

# Additional Questions

## EPCS block and Police block

### *Output Area Density*

1. The enumeration district density indicator used in the current EPCS block measures density in each enumeration district relative to the local authority population using data from the 1991 Census. This density factor is then inflated to take into account the change in population in the local authority since 1991, by applying the percentage change between the mid-1991 and latest mid-year estimates of population. A similar process is used for the indicator used in the Police block.
2. Option EPCS1 and Option POL3 propose using this indicator albeit updated with the 2001 Census data. As output areas have replaced enumeration districts as the lowest geographical level of Census output, then the new indicator measures output area density.
3. However, even though 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.
4. So although the indicator uses a Census proportion, the inflator based on the change in mid-year estimates does not take into account the change between the Census and the mid-2001 estimate. This was not a problem with the 1991 Census based indicator as the difference in population was relatively small.
5. It has been requested that the difference between the 2001 Census population and the mid-2001 estimate is incorporated into the indicator. Therefore to ensure that all authorities are treated equally and that we do not adjust the Census density calculation, we propose to use the 2001 Census population as the base period of the inflator. This means that for the exemplification, the inflator is the change between 2001 Census population and mid-2003 population estimate.

## ***Option***

### *Option EPCS4 and Option POL6*

Update the output area density indicator from the 1991 Census to the 2001 Census, and use the 2001 Census population in the up-rate to reflect the revised 2001 mid-year estimate of population.

## ***Question***

We would like your views on:

**Question 41: Do you agree that an adjustment to the 2001 Census based output area density indicator, used in both the EPCS and Police blocks, should be made?**