

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee

14 September 2023

By email only:
FPA.committee@parliament.scot

Dear Convener

I am writing to you in regards to the first outputs for Scotland's Census, which have been published today (14 September).

The results include rounded estimates of the total population of Scotland (5,436,600) and the population size in each council area, including a breakdown by five year age groups and sex.

There are also figures showing the change in population since the last census in Scotland in 2011 – both at national and council level – as well as population density and household numbers.

The full results can be found on the Scotland's Census [website](#).

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

Since completion of the collection phase of Scotland's Census 2022, NRS has undertaken extensive processing and quality assurance of the data, and made use of other administrative data sources. This built on the almost 90% national return rate achieved through collection and enables robust, reliable estimates for the whole population to be provided.

The innovative statistical approaches applied to deliver these estimates have been steered by a group of independent international census and statistical experts from around the world through the International Steering Group.

Outputs from Scotland's Census have been designated as National Statistics. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), the independent regulatory arm of the [UK Statistics Authority](#), awards National Statistics designation based on the high quality, good practice and comprehensiveness of official statistics.

NRS will publish further results from the census from spring 2024 onwards. This will include detailed population data which supports community planning. In summer 2024, a series of topic data reports will be published providing new insights into the characteristics of Scotland's people, including data on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and

housing. For the first time, it will also include information on armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and trans status or history.

I would like to once again thank the Committee for their on-going interest in Scotland's Census. I hope this information is of assistance and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Dr Janet Egdell

Interim Chief Executive

Registrar General for Scotland and Keeper of the Records of Scotland

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