify the most effective approach to creative execution.

The overarching line developed from the research 'Getting the right things out, starts with filling it in.' was carried through into the extension campaign activity which was not only informed by the original insight gathering referenced above but also by emerging findings from the quantitative evaluation of the first phase of the campaign and by small-scale qualitative research undertaken to understand the reasons why people who had not yet completed the census had not done so¹.

This small-scale qualitative research consisted of a total of 29 mini-depth interviews carried out specifically with individuals who had not completed by the time the census was originally due to close: this research was carried out at the point at which c.80% of the population had completed the census – and so these findings only relate to the remaining 20%, and will not be representative of all of those due to the small numbers involved and as some people are unlikely to be picked up by mainstream research.

From across these sources, insights and their implications for the campaign included the following:

From the small-scale qualitative research described above with those who
had not completed by the start of May, reasons given in the research for
delayed completion were rarely singular and usually a combination of factors.
Main reasons given included the following:

¹ Research was required to understand the reasons why people who have not completed the census have not yet done so. This was a small-scale qualitative project carried out by Progressive Partnership Ltd to provide an indication of the range of reasons for this and does not provide a quantification of the reasons. It is based on 29 mini-depth interviews carried out 3-5 May 2022 with people who had not yet completed the census at the time of recruitment (28 April – 3 May). Participants were free-found by recruiters across Scotland. The profile of the sample was as follows: More women than men (17/12); mainly lower socio-economic groups (14 DE, 7 C2 and 8 ABC1); younger: 12 under 35, 10 aged 35-44 and 7 aged 45+; 24 white Scottish/British and 5 minority ethnic respondents.

- Having other priorities/too busy to complete
- Lack of knowledge of its importance/of why it takes place
- o Form found to be difficult/time consuming/dislike of form filling
- Lack of understanding of the process or obligation to complete².
- Other reasons mentioned by lower numbers included distrust in the government/political reasons, concern about LGBTQ+ /personal questions, data security concerns, digital barriers and timing (not suitable (for example school holidays), backlash from politicians who at the time were under criticism for breaking COVID rules)².
- Some saw completing the census as a chore that would not benefit them.
 Those who had not prioritised completion often had busy lifestyles and heavy family commitments.
- Both the qualitative research and the quantitative evaluation research suggested that the census was on the radar for the vast majority of people, albeit with some lack of understanding and confusion about what was required. This highlighted that additional communications were needed but had a good foundation on which to build.
- Given that awareness of the legal requirement was good, it was felt to be appropriate to stress the fine as soon as it was possible – messaging about which had already been carried in household specific materials issued by NRS.
- The research also suggested a clear need to step up the urgency and make very clear the timeframe for completion.
- There was evidence to suggest that there were still people who needed help and support: so there was a requirement to keep communicating that paper was an option; where to get a form/online link if they didn't have their letter; how to get help/support with filling it in.
- Given some of the concerns that existed, the research suggested that reassurance that the census can be completed quickly and easily would help.
- The research also made clear that ongoing work to demonstrate the benefits would still be helpful.

In terms of specific groups:

 The initial quantitative evaluation research showed that the minority ethnic respondents were less likely to be well informed about the census and what

² For the most part these findings were subsequently validated by a data collection exercise carried out by the NRS field force from 26 to 31 May 2022 as they continued to support householders to complete their census form: summary-of-door-step-data-collection-reasons-for-not-responding-yet.pdf (scotlandscensus.gov.uk)

was required and therefore any further on the ground support from stakeholder organisations would be invaluable.

- Among young people living away from home, there was more uncertainty about completion than among other groups – suggesting that further nudges would help to push them over the line.
- Among the low income sample, a clear lack of trust was identified. They were also more likely to need support. Realisation of the plans for the face-to-face fieldwork to provide help and support on the doorstep was therefore felt to be critical to addressing this issue.
- Among parents of young children, the qualitative research suggested that other priorities and lack of time were the key barriers to not having completed yet and communications needed to address these.

5. Campaign creative execution

The extension campaign was rolled out over the census extension period, with the urgency within the messaging increased as the final deadline grew closer. At the start of the extension phase (extension 1) the messaging emphasised that completing the census is a legal responsibility. In the second phase (extension 2), when research confirmed that lack of knowledge about the legal responsibility was not an issue, the messaging moved to emphasising the legal responsibility together with the possibility of a fine for non-completion. In the third phase (extension 3), the fine messaging continued, together with a reminder that time is running out as the final deadline approached.

Extension 1 (7 – 30 April)

This phase of the extension campaign emphasised the legal responsibility of completing the census, and targeted those areas where completion rates were particularly low.

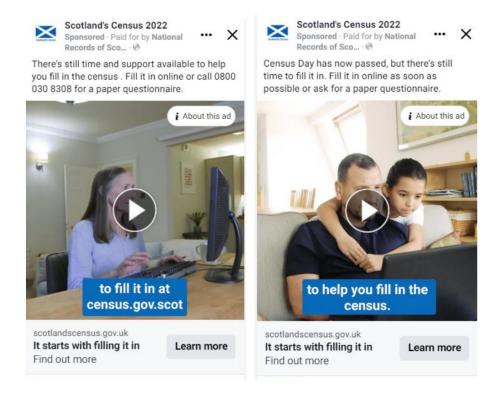
Listen to the radio ad here: <u>Scotland's Census 2022: Evaluation report evidence part 2 | Scotland's Census (scotlandscensus.gov.uk)</u>.

The following executions were used in out of home channels, on social media and elsewhere online. The images were accompanied with a voiceover and subtitled: 'Census Day has passed, but there's still time and support to fill it in at census.gov.scot. Thank you.'

Images appearing in out of home channels, on social media and elsewhere online are shown below.







• Extension 2 (22 April – 22 May)

This phase of the campaign ran nationally and emphasised the legal responsibility of completing the census and the press, TV, radio and digital adverts introduced the message that you could be fined if you do not fill it in.

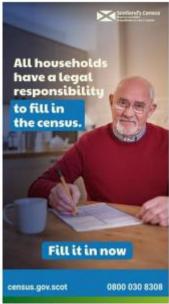
View the TV ad on YouTube.

Listen to the radio ad here: <u>Scotland's Census 2022</u>: <u>Evaluation report evidence part</u> 2 | Scotland's Census (scotlandscensus.gov.uk).

The following executions were used in out of home channels.

Images appearing in out of home channels are shown below.



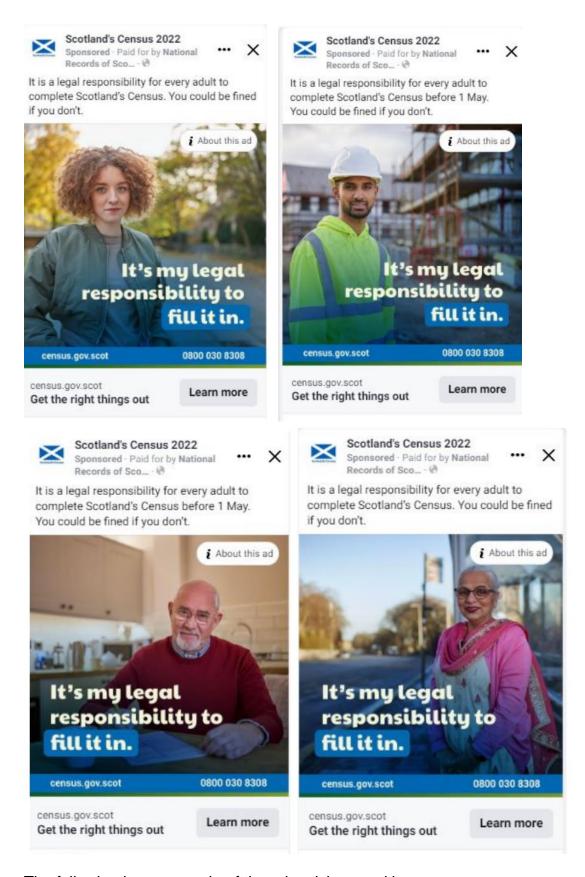




The following executions were used on social media and elsewhere online. The images were accompanied with a voiceover: 'It is a legal responsibility for all adults to complete the census. And if you don't fill it in you could face a fine. Visit census.gov.scot today or call 0800 030 8308 if you need help or support.'

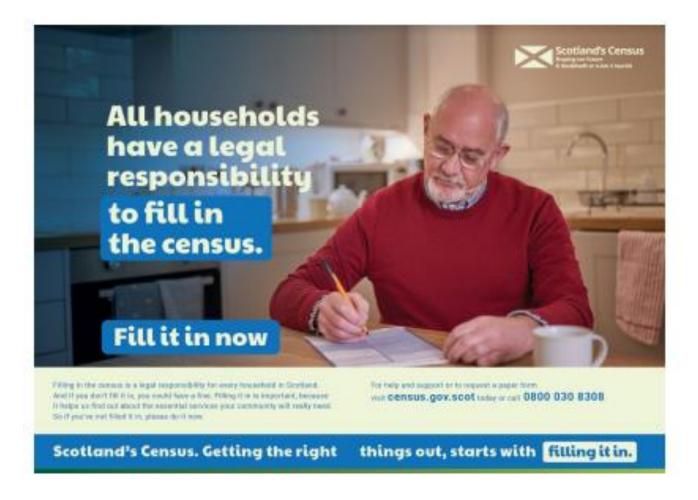
Images appearing on social media and elsewhere online are shown below.





The following is an example of the advertising used in press.

An image appearing in press is shown below.



• Extension 3 (16 – 31 May)

This phase of the campaign also ran nationally and emphasised the fine, as well as emphasising that time is running out to fill it in.

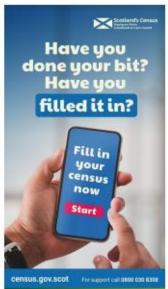
View the TV ad on YouTube.

Listen to the radio ad here: <u>Scotland's Census 2022: Evaluation report evidence part 2 | Scotland's Census (scotlandscensus.gov.uk)</u>.

The following executions were used in out of home channels, on social media and elsewhere online.

Images appearing in out of home channels, on social media and elsewhere online are shown below.











6. Media

The extension campaign launched on 7 April 2022, and ran on the channels described, across all three extension phases. The combined campaign offered 94% of the population an opportunity to see the campaign at least three times.

An outline media plan is shown below, with the orange highlighting media for extension 1, light blue media for extension 2 and black media for extension 3.

Media		April				May			
		11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
TV/BVOD									
STV/ITVB/C4									
BVOD			22-3	2-30th					
Adsmart									
STV/Borders/ITVB/C4									
BVOD				26th April - 29th May					
Adsmart									
Radio									
Hits Scotland Network			22-3	30th					
Selected Hits Stations		7th	- 30th	1					
Hits Scotland Network,									
Greatest Hits Scotland					1st - 29th				
Network & Community									
Stations								ı	
DJ Talk Ups									
Live Reads									
Outdoor									
Digital Small Format			22-2	28th					
Roadside D6s in Selected		7+h	- 30th						
Areas		7111	- 3011						
Digital Small Format				25	th A	pril -	- 29th N	⁄lay	
Press									
National Press	1st - 16th May								
Local Press	2nd - 16th May								
National Press									
The Skinny & Glasgow Live									

Digital									
Social	7	to 22							
Social & Display			22nd April - 29th May						
Social & Display			22nd April - 29th May						
Life Matters									
Editorial									

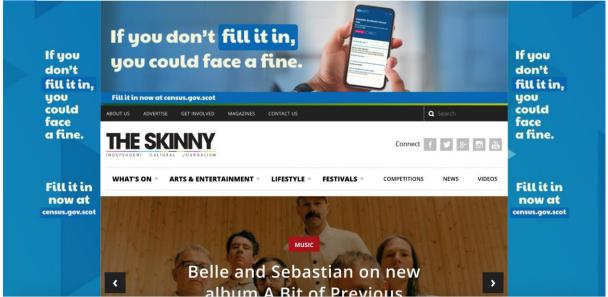
7. Supporting activity

- (i) 35 Field marketing events took place across Scotland between 14 and 29 May at locations which were chosen to reach the 'less likely to complete' audiences. A further 16 events were held during the extension period supported by National Registers of Scotland field staff.
- (ii) Extensive public relations activity took place across all media outlets, including national, regional and local online, print and broadcast channels such as STV and BBC. This wide range of activity generated 438 pieces of print, online and broadcast coverage from 21 March to 12 June.

Some examples of print advertorials and digital print takeovers are below.

Images appearing in print advertorials and digital print takeovers are shown below.







- (iii) A wide range of census printed materials were distributed to households across Scotland who had not yet completed their census return between 25 April and 26 May. This followed on from the initial contact letters, reminder letters and postcards issued. The materials in the extension period included:
 - Online reminder letters sent to all households who had started their census online but not finished
 - Paper questionnaires with reminder letters sent to 115,000 households
 - Follow up reminder letters sent to non-responding households
 - Additional postcard issued to 250,000 addresses.
- (iv) Across the collect period, 1.6 million field force address visits took place, including some multiple address visits, with field staff providing advice and support, leaving calling cards, providing paper forms to householders, and supporting doorstep data capture.
- (v) Scottish Government marketing partnership activity reached 576 partners, all focused on the young independent audience. NRS also conducted engagement activity with a wide range of public sector bodies across Scotland. In addition, five local authority areas ran paid census engagement support Dundee, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. In total, 39 organisations delivered 161 events over a two week period.

(vi) The website (census.gov.scot) provided information on how to complete the census, including explainer videos on a number of topics and details of how to obtain help and support.

8. Evaluation

Method and sample

The main evaluation took the form of a quantitative post campaign survey, conducted face-to-face using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing). The sample consisted of 679 adults 16+, with a nationally representative sample (quotas set for age, gender and SEG) of 529 and boost samples as follows:

- Residents of Glasgow: 50
- Socio-economic group DE: 50
- Young independents (aged 16-24 and living independently): 50.

The total data set was weighted to national figures (by age, SEG and region), to be representative of the Scottish population.

Fieldwork took place from 24 May to 15 June 2022.

Key results

The following provides results for the extension phase against the SMART objectives set at the outset of the original phase of activity. Other key results are outlined in the 'Overview of results' section.

It should be noted that the evaluation research used different methods with the main pre/post evaluation carried out predominantly online due to Covid restrictions. Therefore direct comparison should be treated with caution.

Original Campaign

SMART objective	Pre wave	Target set	Achieved Post wave	Notes	Achieved after Extension activity
Fieldwork dates	19 Jan – 1 Feb		22 March – 13 April		24 May – 15 June 2022
Awareness of the census marketing campaign or other support activity	n/a	67%	75%	Target exceeded	81%

Know you should fill in your census questionnaire as soon as you receive your letter about	61%	71% (+10 pp)	76% (+15 pp)	Target exceeded	n/a
Know you should fill the census in online if you are able	32%	52% (+20 pp)	85% (+53 pp)	Target exceeded	92%
Know filling the census in is a legal responsibility	66%	76% (+10 pp)	81% (+15 pp)	Target exceeded	90%
Agree that the information collected by the census impacts decisions about services available to me and my community	62%	69% (+7 pp)	55% (-7 pp)	Campaign recognisers = 60% (-2)	75% (Campaign recognisers = 80%)
Agree that filling in the census can influence the things that matter to me	49%	56% (+7 pp)	44% (-5 pp)	Campaign recognisers = 50% (+1)	71% (Campaign recognisers = 76%)
Can name a benefit in completing the census	82%	89% (+7 pp)	78% (-4 pp)	Campaign recognisers = 83% (+1)	79% (Campaign recognisers = 83%)
Reported action as a result of the campaign among recognisers	n/a	50%	57%	Target exceeded	28% (51% said 'nothing – they had completed before they saw the advertising')

Pp = percentage point increase from pre to post

9. Overview of results

The April and May extension campaign activity successfully built on the initial census campaign stages, with very good levels of prompted recognition at 81%, cut-through (the proportion who spontaneously described something potentially related to the campaign) at 43% and main message take-out at 95%.

The media mix was successful in reaching the target audience. While there were some differences in the media recognised by age, gender and socio-economic group reflecting the targeting by channel, overall recognition was consistent across the sample profile, although lower among those living in Glasgow. However, marketing activity was extensively supported by other interventions in Glasgow, including field force visits and field events, helping to drive completion rate up there.

There were very good levels of multi-media and multi-stage recognition (66% saw both the end of April / early May (extension 2) AND end of May (extension 3) activity and 72% saw/heard 2+ channels) – and seeing both phases and multiple channels had an impact on knowledge, understanding and behaviour, demonstrating the value of this.

Key campaign messages were successfully communicated, with people picking up on the reminder to complete the census (43%) and/or mentions of a fine for non-completion/legal requirement (52%). The campaign also successfully communicated that support was available (81% agreement/86% among campaign recognisers) and gave people a better understanding of why filling in the census is important (74% agreement/78% among campaign recognisers).

Awareness, knowledge and understanding of the census were at very high levels (e.g. 93% were aware that a census had taken place; 92% were aware you should fill in the census online if you are able; 90% were aware that filling in the census is a legal responsibility) and all related measures were higher among campaign recognisers than non-recognisers, suggesting that the campaign had a positive impact on building knowledge and understanding.

While the majority had completed the census by the end of March, evidence suggests the campaign (along with the other interventions) successfully nudged the remaining minority to take relevant action: just under three in ten recognisers (28%) reported taking action as a result of the extension campaign. The most common action was completing the census, mentioned by just under a fifth of campaign recognisers (18%). It is worth noting that half of campaign recognisers (51%) said they did not take action because they had already completed the census when they saw the advertising.

Among those who had not already filled in the census, recognisers were more likely than non-recognisers to say they were likely to do so (42% vs 13% – although base sizes were small so findings are indicative only).

The campaign successfully engaged the key sub-groups of interest³, who generally had high levels of recognition, good campaign engagement and high levels of awareness/knowledge of the census, with younger respondents and lower socioeconomic groups most likely to report taking action as a result of the campaign.

10. Supporting activity results

Media relations activity generated 438 pieces of coverage: print (215), online (129) and broadcast (94) coverage.

Across the 35 Field events, 2,715 people were engaged with – including answering questions, signposting to support and encouraging completion.

Across the collection period in total, census field staff:

- visited over 680,000 households
- made over 1.6 million household visits
- handed out over 92,000 paper questionnaires to households.

From 7 April to 29 May, over 919,706 unique users arrived at the website with 60% interacting with the site in some way. Approximately 89% of overall completions came via the website.

11. Conclusions

The extension campaign successfully built on the original phase of the campaign, making clear the urgency, highlighting the fine and signposting to the required support.

Along with the other interventions it nudged many people to complete their census and played an important role in delivering the 89% completion rate that was achieved.

While there remained a group of people who did not intend to complete, and were not swayed by any of the activity, there are some important learnings about barriers to completion that will be carried forward to future programmes.

³ Groups examined as part of this research include: DEs, Young Independents, Parents of 0-5s, 65+, those with a disability and those living in Glasgow.



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The Scottish Government St Andrew's House Edinburgh EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-672-4 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA PPDAS1263062 (03/23)

www.gov.scot