**New mortality assumptions method for national population projections**

**Questionnaire**

9 January 2023

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**General information**

**Questionnaire structure**

This document contains the questions we are asking users of the national population projections (NPPs) and other demographic statistics, including past and projected period and cohort life tables. These will provide feedback on the new mortality projection method for NPPs. The questions are in section three.

The only mandatory questions are those in section one, which ask about you or the organisation you may be representing. All other questions are optional, allowing you to choose what you would like to provide feedback on.

**How to respond**

We welcome contributions from all users of population projections and statistics. This includes, but is not limited to:

* government and government agencies
* interest groups
* charities
* civil society organisations
* academia

Before responding, you may like to read our associated article, [Prospective new method for setting mortality assumptions for national population projections, UK: January 2023](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/articles/prospectivenewmethodforsettingmortalityassumptionsfornationalpopulationprojectionsuk/january2023). This is likely to assist you in giving your feedback.

We recommend you respond by completing the [online questionnaire.](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/external-affairs/new-mortality-assumptions-method)

You can also respond by email or post, using the downloadable version of this questionnaire.

**Consultation details**

**Issued:** 9 January 2023

**Respond by:** 20 February 2023

We will aim to publish an anonymised summary of responses to this user engagement approximately 12 weeks after the engagement closes.

**Enquiries to**

**Email:** [projections@ons.gov.uk](https://officenationalstatistics.sharepoint.com/sites/PopStatsProjections/PHP%20projects%20and%20articles/Mortality%20model/User%20engagement%202022/CitizenSpace/Drafts/projections%40ons.gov.uk)

**Phone:** +44 1329 444661

**Post:** Population and Household Projections, Room 4200S, Office for National Statistics, Segensworth Road West, Fareham, PO15 5RR

**Accessibility**

If you prefer a different format, or you would like to have a meeting with us to provide your feedback, email projections@ons.gov.uk.

**Confidentiality and data protection**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) needs your name and email address to receive your response. We may contact you about your response to this engagement. The ONS produces national population projections (NPPs) on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland. We agree the underlying assumptions to be used in NPPs with the devolved administrations – Welsh Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Responses to this engagement will, therefore, be available to the devolved administrations who are members of the NPP Committee, as part of our review of the responses and overall decision-making process. All responses will be treated in accordance with our [stakeholder privacy notice](https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/dataprotection/privacyinformationforourstakeholders).

We aim to be as open as possible in our decision-making process. As part of this, we plan to publish an anonymised summary of the responses we receive. We will not publish the personal name of any respondent. Names of individuals, organisations and groups will not be linked to any comments that you give.

The names of all organisations and groups responding to the engagement may be published in a list of respondents.

Please be aware that, as a public authority, we are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents) and can never completely guarantee that names will not be published. We will not publish personal contact details, such as email addresses. To find out more, read our [Privacy Policy](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/privacy_policy/).

If you have any complaints about the way this user engagement has been conducted, please email: ons.consultations@ons.gov.uk.

# **Section 1: Your name and email**

We are asking for your name and email address, as we may contact you in relation to your response.

We treat the data we hold with respect, keeping it secure and confidential. To find out more, read our [Privacy Policy](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/privacy_policy/).

**1. What is your name?**

(Required)

Click or tap here to enter text.

**2. What is your email address?**

You will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

(Required)

Click or tap here to enter text.

**1.1: About your response**

**3. Are you responding to this survey in a personal or a professional capacity?**

(Required)

 ☐ Personal

 ☐ Professional

**4. Are you answering this survey on behalf of an organisation or a group?**

(Required)

 ☐ No, I am responding as an individual

 ☐ Yes, I am responding on behalf of an organisation

 ☐ Yes, I am responding on behalf of an informal group, such as a community or social media group

If you selected “Yes”, please provide the name of the organisation or group.

Click or tap here to enter text.

If you selected “Yes”, please state your title or role within the organisation or group.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**5. If responding in a professional capacity, what sector do you work in?**

(Required)

 ☐ Academia and research

 ☐ Business

 ☐ Government, including local government and public bodies

 ☐ Think tanks

 ☐ Voluntary, community and social enterprise

 ☐ Other

If you selected “Other”, please state the sector that you work in.

Click or tap here to enter text.

# **Section 2: Introduction to this engagement**

**National population projections and this engagement**

This user engagement covers the assumption setting methodology to be used in future rounds of national population projections (NPPs). It opened on 9 January 2023 and will run for six weeks. Responses to the user engagement will be accepted up to and including 20 February 2023.

We normally publish NPPs by age and sex for the UK and its constituent countries every two years. We base NPPs on the latest mid-year population estimates, together with assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration.

The primary purpose of the projections is to provide information on potential future population levels. They are used as a common framework for national planning and policymaking. The latest NPPs are the [2020-based interim national population projections](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/nationalpopulationprojections/2020basedinterim). We plan for the 2021-based NPPs to be released in the second half of this year, with a provisional publication date of December 2023.

We produce NPPs on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland. We agree the underlying assumptions with the devolved administrations – Welsh Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Information on our mortality assumption setting process, which is always kept under review, can be found in section three of our [National population projections, mortality assumptions: 2020-based interim](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/methodologies/nationalpopulationprojectionsmortalityassumptions2020basedinterim#methodological-approach) article. If we decide to adopt the new methodology, then it is planned for use in the 2021-based and subsequent NPPs.

**New prospective mortality projection methodology for use in NPPs**

We are proposing to change the Office for National Statistics's (ONS) mortality projection methodology. The goal is to improve alignment with the principles and practices of the [Code of Practice for Statistics](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/), and the [UK Statistics Authority statistics for the public good five-year strategy (PDF 1,125 KB)](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UKSA-Strategy-2020.pdf). The main benefits include significant improvements in efficiency, reproducibility, and greater transparency compared with the current method. A formal decision on the ONS’s mortality projection methodology will be made following this user engagement and other engagements with our users, including those by our devolved partners.

This user engagement aims to gather feedback on the planned use of our statistics that could arise from the prospective change to the new mortality projection methodology. Users may find [Prospective new method for setting mortality assumptions for national population projections, UK: January 2023](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/articles/prospectivenewmethodforsettingmortalityassumptionsfornationalpopulationprojectionsuk/january2023) helpful to read before answering the questions on the suitability of the methodology. This related article explains the new mortality projection methodology and provides evidence of the outcomes from the new methodology in comparison to the current methodology.

**Scope**

The scope of this user engagement is primarily for producing and setting mortality assumptions for use in NPPs. However, it is important to be aware that the following releases will also be impacted by a change in methodology where:

* the mortality component total in the subnational population projections is constrained to the national population projection for England
* household projections, for England, use the subnational population projections as an input
* past and projected period and cohort lifetables use national population projections

**Future plans**

Within 12 weeks of the user engagement closing, we will provide respondents with a link to a published article providing a summary of responses. A final decision on the mortality projection methodology to be used in the 2021-based NPPs will be published on the ONS website. Respondents to this user engagement will be informed when this is published.

The next set of NPPs will be 2021-based; these will integrate the latest data following Census 2021 for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. As the census in Scotland took place in March 2022, it is planned that the NPPs will use mid-2021 population estimates for Scotland rolled forward from the 2011 Census. The NPPs will also include an updated set of demographic assumptions and a range of variant projections. We plan to seek user feedback on their output needs, then to publish the 2021-based NPPs in December 2023 (see the [ONS release calendar](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releasecalendar?view=upcoming)).

**Why we are consulting**

National population projections (NPPs) are used as a common framework for national planning and policymaking in several different fields. NPPs are based on the long-term assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration (internal to the UK and international). A change to one of the assumption setting methodologies has implications for the assumptions that the projections are built on, the other assumptions (fertility and migration in this case) and resulting projections.

We are aware that there are implications for users of our statistical releases arising from changes in our assumption-setting methodology. Therefore, we are seeking user feedback on our proposal to adopt the new methodology for use in developing mortality assumptions for future rounds of NPPs. This engagement exercise gives users the opportunity to provide feedback on the prospective change in methodology before a formal decision is made.

# **Section 3: Your use of our statistics**

To help our decision-making on the planned use of the new mortality projection methodology in national population projections, please respond to the following questions.

Before responding, we recommend reading: [Prospective new method for setting mortality assumptions for national population projections, UK: January 2023](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/articles/prospectivenewmethodforsettingmortalityassumptionsfornationalpopulationprojectionsuk/january2023).

**6. Which demographic statistics do you use?**

**Select all that apply.**

**☐ National population projections (NPPs)**

**☐ Subnational population projections (SNPPs)**

**☐ Household population projections (HHPs)**

**☐ Past and projected period and cohort lifetables**

**☐ Other**

If “Other”, please specify

Click or tap here to enter text.

**7. For what purpose(s) do you use the demographic statistics stated in question 6?**

Please comment for each statistic that you use.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**8. What are your overall comments on the prospective mortality projection methodology?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**9. Are there any impacts for your use of the statistics stated in question 7 from the prospective change in methodology?**

Please comment for each statistic that you use.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**10. Are there any implications for your use of the statistics stated in question 7 from the prospective change in methodology?**

Please comment for each statistic that you use.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**11. Are there any further changes, explanations, or suggestions that you would welcome from the new methodology?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Section 4: And finally...**

**12. Do you have any other comments about population projections or other demographic statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**13. Do you have any other comments about this user engagement?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**14. How did you, or the organisation or group that you are responding on behalf of, hear about this user engagement?**

Select all that apply

**☐ ONS website or blog**

**☐ ONS email**

**☐ Newsletter**

**☐ ONS event**

**☐ Social media**

**☐ Other**

**If “Other”, please specify**

Click or tap here to enter text.