

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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4 August 2025

Dear Peredur,

The UK Statistics Authority recently made recommendations to the UK government about future population and migration statistics for Wales and England.

The UK government has now officially responded to the Authority's recommendations and confirmed that they are [commissioning the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) to conduct a mandatory, questionnaire-based, whole-population census of Wales and England in 2031](#).

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the ONS in planning for Census 2031, building on the lessons learned from Census 2021. The census needs to meet the needs of users in Wales for timely, inclusive, and high-quality population statistics that will inform policy, allocate resources, and support the delivery of public services across Wales in the future. We will also work closely with the devolved governments in Scotland and Northern Ireland as they carry out their own censuses in 2031.

As census preparations develop, the Committee may like to hear from the Office for National Statistics in future to scrutinise their plans.

I have also written to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Mark Drakefod MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language
By email

22 September 2025

Dear Mark,

Planning for Census 2031

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2025 on your work with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in planning for the Census in 2031.

We are grateful to you for bringing this to our attention and we will consider our engagement with the ONS during the remainder of this Senedd as plans for the census progress. This includes reflecting on this issue in our Legacy Report to ensure it is prioritised by the appropriate committee in the Seventh Senedd.

I am copying this letter to the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and the Culture, Communications and Welsh Language and International Relations Committee as it also relates to matters within their remit.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.