

# **Government Statistical Service Harmonisation:** Assessing User Needs for Additional Response Options for the new Ethnicity Harmonisation Standard

**Consultation document**

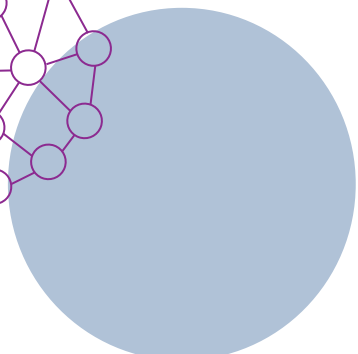
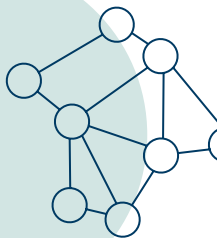
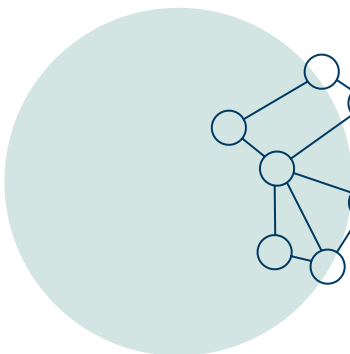
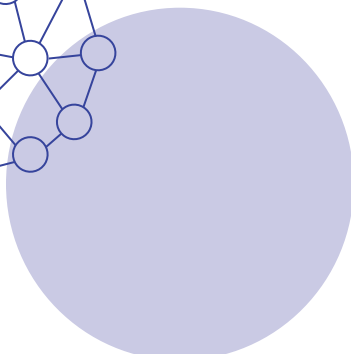
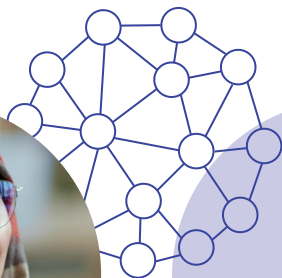
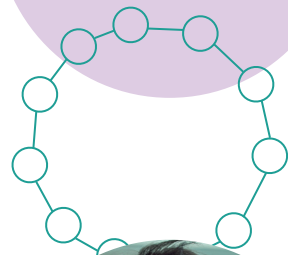
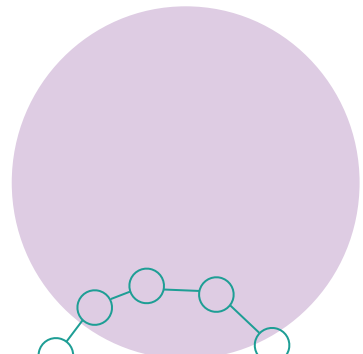
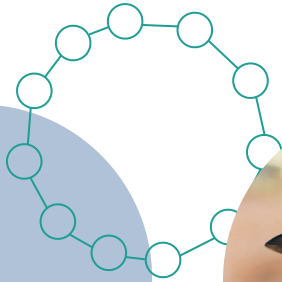
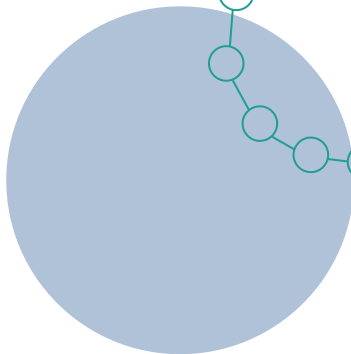
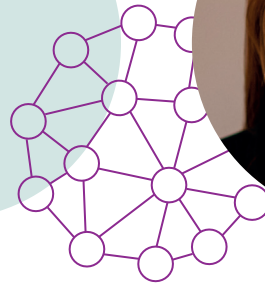
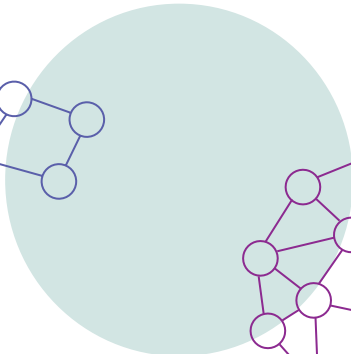
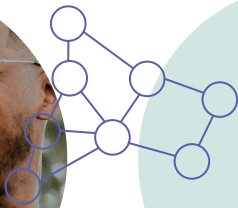
**October 2025**





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# Version history

## Version 1

**Date published:** 28 October 2025

## Version 1.1

**Date published:** 05 December 2025

**Note:** An omission was identified on page 15 which implied that the ethnicity question response options for Welsh respondents were the same as those for English respondents in the Census 2021 questionnaire, noting only the difference in ordering of response options under the high-level category “White”.

The document should have also stated that:

The high-level response option of “Asian or Asian British” for English respondents, was different to that for Welsh respondents, which read “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”.

The high-level response option of “Black, Black British, Caribbean or African” for English respondents, was different to that for Welsh respondents, which read “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”.

This document has been updated to reflect the differences in response options for the ethnicity question in Wales and England in Census 2021. The document now includes the response option text

used in England, and the response option text used in Wales, in two separate lists. The change does not impact the questions that are being asked within this consultation.

# Executive summary

This consultation seeks to gather views on additional tick-box response options which may be required for a new harmonised standard for collecting data on ethnicity. Harmonised standards include definitions, survey questions, suggested presentations and information for data users. Producers of statistics are encouraged by the Code of Practice for Statistics<sup>1</sup> to use harmonised standards to align their data collection with others, as this will increase the usefulness of their statistics, but they are not mandated. Others may also choose to use these standards where they help the consistency, comparability and coherence of data and statistics.

This consultation is part of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Harmonisation team's ongoing review of this standard and is taking place alongside the wider Office for National Statistics (ONS) consultation on topics for Census 2031 in England and Wales, which asks about user needs for ethnic group data alongside many other topics. Users of ethnic group data in England and Wales are encouraged to complete both consultations as both will inform the way that data on ethnic group are collected in Census 2031 in England and Wales. More information on the Census 2031 Topic Consultation can be found on the Topic Consultation page<sup>2</sup>, which closes on 4 February 2026.

The new ethnicity harmonised standard will be recommended for use by data collectors across the GSS, including teams working on the next censuses in the UK. We expect the UK statistics organisations to consider this standard when developing questions. We expect the relevant census question to align to this standard in England and Wales. We will continue to work closely with teams across the UK to understand their requirements for the standard. Depending on the user needs of each UK nation, this may be delivered through a single version or a suite of harmonised questions.

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) Harmonisation team<sup>3</sup> is based in the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The team:

- is responsible for creating and embedding the UK Government’s “harmonised standards” for all topics
- supports the harmonisation of data collection across the UK

In June 2025, the team published an overview of their review and redesign work to date<sup>4</sup>, and indicated the intention to launch a public consultation in autumn 2025.

This consultation is the latest phase of ongoing engagement with statistical producers, data users, community groups, and other stakeholders.



Given the significance of this review, the priority is to ensure a full range of user needs is reflected in the revised response options. This will help ensure that the development of a new harmonised standard is robust, inclusive, evidence-led, and suitable for use across a wide range of data collection settings.

The revised standard is expected to represent a significant shift in how ethnicity data may be collected across the UK, with outcomes for data comparability, operational delivery, and user engagement.

Extensive research has been undertaken since 2022, including surveys, interviews, and community engagement across all four nations, to inform the development of a more inclusive and flexible question format. The new format aims to better reflect how individuals self-identify, while reducing reliance on the “Other” category. The purpose of this consultation is to inform the addition of new response options within this revised question format.

Evidence gathered through responses to this consultation will be evaluated against the criteria outlined in the evaluation criteria section of this document. The evaluation will also be informed by evidence gathered from research conducted by the harmonisation team, such as focus groups, in-depth interviewing, question testing and survey research.

## How to take part in this consultation

**You are invited to respond to the consultation by completing the questionnaire by the closing date of 4 February 2026.**

We strongly encourage you to complete the consultation questionnaire online<sup>5</sup>.

You can also download the questionnaire and respond by email or post.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please ensure that your responses throughout the form reflect the needs and perspectives of your organisation as a whole, rather than personal views.

Responses and enquiries can be addressed to [harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk), or by post at:

### **ONS Consultations Team**

Post Room  
Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Fareham PO15 5RR

You can also call ONS customer services on [01329 444 972](tel:01329444972).



## Background

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) are currently working to review and update the ethnicity harmonised standard. The goal of this work is to make the standard more inclusive. This is in part a response to the Inclusive Data Task Force's recommendations<sup>6</sup> to improve the UK's approach to the collection, analysis and reporting of equalities data in a broad range of areas and to ensure concepts are being measured clearly and appropriately. It also aligns to the recommendation that people should be able to recognise themselves and their circumstances in the UK's data collection tools and processes. Social norms, and respondent and user needs change over time and it is important that the statistical system responds in turn to reflect the needs of a diverse UK population.

The GSS has previously published a harmonised standard for ethnicity<sup>7</sup> based on the questions used in UK censuses in 2011. While the questions were reviewed and adjusted as part of preparations for the UK's Censuses in 2021 and 2022, the team are aware that user needs may have changed since then. In March 2022, the GSS Harmonisation Team started a full review of the current ethnicity harmonised standard and the way that it is used across UK Government. This includes a wide range of surveys and data collection tools and allows consideration of a range of user needs across the UK.

The ethnicity harmonised standard is designed to collect basic ethnic group information for use in most surveys, and includes alternate question formats depending on whether data is being collected in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales. These are not intended to replace questions used in specialist surveys where more detailed analysis is required, and do not seek to define ethnicity, respecting its self-defined and personal nature.

The current phase of work to review this standard includes considering the response options available, and importantly those not available, within the current ethnicity questions.

This includes seeking and balancing input from communities and respondents alongside the needs of data users to inform response options available.

However, this is just one component of a larger programme of work that has been ongoing since 2022. The whole project also considers question design and structure, guidance, analytical outputs, respondent burden, and data user needs. This includes needs for data comparability and operational delivery of questions.

In June 2025, the team published an overview of their review and redesign work to date<sup>8</sup>, sharing the emerging format for a redesigned ethnicity question, informed by extensive research and testing. This includes the likely adoption of multiselect functionality, expanded options for Mixed ethnic groups, and the addition of new response options to reduce reliance on the 'Other' category. The team also committed the new standard would maintain comparability with previous high level Census categories, recognising high user need for outputs that enable comparison over time.

Being harmonised is about aligning with others, not necessarily being identical to them. As such, harmonised standards can be tailored for specific situations, including where there are necessary differences in data collection, legislation across UK nations, and local user needs. Harmonised standards include definitions, survey questions, suggested presentations and information for data users.

Where standardised data collection is not possible, harmonisation can also include actions such as harmonising output categories. Producers of statistics will be able to use the new harmonised standard to align with others, which will increase the usefulness of their statistics by making them comparable.

## **The Ethnicity Harmonised Standard**

The current ethnicity harmonised standard is based on the 2011 Census questions across the UK.

The questions were reviewed and adjusted so they could be used in the 2021 Census for England and Wales, the 2021 Census for Northern Ireland, and the 2022 Census for Scotland. In 2021, the report of the independent Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF)<sup>8</sup> recommended that the current ethnicity harmonised standard would need to be reviewed. In early 2022, a full review of the ethnicity harmonised standard began. Whilst the review is underway, Harmonisation advise that for new data collection that requires an ethnicity question, to use the questions from the:

- 2021 Census for England and Wales (questions differ in England and Wales)
- current ethnicity harmonised standard for Northern Ireland
- 2022 Census for Scotland

The question used in the 2021 Census for Northern Ireland has also been explored to fully understand user needs in Northern Ireland.

The Ethnicity harmonised standard is recommended to data collectors alongside questions about national identity and religion. When all three questions are used together, respondents are better enabled to give details about their full cultural identity. In Northern Ireland, the recommendation<sup>9</sup> is to include five questions: Country of Birth, National Identity, Ethnic Group, Religion and Language, using the NI Census 2021 questions for Country of Birth and Language.

## England and Wales Census 2021 response options

For respondents in England:

### White

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Any other White background (please specify)

### Mixed or Multiple ethnic group

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or Multiple background (please specify)



## Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please specify)

## Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

- Caribbean
- African (please specify)
- Any other Black British or Caribbean background (please specify)

## Other ethnic group

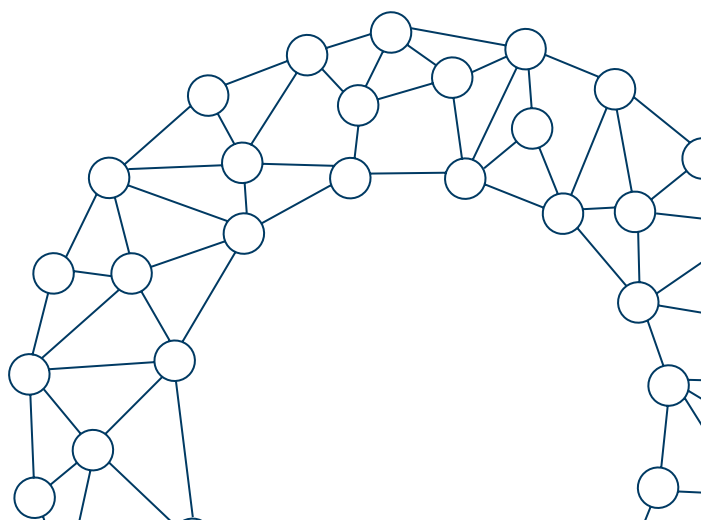
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)

## England and Wales Census 2021 response options

For respondents in Wales:

### White

- Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Any other White background (please specify)





### **Mixed or Multiple ethnic group**

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or Multiple background (please specify)

### **Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British**

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please specify)

### **Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African**

- Caribbean
- African (please specify)
- Any other Black British or Caribbean background (please specify)

### **Other ethnic group**

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)



## Northern Ireland Census 2021 response options

- White
- Irish Traveller
- Indian
- Black African
- Chinese
- Roma
- Filipino
- Black Other
- Mixed ethnic group (please write in)
- Any other ethnic group (please write in)

## Scotland Census 2022 response options

### White

- Scottish
- Other British
- Irish
- Polish
- Gypsy or Traveller
- Roma
- Showman or Showwoman
- Other white ethnic group (please specify)

### Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (please specify)

## Asian, Scottish Asian, or British Asian

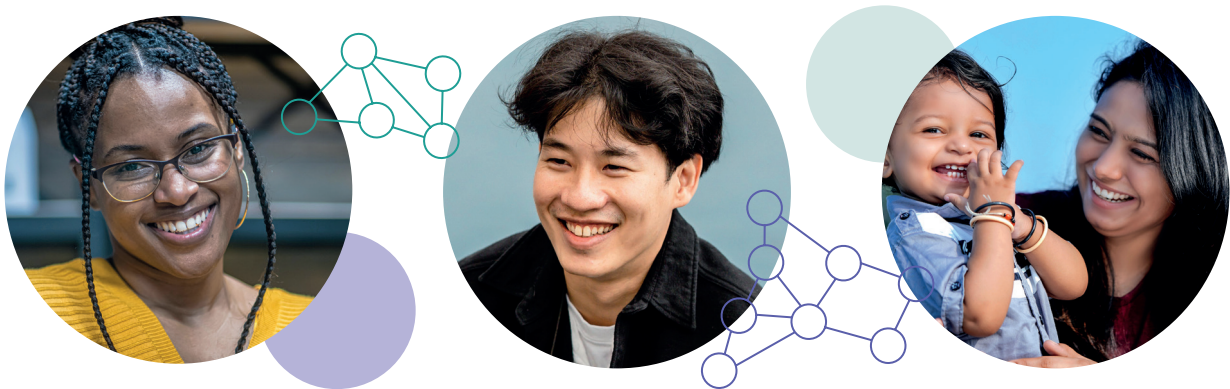
- Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani, or British Pakistani
- Indian, Scottish Indian, or British Indian
- Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi, or British Bangladeshi
- Chinese, Scottish Chinese, or British Chinese
- Other (please specify)

## African, Scottish African, British African (please specify)

## Caribbean or Black (please specify)

## Other ethnic group

- Arab, Scottish Arab, or British Arab
- Other (please specify)



## Purpose of this consultation

Responses to this consultation will provide evidence of user need, including community and respondent need, for additional tick boxes within the new ethnicity harmonised standard. We are committed to maintaining comparability with the high level census categories used across the UK.

Currently, individuals who cannot self-identify through a specific ethnic group tick box, can write-in their ethnic group at an 'Other' textbox response option. The GSS Harmonisation team are seeking evidence which will inform decisions on whether or not additional response options are needed, while recognising the need to balance the addition of new response options with impacts on respondent burden and data quality. Respondent burden is how difficult, time-consuming or stressful a respondent finds completing the questionnaire, and it can impact on data quality. It is not possible to design a data collection question with separate tick boxes for every possible ethnic identity an individual may report, as the final design needs to balance user need and comprehensiveness with practicality. This includes considering the consequences of change for the length of data collection forms, the design of existing data systems and pipelines, and for statistical comparisons over the lifecycle of a survey or administrative data collection.

The new ethnicity harmonised standard will be recommended for use by data collectors across the GSS, including teams working on the next censuses in the UK. We expect the UK statistics organisations to consider this standard when developing questions. We expect the relevant census question to align to this standard in England and Wales.

We will continue to work closely with teams across the UK to understand their requirements for the standard. Depending on the user needs of each UK nation, this may be delivered through a single version or a suite of harmonised questions.

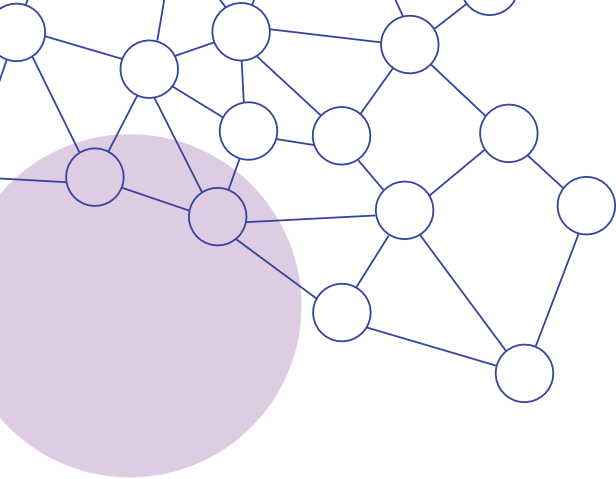
Evidence of user need for additional response options will be considered alongside findings from a write-in review conducted by the harmonisation team.

The review<sup>10</sup> explored high-frequency write-in responses to the 'Other' ethnic group category across a range of UK surveys, including the most recent UK censuses.

The evaluation will also be informed by evidence gathered from research conducted, such as focus groups, in-depth interviewing, question testing and survey research.

Following analysis and assurance of responses from this consultation, the list of response options for the new ethnicity standard will be announced later in 2026. Further question testing with members of the public will be undertaken after this consultation to ensure the wider impact of changes on communities and on data comparability is understood. This will ensure that the final standard is fit for purpose across a wide range of data collection modes and organisational contexts.

The GSS Harmonisation team are aiming to publish the new ethnicity standard for online data collection at the end of 2026. The standards for other modes of completion will follow after this.



## Evaluation criteria for ethnicity tick boxes

This section outlines the criteria that will be used to assess consultation responses. These criteria will help guide decisions about adding new tick boxes to the new ethnicity harmonised standard. The evaluation criteria will help us to prioritise the addition of tick boxes which meet the greatest user need, while balancing clarity, data quality and acceptable respondent burden. Other evidence will also inform these decisions, including data on the use of other cultural identity questions and write-in options, question testing research, and engagement with Local Authorities, UK government departments, Devolved Governments, charities, and community groups.

The principles underlying each evaluation criteria are summarised here. We will publish the full detail of the evaluation criteria in due course.

## Evaluation criteria

- **Strength of user need for information on ethnic group:** Evidence presented of user need for additional tick boxes will be considered in relation to two principles.
  - **Principle 1:** Strength of need for equality monitoring and policy development.
  - **Principle 2:** Strength of need for resource allocation and service delivery.
- **Lack of alternative sources of information:** Assessment will be made of how the group is currently reflected in the ethnicity questions, such as whether respondents are using an “Other – write in” category when available. Consideration will also be given to whether the data is consistently collected elsewhere, such as in other harmonised standards like national identity or religion.
  - **Principle 1:** Write-in answers cannot provide consistent data which is adequate for measuring this group.
  - **Principle 2:** Other data collection questions are inadequate as an effective proxy (for example, country of birth, religion, national identity).
- **Acceptability, clarity, and data quality:** The final harmonised standard needs to be respondent-friendly and structured to gather the most useful information. Respondents should not be unduly confused or burdened by the inclusion of new

response options, which could reduce the quality of information captured. The question must also appropriately consider user needs for data comparability and data collection implementation.

- **Principle:** The addition of the tick-box or revised terminology is acceptable to respondents. The resulting change to the data collection standard is clear in both wording and context (for example, mutually exclusive categories), meets practical constraints for data collection, and provides the required information to an acceptable level of quality.

## Sources of evidence

In addition to evidence provided via this public consultation, we will consider evidence obtained from the following sources:

### Strength of user need for information on ethnic group

Strength of user need (for both principles) will be gathered from round-table discussions involving Local Authorities, UK government departments, Devolved Governments, charities, and community groups; and from a published review<sup>10</sup> of the way that respondents choose to identify themselves through use of 'Other please specify' write-in options across a range of surveys.



If the public consultation identifies a need for further evidence on policy needs, once user and community needs are evaluated, a targeted survey may be considered.

### **Lack of alternative sources of information**

Quantitative and qualitative evidence will be provided from the Harmonisation ethnicity team's research with the public, round tables, and available ethnic group literature.

Information on respondents' cultural identity is available through questions on ethnicity, national identity, country of birth, language, and religion. A review will be published into how, and how regularly, these questions are implemented across major GSS surveys; and how effectively these questions provide proxy data to measure ethnicity.

### **Acceptability, clarity, and data quality**

Recommendations for additions to the ethnicity harmonised standard will be subject to further research and engagement to ensure that any potential impact on communities and data comparability is well understood. The evaluation will draw on evidence from the Harmonisation ethnicity team's question testing research alongside insights from stakeholder engagement. This will support assessment against this evaluation criteria.

The ethnicity question is designed to allow the majority of the population to identify themselves easily. While this review seeks to expand the list of response options in line with current user and respondent needs, it is not intended that the final question design will provide a record of all possible ethnic groups. No ethnic group is excluded from consideration, but the benefits of adding more tick boxes must be balanced against the potential impacts if the question becomes overly complex and confusing to answer. These impacts include data comparability over time, the complexity of data aggregation and output, the practical constraints of implementing a new design in different data collection instruments, and the burden on respondents.



## Next steps

Thank you for taking the time to read through this consultation document on user need for additional tick boxes in a new harmonised standard for ethnicity data. Your responses to this consultation will help inform the development of this new standard.

Following this consultation, the responses will be analysed in line with the criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria section. This evaluation will be further informed by evidence gathered from research undertaken by the team, and we expect to announce the response options for the new standard later in 2026. The revised ethnicity standard will be recommended for use to data collectors across the Government Statistical Service, including teams working on the next censuses in the UK.

We expect the UK statistics organisations to consider this standard when developing questions. We expect the relevant census question to align to this standard in England and Wales. We will continue to work closely with teams across the UK to understand their requirements for the standard. Depending on the user needs of each UK nation, this may be delivered through a single version or a suite of harmonised questions.

Further question testing with members of the public will be undertaken after this consultation to ensure the wider impact of changes on communities and on data comparability is understood.

We will provide an update within 12 weeks of the consultation's closing date. We will also publish a dedicated report on the responses to this consultation.

**You are invited to respond to the consultation questionnaire before its closing date of 4 February 2026.**

We strongly encourage you to complete the consultation questionnaire online<sup>2</sup>. You can also download the questionnaire, and respond by email or post.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please ensure that your responses throughout the form reflect the needs and perspectives of your organisation as a whole, rather than personal views.

Enquiries can be addressed to [harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk), or by post at:

**ONS Consultations Team**

Post Room  
Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Fareham  
PO15 5RR

You can also call ONS customer services on [01329 444 972](tel:01329444972).

We look forward to hearing from you.

## Confidentiality and data protection

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) needs your name and email address to receive your response. With your permission, we may contact you about your response to the consultation. We aim to be as open as possible in our decision-making process. All responses to the consultation will be published. The names of organisations that have responded will be included with their response, and where individuals provide the ONS with permission to publish their names for an individual response, these names will also be included. We will not publish personal contact details, such as email addresses.

To find out more, read our Privacy Policy<sup>11</sup>.

This consultation has been carried out in accordance with the government's consultation principles<sup>12</sup>.

If you have any complaints about the way this consultation has been conducted, please email: [harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk).



## ANNEX A:

# Questionnaire

The answers you give in this consultation will help the Government Statistical Service (GSS) to understand your needs for additional tick-box response options to be considered in the development of a new ethnicity harmonised standard for data collection. This is part of the GSS Harmonisation team's ongoing review of the current ethnicity standard.

The easiest way to respond to this questionnaire is through our website: [consultations.ons.gov.uk/harmonisation/gss-ethnicity-harmonisation-consultation](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/harmonisation/gss-ethnicity-harmonisation-consultation).

When answering the questions, please include detailed descriptions that clarify your requirements. Please use real-world examples that demonstrate how you would use the data collected through the addition of new response options, and what impact that work would have.

If you have any questions, please email [harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk).

# About you

## 1. Are you answering on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please ensure that your responses throughout the form reflect the needs and perspectives of your organisation as a whole, rather than personal views.

☐ On behalf of an organisation

☐ As an individual

**i** If **'As an individual'**, please go to question 4. If **'On behalf of an organisation'**, please continue.

2. What sector do you work in?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ UK government department
- ☐ Devolved government
- ☐ Non-departmental public body or government agency
- ☐ Local or regional government
- ☐ Public service (for example a school or police force)
- ☐ Academia or research
- ☐ NHS board or health organisation
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Charity or community sector
- ☐ Commercial or private sector
- ☐ Journalism or media
- ☐ Genealogical or family history
- ☐ Other, please specify:

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### 3. What is your organisation?

If you are answering as an individual, please leave blank.

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**i** **Answer if question 1** was answered as an **organisation**

### 4. a) Which parts of the UK does your organisation represent?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ England
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Northern Ireland

**i** **Answer if question 1** was answered as an **individual**

### 4. b) Which part of the UK are you responding from?

- ☐ England
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Northern Ireland

5. What is your name?

Please include your first and last name. (Required)

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6. What is your email address?

This will be used to confirm your response has been received.

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**i If question 1 answered as an organisation**

To support transparency in our decision-making, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include the name of the responding organisation. We will not publish your name or email address with your response.

Please be aware that any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

**i If question 1 answered as an individual**

To support transparency in our decision-making, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include your name if you agree.

Please be aware that any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

**7. Do you agree to your name being published?**

If question 1 answered as an individual

- ☐ Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response
- ☐ No, please remove my name before publishing my response

**Your needs for ethnic group data**

**8. Do you need data on any additional ethnic groups, which are not included in the current census ethnicity questions?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 31. If **'Yes'** please continue.

**9. What additional ethnic groups do you need data for, which are not included in the current ethnicity questions?**

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**10. Which UK nation would you expect to use this additional ethnic group data for? Select all that apply.**

- ☐ England
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Northern Ireland

**11. Do you need data on the additional ethnic groups you are requesting for policy development?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 13. If **'Yes'** please continue.

**12. Thinking about policy development, explain why you need data for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested.**

Include links to published research, case studies or other supporting evidence.

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**13. Do you need data on the additional ethnic groups you are requesting for equality monitoring?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 15. If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**14. Thinking about equality monitoring, explain why you need data for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested.**

Include links to published research, case studies or other supporting evidence.

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**15. Do you need data on the additional ethnic groups you are requesting for service delivery?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 17. If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**16. Thinking about service delivery, explain why you need data for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested.**

Include links to published research, case studies or other supporting evidence.

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**17. Do you need data on the additional ethnic groups you are requesting for resource allocation?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 19. If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**18. Thinking about resource allocation, explain why you need data for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested, if applicable.**

Include links to published research, case studies or other supporting evidence.

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**19. Do you need data for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested for any other purpose?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 21. If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**20. Explain why you need data for other purposes for each of the additional ethnic groups you have requested.**

Include links to published research, case studies or other supporting evidence.

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**21. At what geographical levels would you expect to use this information?**

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ UK
- ☐ National
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ Local authority level or Local Government District
- ☐ Middle-layer Super Output Area (usually comprising four or five Lower-Layer Super Output Areas and containing between 2,000 and 6,000 households or 5,000 to 15,000 people)
- ☐ Lower-layer Super Output Area (usually comprising four or five Output Areas and containing between 400 to 1,200 households or 1,000 to 3,000 people)
- ☐ Output Area (consisting of between 40 to 250 households or 100 to 625 people)
- ☐ Other level, including Data zone, Super data zone or Intermediate zone (please specify)

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**22. Thinking about government statistics, do any other survey questions provide data that measures the additional ethnic group you have requested?**

This could be collected through survey questions such as country of birth, language, national identity, religion, etc.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

**i** If **'No'** or **'Not sure'**, please go to question 26.  
If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**23. Thinking about government statistics, what other survey questions can you use to measure the additional ethnic groups you have requested?**

This could be collected through survey questions such as country of birth, language, national identity, religion, etc.

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**24. To what extent, if at all, do these other survey questions meet your current requirements for the additional ethnic groups you have requested?**

This could be survey questions such as country of birth, language, national identity, religion, etc.

- ☐ Requirements fully met
- ☐ Requirements mainly met
- ☐ Requirements neither met nor unmet
- ☐ Requirements mainly unmet
- ☐ Requirements fully unmet

**i** If **'Requirements fully met'** or **'Requirements mainly met'**, please go to question 26.  
Otherwise, please continue.

25. Why does the data from these other survey questions not meet your requirements?

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26. Do you use any official data to measure the additional ethnic groups you have requested?

Official data might include data from government surveys, administrative data, or other data collected by public organisations.

☐ Yes

☐ No

**i** If **'No'**, please go to question 30. If **'Yes'**, please continue.

**27. What official data do you use to measure the additional ethnic groups you have requested?**

Official data might include data from government surveys, administrative data, or other data collected by public organisations.

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**28. To what extent, if at all, does this official data meet your current requirements for the additional ethnic groups you have requested?**

Official data might include data from government surveys, administrative data, or other data collected by public organisations.

- ☐ Requirements fully met
- ☐ Requirements mainly met
- ☐ Requirements neither met nor unmet
- ☐ Requirements mainly unmet
- ☐ Requirements fully unmet

**i** If **'Requirements fully met'** or **'Requirements mainly met'**, please go to question 30.  
Otherwise, please continue.



**29. Why does this official data not meet your requirements?**

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**30. Do you have any other comments on the additional ethnic groups you have requested?**

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**31. To enable us to accurately assess your requirements for ethnicity data, it may be helpful for us to follow up with you to understand your needs better. Do you consent to the GSS Harmonisation team or Office for National Statistics teams contacting you in future about your requirements related to ethnicity data within government statistics?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

## **How to submit your response**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation. Your responses will help the Government Statistical Service to support the collection of more detailed and inclusive data on ethnicity, reflecting the diversity of the UK population.

**You can submit your response by post to:**

### **ONS Consultations Team**

Post Room  
Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Fareham  
PO15 5RR

If you have any questions or queries about the ethnicity harmonised standard more generally, please contact the Government Statistical Service Harmonisation team at [harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:harmonisation@statistics.gov.uk).

## **ANNEX B:**

# **Moderation policy**

In the interests of transparency, we – the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – will publish all responses to this consultation after the evaluation is complete.

The ONS reserves the right to moderate the publication of responses to ensure that responses are appropriate and not harmful to others, in accordance with the terms below.

### **Responses may be unpublished, or redacted, if they include any of the following:**

- threats or incitements to violence
- use of obscenity
- postings seeking employment or containing advertisements for a commercial product or service
- information posted in violation of law, including libel, condoning or encouraging illegal activity, revealing classified information, or infringing on a copyright or trademark

We deeply value your time and input, and our desire is to redact as few responses as possible while ensuring that a focused, constructive consultation takes place. This list is not fully exhaustive, and the moderation approach is subject to change to address additional matters as may be warranted. If you have a complaint about an item of user-generated content on this site, or feel that your own content was redacted in error, please contact us.

## ANNEX C:

# Endnotes

1. [code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/quality/q2-sound-methods/](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/quality/q2-sound-methods/)
2. [consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/census-2031-topic-consultation/](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/census-2031-topic-consultation/)
3. [analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/government-statistical-service-and-statistician-group/gss-support/gss-harmonisation-support/](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/government-statistical-service-and-statistician-group/gss-support/gss-harmonisation-support/)
4. [analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/review-of-the-ethnicity-harmonised-standard-overview-of-our-redesign-research-to-date/](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/review-of-the-ethnicity-harmonised-standard-overview-of-our-redesign-research-to-date/)
5. [consultations.ons.gov.uk/harmonisation/gss-ethnicity-harmonisation-consultation](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/harmonisation/gss-ethnicity-harmonisation-consultation)
6. [uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/inclusive-data-taskforce-recommendations-report-leaving-no-one-behind-how-can-we-be-more-inclusive-in-our-data/pages/7/](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/inclusive-data-taskforce-recommendations-report-leaving-no-one-behind-how-can-we-be-more-inclusive-in-our-data/pages/7/)
7. [analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/ethnicity-harmonised-standard/](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/ethnicity-harmonised-standard/)
8. [uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/inclusive-data-taskforce-recommendations-report-leaving-no-one-behind-how-can-we-be-more-inclusive-in-our-data/pages/1/](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/inclusive-data-taskforce-recommendations-report-leaving-no-one-behind-how-can-we-be-more-inclusive-in-our-data/pages/1/)
9. [www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-ethnic-equality-monitoring-public-sector](https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-ethnic-equality-monitoring-public-sector)

- 10.** [analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/review-of-the-ethnicity-harmonised-standard-findings-from-the-review-of-write-in-responses/](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/review-of-the-ethnicity-harmonised-standard-findings-from-the-review-of-write-in-responses/)
- 11.** [consultations.ons.gov.uk/privacy\\_policy/](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/privacy_policy/)
- 12.** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance)



