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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB**

Andrew Scallan  
Director of Electoral Administration  
The Electoral Commission  
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Dear Mr Scallan

Thank you for your letter dated 25 March about the 2011 Census.

There are no proposals to include a question on 'nationality' *per se* in the next Census. There is, however a proposal for a 'national identity' question to extend and improve the response to the ethnicity question by providing an opportunity for people to indicate whether they consider themselves to be English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British or some other national identity.

In addition, a new question is proposed asking 'what passports do you hold?' This is intended as a proxy for citizenship and when combined with the question on country of birth may give you what you need.

The wording of these questions (as with all others on the proposed census form) has followed an extensive programme of methodological development, cognitive research, public acceptance, user consultation, and both small- and large-scale question testing. This phase of the questionnaire development is now concluded.

I am sure, however, that Census officials at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) would be pleased to meet with your team to discuss how outputs on the responses to the 2011 Census questions can be used to meet the requirements of the Commission for information on eligibility for inclusion on the Electoral Register, and the Census director, Glen Watson will be in touch with Julie Reid in due course."

Yours sincerely



**Sir Michael Scholar KCB**