

# census 2021

A full census has taken place in England and Wales every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941 because of World War Two.

**1801** – The rationale behind the census was centred on legislation, diplomacy reasons and due to the growing population with concerns over having enough food to feed the country.

**1841** – Was considered the first modern census where door to door questioning on surveys were done per household.

**1851** – The first year the census asked for people's exact age, marital status, relationship to the head of house and birthplace.

**1921** – The 1920 Census Act made 1921 the first compulsory census.

**1931** – The census took place but unfortunately all the census records were then destroyed by a fire!

**1941** – Due to WW2 no census took place. Therefore, after the 1921 census data is released to the public, it will be another 30 years before we can release the next responses from 1951.

**1961** – First computer used for census data.

**2001** – Religion added as a voluntary question – which is still voluntary for 2021 too.

**2011** – The last census took place where you could complete online, and 16.4% of people did. In 2021 we are running a digital first census with online completion being the primary focus.