

Submitted to Census 2031 topic consultation  
Submitted on 2026-02-04 11:57:20

## Introduction

### About you

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

On behalf of an organisation

### About you

What is the name of your organisation?

What is the name of your organisation?:

LGB Alliance

What sector do you work in? Please select all that apply.

Charity or community sector

Other, please specify::

Please can the ONS contact you to discuss your requirements for population statistics?

Yes

To support transparency in our decision-making, responses to this topic 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 topic consultation could be made publicly available if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

## Information on census topics

### Basic demographics and household composition

Does your organisation expect to use basic demographics and household composition Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

### Housing

Does your organisation expect to use housing Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

### Migration and citizenship

Does your organisation expect to use migration and citizenship Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Ethnicity and national identity

Does your organisation expect to use ethnicity and national identity Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Religion

Does your organisation expect to use religion Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Language

Does your organisation expect to use language Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Sexual orientation

Does your organisation expect to use sexual orientation Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

Yes

## Sexual orientation

At what geographical levels does your organisation expect to use sexual orientation Census 2031 data? Select all that apply.

National, Regional, Local authority

Other, please specify::

What are your organisation's requirements for sexual orientation Census 2031 data? Please include examples of why you need them.

What are your organisation's requirements for sexual orientation Census 2031 data? Please include examples of why you need them.:

It would be useful for us to know the proportion of people in the UK who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, broken down by age and location. We provide services for LGB people across the country. Our Helpline provides a service for LGB people aged 13-24. Knowing how many young LGB people there are in the country would allow us to determine the reach of this service, and knowing where they are would help us to know where we should focus advertising for this service.

Census 2031 should also disaggregate data, making it clear how many people are gay men, how many are lesbian women, how many are bisexual men and how many are bisexual women. This information will allow us to analyse our own data in the context of full data on the specific numbers of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the country. We can then determine the percentages of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals using our services and engaging with us.

It is vital that data on sexual orientation is coupled with clear data on sex. Lesbians are female, gay men are male, and any census responses from males who identify as lesbians, or females who identify as gay men, must be separated out from other data on sexual orientation so as to ensure accurate data. A male attracted to women is heterosexual, so data that includes any such men in the category of lesbian is inaccurate and skews the results.

Please include detailed examples in your answer to the following question, focused on describing the uses most important for your organisation.

What purpose does your organisation use sexual orientation census data for?

What purpose does your organisation use sexual orientation census data for?:

We use data on sexual orientation to conduct research on issues affecting lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Our Business Forum conducted a piece of research and produced a report entitled 'Compelled Conformity' which investigated LGB people's experiences of workplace Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) practices. Data on the professions of LGB people allows us to contextualize this work - we can determine how many LGB people work in professions that are impacted by corrupted EDI.

We also have social groups across the country and are looking to set up more. For these purposes, it is important to know where LGB people are so we can ensure there is a Friends' Group wherever it is needed. Our services are expanding, so data about LGB people around the country is invaluable.

The questions in this section will ask you about how your organisation uses sexual orientation census data.

How, if at all, does your organisation use sexual orientation census data at small geographies?

How, if at all, does your organisation use sexual orientation census data at small geographies?:

We can use sexual orientation data at small geographies to determine where each of our services is reaching and where they can have and are having the most impact. Our Friends' Groups tend to cover large geographical areas (Devon and Cornwall, East Sussex, Edinburgh and Glasgow etc.) and more data about the numbers of LGB people in each area would tell us how much reach our groups are having and where we should target to advertise our Friends' Groups and to set up new groups.

How, if at all, does your organisation use sexual orientation census data to understand more about small population groups?

How, if at all, does your organisation use sexual orientation census data to understand more about small population groups?:

How, if at all, does your organisation use census data on sexual orientation combined with other census variables (otherwise known as multivariate analysis)?

How, if at all, does your organisation use census data on sexual orientation combined with other census variables (otherwise known as multivariate analysis)?:

How, if at all, does your organisation compare sexual orientation census data to geographical areas outside England and Wales?

How, if at all, does your organisation compare sexual orientation census data to geographical areas outside England and Wales?:

How, if at all, are these current uses different from your organisation's (future) needs for Census 2031 data on sexual orientation?

How, if at all, are these current uses different from your organisation's (future) needs for Census 2031 data on sexual orientation?:

## Sexual orientation

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on sexual orientation meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on sexual orientation meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.:

What would the consequences be, if any, for your organisation if sexual orientation data were not collected in Census 2031?

What would the consequences be, if any, for your organisation if sexual orientation data were not collected in Census 2031?:

The census is the most wide-reaching survey which can determine the numbers of LGB people in the UK. Without including questions on sexual orientation in Census 2031, it is difficult to see how else this data could be collected. A separate survey to determine the numbers and details of LGB people across the whole country is unlikely to be carried out due to cost and logistics.

Without this data, LGB Alliance, the only charity in the UK exclusively working to serve the interests of same-sex attracted people, would not have access to comprehensive data on the constituent group we exist to serve. This would make it more difficult to analyse the impact of our services and to determine our reach. Knowing that we have reached x number of lesbians with a campaign or a service does not tell us much unless we know how many lesbians there are in the country. The research we conduct is more impactful and accurate if we know the percentage of LGB people we are talking about, and we can't know this if we don't know how many LGB people there are in total.

## Sexual orientation

What else, if anything, would you like to add about your organisation's requirements for sexual orientation Census 2031 data?

What else, if anything, would you like to add about your organisation's requirements for sexual orientation Census 2031 data?:

It is vital to stress that data on sex and data on sexual orientation must be analysed together to ensure the answers given are accurate. A person who answers that their sex is male and marks their sexual orientation as lesbian has provided inaccurate information which skews the data. A male exclusively attracted to females is heterosexual.

While we do not believe in the concept of gender identity, if it is to be included in Census 2031, it is important to look at this alongside sex and sexual orientation since someone who marks down a gender identity different to their sex may put down an inaccurate sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is rooted in sex, not gender identity, but the presence of gender identity as a topic group may confuse some people into thinking sexual orientation is determined by gender identity. This could cause them to mark down a same-sex sexual orientation when they are in fact heterosexual. It is vital to examine these answers carefully to ensure accurate data on sex and sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

Does your organisation expect to use gender identity Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Health, disability and unpaid care

Does your organisation expect to use health, disability and unpaid care Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Education

Does your organisation expect to use education Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Labour market

Does your organisation expect to use labour market Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Travel to work

Does your organisation expect to use travel to work Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## UK armed forces veterans

Does your organisation expect to use UK armed forces veterans Census 2031 data? Selecting No will move the survey on to the next topic group.

No

## Requirements for topic data not collected before

### Type of health condition, impairment or disability

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on type of health condition, impairment or disability meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on type of health condition, impairment or disability meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.:

Would your organisation expect to use type of health condition, impairment or disability 2031 Census data if they were available?

No

## Income

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on income meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.

How, if at all, do alternative (non-census) sources of data on income meet your organisation's requirements? Please include detailed examples in your answer.:

Would your organisation expect to use income 2031 Census data if they were available?

No

## Additional new topics

What, if any, other additional new topics would your organisation propose for Census 2031? Please specify each topic.

Topic 1::

Topic 1: How would your organisation expect to use these census data? Please include detailed examples in your answer. :

Topic 2::

Topic 2: How would your organisation expect to use these census data? Please include detailed examples in your answer. :

Topic 3::

Topic 3: How would your organisation expect to use these census data? Please include detailed examples in your answer. :

Topic 4::

Topic 4: How would your organisation expect to use these census data? Please include detailed examples in your answer. :

Topic 5::

Topic 5: How would your organisation expect to use these census data? Please include detailed examples in your answer. :

## Geographies

The ONS produces a number of core statistical and administrative geographies.

What additional geographies, if any, does your organisation require for Census 2031?

What additional geographies, if any, does your organisation require for Census 2031?:

## Census definitions and population bases

Census definitions, such as usual resident and dwelling, describe how individuals and accommodation are counted and grouped.

What additional definitions and groupings does your organisation require for Census 2031, if any, that were not used for Census 2021?

What additional definitions and groupings does your organisation require for Census 2031, if any, that were not used for Census 2021?:

The ONS currently produces outputs against the usually resident population, the daytime population and the out-of-term population

What additional population bases, if any, does your organisation require from Census 2031?

What additional population bases, if any, does your organisation require from Census 2031?:

## Communal establishments

Does your organisation expect to use communal establishments data from Census 2031?

No

## Harmonisation

In which topic areas or data items, if any, would greater harmonisation help your organisation bring together data from different sources more effectively? Please include detailed examples where a lack of harmonised standards has made it difficult to combine or compare data.

In which topic areas or data items, if any, would greater harmonisation help your organisation bring together data from different sources more effectively? Please include detailed examples where a lack of harmonised standards has made it difficult to combine or compare data. :

## Anything else

What, if anything else, would you like to add about your organisation's Census 2031 data requirements?

What, if anything else, would you like to add about your organisation's Census 2031 data requirements? :

Thank you