

The Electoral Commission

Sir Michael Scholar
Chair
UK Statistics Authority
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG



25 March 2009

Dear Sir Michael

Re: Helping to shape tomorrow: the 2011 Census

The Electoral Commission welcomes the proposals set out for the 2011 Census in *Helping to shape tomorrow: The 2011 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales*. The Commission very strongly supports the inclusion of nationality questions in the next Census as nationality affects eligibility for inclusion on the electoral register. It is hoped that the resulting data will assist in a review of the completeness of electoral registers and in the light of the Government's announcement to introduce Individual Electoral Registration (IER) it will provide a benchmark against which the Commission can report in 2014 in connection with the recommendation it must make about the timing of the introduction of IER.

Given this, we think it would be helpful to meet with representatives from the Office for National Statistics to discuss the precise wording of the nationality questions. Please contact Julie Reid on 020 7271 0654 or email JReid@electoralcommission.org.uk to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Scallan
Director of Electoral Administration

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