

**Scotland's Census 2021 Definitions  
Paper 27**

**Version 1.0, July 2018**

**Document Control**

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**Document Distribution**

All members of staff in the National Records of Scotland (NRS)

**Amendment Suggestion**

If you have any suggested amendments please make them to [REDACTED]

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Document Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide programme-wide definitions for use in the Scotland's Census 2021 Programme.

The definitions presented in this document have been agreed by the Definitions Working Group and the identified definition owners.

Guidance and Issues provided in this document may evolve, and are provided for further information about the definitions. Issues highlight any impact the definition may have on further definitions and/or changes from the 2011 definition.

This document will be subject to version control following sign off by the Definitions Working Group.

### **1.2 Background**

The Definitions Working Group was established to review and agree definitions for Scotland's Census 2021, to provide clear and concise definitions, and to ensure consistent understanding and use of definitions across Scotland's Census 2021 Programme.

The scope of the Definitions Working Group includes the following:

- Reviewing 2011 definitions
- Assigning owners to census definitions
- Investigating definitions for use in Scotland's Census 2021 Programme with the assigned definition owner
- Ensuring definitions are clear and concise
- Agreeing programme-wide definitions for Scotland's Census 2021
- Ensuring consistent understanding and use of definitions across Scotland's Census 2021 Programme
- Prioritising definitions for sign off by the Definitions Working Group
- Presenting definitions that have been signed-off by the Definitions Working Group and involved parties to the CDA

**Membership of the Data Definitions Working Group**

[REDACTED]	Head of Census Design
[REDACTED]	Head of Data Collection
[REDACTED]	Head of Statistical Disclosure Control and 2021 Census Outputs
[REDACTED]	Head of User Needs, Content and Benefits
[REDACTED]	Head of Geography
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[REDACTED]	Statistical Methods and Data Processing
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## 2. Scotland's Census 2021 Definitions in Paper 27

This document contains the definitions approved on xx July 2018 by the Definitions Working Group Meeting.

These definitions are as follows.

<b>Self-identified sex</b>	This is the sex that an individual identifies themselves as. It can be female, male or a self-identified response, irrespective of the details recorded on their birth certificate. A transgender person does not need a Gender Recognition Certificate to identify as female or male.
<b>Gender identity</b>	Refers to our internal sense of who we are, and how we see ourselves in regards to being a man, a woman, or somewhere in between/beyond these identities. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Non-binary person</b>	A person identifying as either having a gender which is in-between or beyond the two categories 'man' and 'woman', as fluctuating between 'man' and 'woman', or as having no gender, either permanently or some of the time. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Transgender/trans</b>	Equivalent inclusive umbrella terms for anyone whose gender identity or gender expression does not fully correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	A combination of emotional, romantic, sexual or affectionate attraction or feelings towards another person. It is not just related to sex, but is also about a person's identity. How a person determines their sexual orientation can be based on any combination of the above attractions, feelings or behaviours. It can change over time and a person may not know what their sexual orientation is. This question is not specifically about sexual behaviour or attraction, although these aspects might relate to the formation of identity. It is also important to note that a person

	can have a sexual identity without being sexually active. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Bisexual</b>	A word describing a person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of more than one gender or regardless of gender. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Gay</b>	A word describing a person who is emotionally, romantically and/or sexually attracted to people of the same gender. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Heterosexual/Straight person</b>	A person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of a different gender only. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Lesbian</b>	A word describing a woman who is emotionally, romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women. <sup>1</sup>

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup> Equality Network LGBTI Glossary <https://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/LGBTI-Glossary-leaflet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government: Collecting Equality Information Series. Guidance note on asking questions on: sexual orientation <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0039/00393545.pdf>

The rest of this document details any additional information and guidance that accompanies these definitions.

### 3. Terminology for SOGI

The terminology and language in this topic area may change going forward but Scotland's Census 2021 aims to use the appropriate terminology and language based on discussions with stakeholders and question testing.

### 4. Self-identified sex

#### 4.1 Definition

this is the sex that an individual identifies themselves as. It can be female, male or a self-identified response, irrespective of the details recorded on their birth certificate. A transgender person does not need a Gender Recognition Certificate to identify as female or male.

#### 4.2 Owner

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

### 5. Gender identity

#### 5.1 Definition

Refers to our internal sense of who we are, and how we see ourselves in regards to being a man, a woman, or somewhere in between/beyond these identities

#### 5.2 Owner

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

### 6. Non-Binary person

#### 6.1 Definition

A person identifying as either having a gender which is in-between or beyond the two categories 'man' and 'woman', as fluctuating between 'man' and 'woman', or as having no gender, either permanently or some of the time.

#### 6.2 Owner



User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

## 7. Transgender/trans

### 7.1 Definition

Equivalent inclusive umbrella terms for anyone whose gender identity or gender expression does not fully correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth

### 7.2 Owner

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

## 8. Sexual Orientation

### 8.1 Definition

A combination of emotional, romantic, sexual or affectionate attraction or feelings towards another person. It is not just related to sex, but is also about a person's identity. How a person determines their sexual orientation can be based on any combination of the above attractions, feelings or behaviours. It can change over time and a person may not know what their sexual orientation is. This question is not specifically about sexual behaviour or attraction, although these aspects might relate to the formation of identity. It is also important to note that a person can have a sexual identity without being sexually active

### 8.2 Owner

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

## 9. Bisexual

### 9.1 Definition

A word describing a person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of more than one gender or regardless of gender

### 9.2 Owner

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

**10. Gay**

**10.1 Definition**

A word describing a person who is emotionally, romantically and/or sexually attracted to people of the same gender.

**10.2 Owner**

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

**11. Heterosexual/Straight person**

**11.1 Definition**

A person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of a different gender only

**11.2 Owner**

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]

**12. Lesbian**

**12.1 Definition**

A word describing a woman who is emotionally, romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women

**12.2 Owner**

User Needs, Content and Benefits  
[REDACTED]