

census 2021

Ready, steady, census

Households across Croydon will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021 on Sunday 21st March. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

The census is for everyone, and it has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. Once every 10 years, it helps build the most complete picture and estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The whole population has the chance to provide the information that ensures all communities are represented in decisions on funding and services. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on. Knowing what your community's needs are helps organisations like councils plan and fund public services in your area and across England and Wales. Information you give informs where billions of pounds of funding is spent on things like transport, education and health. Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand us as customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history use the information. That's why it's so important that everyone takes part and has an opportunity to take part. The census is so important that it's compulsory for everyone in England and Wales to take part.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, and kept safe for future generations. The Office For National Statistics only ever publishes anonymous statistics from the census. They don't publish anyone's name.

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March. Every address will get a postcard, an initial contact letter and reminder letters so there will be plenty of information arriving in the post.

Census 2021 will be "digital first" meaning it will be mainly online, but there will also be paper copies available along with a host of other support services to make sure the census is as accessible and inclusive as possible. These will include paper copies on request, guidance and support in many languages and formats; help in local centres with trained staff and online access; a contact centre to give help over the phone; field staff contacting households that have not yet filled in their forms and accessible census questionnaires (for example in Large Print).

We'll also automatically issue paper questionnaires in areas where we've identified residents are highly likely to need them.

And Here's a Few Interesting Facts From The Census

In 2011, the census captured more than 94% of people in England and Wales.

The population on Census Day was 56,075,912, with Croydon recording 363,378. The split in Croydon was 52% female and 48% male.

In 1911, Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison hid overnight in a cupboard, in a crypt in the Houses of Parliament. Her protest aimed to give her residence on the form as the Houses of Parliament. In the end, she was counted twice, once in parliament and once by her landlady!

In 1841, English romantic painter William Turner, rowed a boat into the centre of the Thames so he could not be counted as present at any property in that year's census.

Follow the census on our social media channels and at www.census.gov.uk
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