Northern Ireland Census Test 2007

History of the Census

Contact Details

If you have any questions or comments about the 2007 Census Test or require assistance in one of the languages listed on the 2007 Census Test Information leaflet delivered with your questionnaire, please contact the Northern Ireland Census Helpline:

by phone on: 0845 607 2011

Alternatively you can write to: -

Census HQ
PO Box 1048
McAuley House
BELFAST
BT1 9DS

A Textphone is available for people with hearing impairment: 0845 608 2011

Large Print and Braille booklets are available to help people with a visual impairment to complete the questionnaire.

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History of the Census

4,000 BC

Around 4,000 BC, the Babylonians and Chinese held censuses to plan their armies and collect taxes.

0 BC

4,000 years later, Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to take part in the five-yearly census ordered by Caesar Augustus.

1800

In 1798, Thomas Malthus published his famous essay, 'Principle of Population'. He believed that countries would soon have more people than they were able to feed, leading to famine, disease and other disasters. Alarmed by Malthus's prediction, Parliament passed the Census Act in 1800 and the first official Census of England, Wales and Scotland took place on 10 March 1801.

1821

From 1821 censuses were taken at ten yearly intervals until 1911. Events in Ireland resulted in the postponement of the 1921 Census. This resulted in a break with Great Britain Census timing - one which was not restored until 1951.

1841

Official Census taking came later to Ireland. There were censuses in 1821 and 1831 but it was not until 1841 when Ordnance Survey Maps were available that a detailed comprehensive enumeration was achieved.

1900

1926

In 1925 the Northern Ireland Minister of Finance indicated that due to events such as the Great War and the 1918-19 flu epidemic a census should be carried out. Accordingly it was held on 18 April 1926 (the day also of a census in the rest of Ireland).

1937

In order to bridge the gap between the census of 1926 and the planned census of 1941 a census of more limited scope (e.g. omitting questions regarding occupation and industry) was taken in 1937. The outbreak of war and the subsequent paper shortage led to a restricted publication programme and later, inevitably, to the abandonment of plans for the 1941 census.

2001

Since 1951 Censuses in Northern Ireland have been held at the same time as the rest of the United Kingdom at ten yearly intervals, with the exception of the additional 1966 mid term census. The last Census was held on 29 April 2001.

Telephone
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