

# 2006 Census Test

*S c o t l a n d C o u n t s*

*23 April 2006*

## **Information Leaflet**

### **Please read this before you complete the form**

The 2006 Census Test is an important part of the planning for the next Census in 2011. By taking part in the Census Test, you are helping us to test the questions and procedures for delivering and collecting the forms.

### **Why have a Census?**

The Census is the main source of statistical information on the population and housing in this country. The information is used by central government, local councils, health authorities, businesses and many other organisations. It helps them decide policy, allocate resources and plan services.

### **The Census Test Form**

The form asks about your home and the people who usually live there. It explains who should be included. Please fill it in and return it to us.

### **Confidentiality**

We will keep your information safe. Information that identifies households or individuals is confidential and everybody working on the Census Test has signed a legal undertaking not to disclose information.

### **How Census Test Results will be used**

Most of the questions have been asked in previous Censuses but where Scotland's circumstances have changed we have made changes to reflect new priorities. We need to test new questions and questions modified from 2001 to make sure they accurately capture the data that everybody needs to provide services and plan for the future.

Some information about the uses for Census data is included overleaf.

## **People**

The numbers and age of people affect the amount of money the government gives to your local council and health authority. The information will also be used to plan for schools and services for the elderly. We are testing a new question which asks women how many children they have given birth to. This is important to help understand the changes in Scotland's population.

## **Housing and Income**

Questions about your home will help councils, housing associations and others to assess housing needs and identify which local areas should be priorities for improvement.

## **Income**

We are testing a new question on household income on some forms to understand whether or not people can afford housing and to target resources in tackling deprivation. Like all Census data, the information on individual households income will not be revealed to any other agency.

## **Ethnic Group, Religion and Discrimination**

A question on your ethnic group helps uncover racial inequality and helps plan action to tackle it. The two questions on religion, which are voluntary, are for a similar purpose. We are testing a question on discrimination to look at the wider issues in this area.

## **Health and Care**

Getting a picture of people's health helps to plan the right services for your area. We ask about health in order to predict the GP and other health services needed in your community in the future. Similarly, information on unpaid caring will help social services provision to be assessed.

## **Transport**

Information on how you get to and from work helps government and others identify future transport patterns and to improve public transport and relieve traffic congestion. It also allows investment in jobs to be targeted to the needs of the unemployed.

## **Language**

We have extended the traditional language question to ask about Scots, minority languages and British Sign Language as well as Gaelic.

## **Other Questions**

Questions on eating together and feeling safe going out in the local area are winners of a Census question design competition which ran in Glasgow Schools in 2005. There is a new question on Crofting and Garden access, requested by the Crofters Commission. New questions on second addresses are important for the tourist industry in Scotland and for people who commute to live in cities away from their families during the working week.