

Additional Questions

EPCS block

Country of birth of residents

5. The country of birth indicator used in the EPCS block is based on a defined number of residents and not a proportion of residents. Option EPCS1 proposes the update of this indicator to use the 2001 Census. The definition of the indicator from the 2001 Census would be the number of people who were born outside the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Ireland (parts not identified), Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the European Union and the USA.
6. Although the ONS made revisions to 2001 mid-year estimates of population following Local Area (LA) studies in some authorities, the ONS have not made any revisions to the 2001 Census datasets. Research by the ONS on non-response suggested that the characteristics of the people missed by the Census were likely in some respects to be different from those included. However the LA Studies did not identify the types of people missed by the Census and as such, there is no evidence or information about those people. Therefore, ONS and users have to work on the assumption that the people missed have the same characteristics as those included in the census database and tables, and the general advice is to use proportions rather than numbers wherever it is appropriate.
7. This means that for the 15 authorities that were found to have had people missed by the Census, the country of birth indicator used in the EPCS block could be under-representing the number of people in their authority that were born outside the countries specified. One of these authorities has requested that the country of birth indicator is changed.
8. As we propose to retain the main elements of the judgement-based formulae and only update the indicators used in the current system, it is not appropriate to simply change to using a country of birth proportion in the EPCS block. A change to using a proportion would require a larger review of the formula to have taken place. Therefore an alternative approach to uprate the number has been considered.
9. This approach is to use the 2001 Census to determine the proportion of the population that fall into the country of birth group and then apply the proportion to the revised 2001 mid-year estimate of population. This would allow the indicator to remain as a number and take into account the additional population missed. It would also allow the same adjustment to be applied to all authorities.

10. The country of birth indicator used in the EPCS block is the only indicator which is affected and to which this method will be applied.

Option

Option EPCS3

Update the country of birth indicator from the 1991 Census to the 2001 Census, and update to reflect the revised 2001 mid-year estimate of population.

Question

11. We would like your views on:

Question 39: Do you agree that an adjustment to the 2001 Census based country of birth indicator used in EPCS should be made?