

Harmonised Concepts and Questions for Social Data Sources
GSS Harmonised Principle

Ethnic Group

About This Document and Update History

GSS Harmonised Principle

About this document

This document forms part of a series of GSS Harmonised Principles, designed to provide approved harmonised questions, definitions and outputs for a variety of social and business related topics. The use of harmonised questions, definitions and outputs will provide greater consistency for survey producers and comparability when using data.

For more information, please see the Introductory Document, available on the GSS website:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/methodology-2/harmonisation/>

This is Version 3.4 published in June 2017

This document has been updated to Version 3.4 to reflect the change away from 'Primary Principles' and 'Secondary Principles' to 'GSS Harmonised Principles'. There has been no change to the harmonised questions.

Harmonised Principles on National Identity and Religion are covered in separate documents and can found at:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/S11-National-Identity-and-Religion-June-16.pdf>

In addition to these principles more detailed guidance is available called '[Measuring equality: a guide for the collection and classification of ethnic group, national identity and religion data in the UK](#)' which offers further assistance for anyone involved in collecting and presenting ethnicity data in the UK.

It is important to note that when collecting data about national identities, a national identity question should be asked along with but separately to an ethnic group question.

Previous versions:

Version 3.3 published in May 2015

This document has been updated to Version 3.3 to correct minor formatting errors and to change the term '*Harmonised Standards*' to '*Harmonised Principles*' as agreed by the National Statistics Harmonisation Group

Version 3.2, published in February 2013

This document has been updated to include notes to accompany the Outputs, detailing how Gypsy, Traveller and Irish Traveller should be recorded, due to differences across the UK. This change has been approved after consultation with the Devolved Administrations.

Version 3.1, published in August 2011

This document presents the new recommended principles for the ethnic group question in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These harmonised principles have been approved by the GSS Statistical Policy and Standards Committee and ratified by the Heads of Profession. They were developed through consultation with the Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion sub-group following a two year programme of work.

Version 3.0 published in November 2008.

This document has been updated as a result of re-formatting the document so that 'inputs' appear before 'outputs' for each Harmonised Principle. An error in the categories of Ethnic Group for the Inputs has also been amended.

Version 2.0 published in April 2008.

This document was updated to Version 2.0 to reflect the changes in the contact details for the Harmonisation Team. Information on a 'Language' definition was also added.

Version 1.0 published in October 2005.

This document is part of a series that replaced the Harmonised Concepts and Questions document. We have been working to make our guidance easier to find and clearer to use. Previously, questions on Ethnic Group

were accessible through the Ethnic Group Statistics website. We have now made it easier for you to access the Ethnic Group questions by listing them in this module.

GSS Harmonised Principle

Introduction 5

Ethnic Group Question
Inputs 7

Ethnic Group Question
Outputs 16

Annex A
2001 harmonised ethnic group question for single presentation 23
2001 harmonised ethnic group question for two-stage ethnic group question 24

Introduction

GSS Harmonised Principle

The following guidance sets out the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for use in social surveys in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They have been developed through consultation and workshops with key stakeholders that have included:

- Scottish Government (SG) / National Records of Scotland (NRS)
- Welsh Government (WG)
- Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister/ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Data Standards Working Group
- Other government departments
- Academic

A large proportion of government surveys are interviewer-led (e.g. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, face-to-face and Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing). However, self-completion modes of administration (e.g. paper-based, Computer Assisted Self Interviewing and internet) are also widely in use in surveys. Some variation in the way the questions need to be asked exists between different modes of administration and as such they have been outlined in three formats:

- Face-to-face interviewer led surveys (e.g. show card format) including harmonised country specific, GB and UK variables. The recommended wording of the question is also provided in these sections
- Broken down by variable as they would appear in telephone surveys or other two-part interviewer led surveys including harmonised country specific, GB and UK variables.
- Tabulated to show GB/UK outputs for surveys as they would appear on self-completion, paper-based surveys. This includes the harmonised country specific questions and country specific questions when using the England and Wales question for Scotland.

Some ethnicity classifications vary between countries due to the specific legal requirements:

- For **Scotland** specific requirements came out of a review of the way Scottish surveys classified ethnicity following recommendations made by the Race Equality Advisory Forum in 2001 and community concerns about the classification used in Scotland's 2001 Census. The review was conducted by SG and NRS and identified the benefits for developing a separate national identity and new ethnicity classification for use on the Scottish Census and relevant Scottish Official Statistics. Both questions used together would allow people to self-express their 'Scottish-ness', 'British-ness' or any other national identity before expressing their ethnic origin. The new ethnicity classification was published in July 2008 and details of the classification (including research, consultation and question testing) can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/29095058/0>. The classification was discussed by Members of the Scottish Parliament during considerations of the 2011 Census in Scotland and was subsequently amended for use in the Census. Details of the committee discussions can be seen in the Official Reports of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee (9th and 12th meetings). <http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/eet/2010.htm>
- For **Northern Ireland** specific requirements comply with the Good Friday Agreement (where it isn't acceptable to ask respondents to choose between 'Northern Irish/British' and 'Irish identities') and legislation under the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 which outlaws discrimination on grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin. The Irish Traveller community is specifically identified in the Order as a racial group against which racial discrimination is unlawful.

Introduction




GSS Harmonised Principle

Contact us

For more information about Harmonisation or to join our mailing list, please visit our website at:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/methodology-2/harmonisation/>

If you would like further information or have any questions, please contact:

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Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

It is recommended that the ethnic group question will be asked in a way that allows the respondent to see all possible response options before making their decision. Therefore, in face-to-face interviewer-led surveys, a single show card should be used which presents all response options. Similarly, a self-completion survey (e.g. paper-based) should use a single question.

The show card presentation and paper-based surveys should include the instruction 'please describe' in brackets and non-bold font following the 'any other' response options.

When collecting GB or UK data, the format of the question will vary slightly depending on whether data is being collected in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. Each of the constituent countries has different requirements which have led to the use of different terminology and different questions (as discussed previously). Therefore, if producing outputs for surveys with GB or UK coverage and using the Scotland harmonised country specific questions, response categories can only be aggregated and presented at the main level category (due to these differences).

It is recommended that the harmonised country specific questions should be used. It is recognised that in rare cases not all GB or UK wide surveys will have the resources required to ask different questions in different countries. In these rare situations the 'England and Wales' question can be used in Scotland. However, as stated in Principle 4 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, an explanation should be provided as to why this decision was made.

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

Harmonised country specific ethnic group question: England

Below is the recommended ethnic group question for use in England. This question is recommended when a show card is used in a face to face interview or self completion survey (both paper and electronic).

Box 2.1. Ethnic group question for England when show card is used for face to face interview or self completion survey

Applies to all

Interviewer to read:

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

White

1. English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
2. Irish
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller
4. Any other White background, *please describe*

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

5. White and Black Caribbean
6. White and Black African
7. White and Asian
8. Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, *please describe*

Asian / Asian British

9. Indian
10. Pakistani
11. Bangladeshi
12. Chinese
13. Any other Asian background, *please describe*

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

14. African
15. Caribbean
16. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, *please describe*

Other ethnic group

17. Arab
18. Any other ethnic group, *please describe*

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

Harmonised country specific ethnic group question: Wales

Below is the recommended ethnic group question for use in Wales. This question is recommended when a show card is used in a face to face interview or self completion survey (both paper and electronic).

Box 2.2. Ethnic group question for Wales when show card is used for face to face interview or self completion survey

Applies to all

Interviewer to read:

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

White

1. Welsh / English / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
2. Irish
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller
4. Any other White background, *please describe*

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

5. White and Black Caribbean
6. White and Black African
7. White and Asian
8. Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, *please describe*

Asian / Asian British

9. Indian
10. Pakistani
11. Bangladeshi
12. Chinese
13. Any other Asian background, *please describe*

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

14. African
15. Caribbean
16. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, *please describe*

Other ethnic group

17. Arab
18. Any other ethnic group, *please describe*

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

Harmonised country specific ethnic group question: Scotland

Below (Box 2.3) is the recommended ethnic group question for use in Scotland. This question is recommended when a show card is used in a face to face interview or self completion survey (both paper and electronic). This question has been developed to enable direct comparison with the Scottish Census and other sources in Scotland.

It is important to note when producing outputs for surveys with GB or UK coverage, if using Box 2.3, some of the response categories can only be harmonised at the main level category. Footnotes should also be included to explain the differences in the data collection process (as explained in the Principles outputs).

Box 2.3. Ethnic group question for Scotland when show card is used for face to face interview or self completion survey

Applies to all

Interviewer to read:

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

White

1. Scottish
2. Other British
3. Irish
4. Gypsy/Traveller
5. Polish
6. Any other White ethnic group, *please describe*

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups

7. Any Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, *please describe*

Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British

8. Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British
9. Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British
10. Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British
11. Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British
12. Any other Asian, *please describe*

African

13. African, African Scottish or African British
14. Any other African, *please describe*

Caribbean or Black

15. Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British
16. Black, Black Scottish or Black British
17. Any other Caribbean or Black, *please describe*

Other ethnic group

18. Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British
19. Any other ethnic group, *please describe*

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

When it is not feasible to ask the recommended country specific Scotland ethnic group question, the question in Box 2.4 (the recommended question for England and Wales) should be used (putting the Scottish option first in the response categories).

Box 2.4. Ethnic group question for Scotland when show card is used for face to face interview or self completion survey (when it is not suitable to use the recommended ethnic group question)

Applies to all

Interviewer to read:

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

White

1. Scottish / English / Welsh / Northern Irish / British
2. Irish
3. Gypsy / Traveller
4. Any other White background, *please describe*

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

5. White and Black Caribbean
6. White and Black African
7. White and Asian
8. Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, *please describe*

Asian / Asian British

9. Indian
10. Pakistani
11. Bangladeshi
12. Chinese
13. Any other Asian background, *please describe*

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

14. African
15. Caribbean
16. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, *please describe*

Other ethnic group

17. Arab
18. Any other ethnic group, *please describe*

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

Harmonised country specific ethnic group question: Northern Ireland

Below (Box 2.5) is the recommended ethnic group question for Northern Ireland. This question is recommended when a show card is used in a face to face interview or self completion survey both paper and electronic.

Box 2.5 Ethnic group question for Northern Ireland when show card is used for face to face interview or self completion survey

Applies to all

Interviewer to read:

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

1. White
2. Irish Traveller

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

3. White and Black Caribbean
4. White and Black African
5. White and Asian
6. Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, *please describe*

Asian / Asian British

7. Indian
8. Pakistani
9. Bangladeshi
10. Chinese
11. Any other Asian background, *please describe*

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

12. African
13. Caribbean
14. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, *please describe*

Other ethnic group

15. Arab
16. Any other ethnic group, *please describe*

Ethnic Group Question

Inputs

Harmonised country specific ethnic group questions recommended for telephone surveys

Where use of a show card is not possible (e.g. telephone surveys), the question should be asked in stages due to the length of the question. The recommended stages are presented in Box 2.6 (Part 1 and Part 2).

The interviewer should use the word 'or' after each response option in parts 1 and 2 of the two-stage question. A pause in speech should be used to indicate a forward slash (/). For Scotland 'or' is used instead of a forward slash.

Box 2.6. Ethnic group question for telephone interview (as applied on the LFS)

<p>PART 1 ETH11</p> <p><i>Applies to all</i></p> <p><i>Interviewer to read:</i></p> <p>What is your ethnic group? I will read out the options, choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background</p>	
<p>In England and Wales</p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White, or 2. Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups, or 3. Asian/ Asian British, or 4. Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British, or 5. Chinese, or 6. Arab, or 7. Other ethnic group
<p>In Scotland</p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White or 2. Mixed or Multiple Ethnic group, or 3. Asian or Asian Scottish or Asian British, or 4. African or 5. Caribbean or Black or 6. Arab or 7. Other ethnic group
<p>In Northern Ireland</p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White, or 2. Irish Traveller, or 3. Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups, or 4. Asian/ Asian British, or 5. Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British, or 6. Chinese, or 7. Arab, or 8. Other ethnic group

PART 2*Interviewer to read:***And which one of these best describes your ethnic group or background?****ETHNIC-WHITE (ETHWH)***Applies if ETH11=1
in **England****Interviewer to read options:*

1. English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British, or
2. Irish, or
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller, or
4. Any other White background?

*Applies if ETH11=1
in **Wales****Interviewer to read options:*

1. Welsh / English / Scottish / Northern Irish / British, or
2. Irish, or
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller, or
4. Any other White background?

*Applies if ETH11=1
in **Scotland****Interviewer to read options:*

1. Scottish or
2. Other British or
3. Irish or
4. Gypsy traveller or
5. Polish or
6. Any other white ethnic group?

ETHNIC- MIXED (ETHMX)*Applies if ETH11=2
in **England, Wales**
or 3 in **Northern
Ireland****Interviewer to read options:*

1. White and Black Caribbean, or
2. White and Black African, or
3. White and Asian, or
4. Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background?

ETHNIC- ASIAN (ETHAS)*Applies if ETH11=3
in **England** or
Wales or 4 in
Northern Ireland**Interviewer to read options:*

1. Indian, or
2. Pakistani, or
3. Bangladeshi, or
4. Any other Asian background?

*Applies if ETH11=3
in **Scotland****Interviewer to read options:*

1. Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British or
2. Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British or
3. Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British or
4. Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British or
5. Any other Asian group

ETHNIC-BLACK (ETHBL)	
<p><i>Applies if ETH11=4 in England or Wales or 5 in Northern Ireland</i></p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African, or 2. Caribbean, or 3. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background?
<u>ETHNIC- AFRICAN (ETHAF) SCOTLAND ONLY</u>	
<p><i>Applies if ETH11=4 in Scotland</i></p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African, African Scottish or African British or 2. Any other African group?
<u>ETHNIC-CARIBBEAN (ETHCB) SCOTLAND ONLY</u>	
<p><i>Applies if ETH11=5 in Scotland</i></p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read options:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British or 2. Black, Black Scottish or Black British or 3. Any other Caribbean or Black group?
<u>ETHNIC-OTHER (ETHOTH)</u>	
<p><i>Applies if ETH11=7 in England, Wales or Scotland, or ETH11=8 in Northern Ireland</i></p> <p><i>Or for England, Wales and Northern Ireland</i> ETHWH=4 Or ETHMX=4 Or ETHAS=5 Or ETHBL=3</p> <p><i>Or for Scotland where</i></p> <p>ETHWH=6 Or ETHAS=5 Or ETHAF=2 Or ETHCB=3</p>	<p><i>Interviewer to read:</i></p> <p>Please can you describe your ethnic group or background?</p> <p><i>Record respondent's answer</i></p>

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Data presentation for ethnic group outputs: harmonised country specific, GB and UK

Data presentation for harmonised country specific outputs

Box 2.7 shows how to present data separately for the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England and Wales, presentation should follow order of categories as described previously in Box 2.1 and Box 2.2.

Note: XXX indicates where data will be in the presentation table.

Box 2.7 Data presentation for England and Wales harmonised country specific ethnic group question

White	
English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	XXX
Irish	XXX
Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller *	XXX
Any other White background	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	
White and Black Caribbean	XXX
White and Black African	XXX
White and Asian	XXX
Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	
African	XXX
Caribbean	XXX
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group	XXX
Issues to note when presenting data based on using the country specific harmonised country specific ethnic group question for England and Wales	
<p>*There are differences in data collection across GB (Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland). Where numbers are too small or disclosive the category should be merged with 'Other White. It is recommended that 'Roma' responses are included under 'Other ethnic group' and a footnote should be presented to clarify this.</p>	

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Box 2.8 shows how to present data for the harmonised country specific ethnic group question for Scotland; presentation should follow order of categories as described previously in Box 2.3.

Box 2.8 Presentation for ethnic group data if using the harmonised country specific Scottish ethnic group question

White	
Scottish	XXX
Other British	XXX
Irish	XXX
Gypsy/Traveller	XXX
Polish	XXX
Any other white ethnic group	XXX
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	
Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups	XXX
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	XXX
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British	XXX
Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British	XXX
Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British	XXX
Any other Asian	XXX
African	
African, African Scottish or African British	XXX
Any other African	XXX
Caribbean or Black	
Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	XXX
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	XXX
Any other Caribbean or Black	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	XXX
Any other ethnic group	XXX

When the England and Wales question is used in Scotland the order of presentation of responses should follow order of categories in Box 2.7 (putting Scotland first).

When presenting data for the harmonised country specific question for Northern Ireland presentation should follow order of categories as described below in Box 2.9.

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Box 2.9 Data presentation for Northern Ireland harmonised country specific ethnic group question

White	XXX
Irish Traveller*	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	
White and Black Caribbean	XXX
White and Black African	XXX
White and Asian	XXX
Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	
African	XXX
Caribbean	XXX
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group	XXX

Issues to note when presenting data based on using the harmonised country specific ethnic group question for Northern Ireland

*For Northern Ireland 'Irish Traveller' is collected under its own ethnic group and should be presented as 'Irish Traveller'. Where 'Irish Traveller' numbers are small or disclosive it is recommended to output to 'Any other ethnic group'. Note that 'Roma' responses should be recorded under 'Other ethnic group'. Northern Ireland's framework for monitoring minority ethnic and migrant people published by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in July 2011 recommends that Roma is categorised under 'Other' ethnic group. This is because there is a distinct category for Irish Travellers, who by law (Race Relations Order) are categorised as an ethnic group in their own right. Roma is not a subset of the Irish Traveller group and the need is to have accurate data on both Roma and on Irish Travellers.

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Data presentation for GB output

If the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales and Scotland are used to produce a GB output then the presentation of data should follow order of responses in Box 2.10. It is important to note that due to some of the differences in the format and wording of Scotland's harmonised country specific ethnic group question some responses are not directly comparable. Response categories should be aggregated and presented at the main level category with footnotes to explain the differences in the data collection process.

Box 2.10 Presentation for ethnic group data in GB when using the harmonised country specific questions for England, Wales and Scotland

White	
English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	XXX
Irish	XXX
Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller *	XXX
Any other White background**	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups***	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British****	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group	XXX

Issues to note when presenting GB data based on using the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales and Scotland

* If data too small or potentially disclosive it should be combined with 'Other White'. There are differences in data collection across GB - Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland.

It is also recommended that 'Roma' responses are included under 'Other ethnic group' and a footnote should be presented to clarify this, however for Scotland it is likely that some 'Roma' might be included under Gypsy/Traveller.

**The Polish category from the country specific question for Scotland should be combined with the 'Other White' category. Also be aware of the possibility that 'White Africans' could have been recorded under 'African' and 'Other White' in Scotland.

*** Mixed/multiple ethnic groups isn't broken down for the country specific question for Scotland and a footnote should be included to explain differences in data collection.

**** Differences in the terminology and data collection of the country specific Scotland question make these categories difficult to compare. The 'African' category in the Scottish question is presented in a separate section to the Caribbean or Black category, however under the harmonised output these two categories are output as part of 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British'. The African categories used in Scotland could potentially capture 'White/Asian/Other African' in addition to Black identities.

If the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions are followed for both England and Wales and the same question is used for Scotland then the presentation format for ethnic group data should follow that of Box 2.11.

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Box 2.11 Presentation for GB output when using the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England and Wales and the same question for Scotland

White	
English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	XXX
Irish	XXX
Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller *	XXX
Any other White background	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	
White and Black Caribbean	XXX
White and Black African	XXX
White and Asian	XXX
Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	
African	XXX
Caribbean	XXX
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group	XXX

Issues to note when presenting GB data based on using the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England and Wales and using the same question for Scotland

* Where numbers are small or disclosive for England, Wales and Scotland it is recommended to output to 'Other White'. There are differences in data collection across GB - Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland. It is recommended that 'Roma' responses are included under 'Other ethnic group' and a footnote should be presented to clarify this, however for Scotland it is likely that some 'Roma' might be included under Gypsy/Traveller.

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

Data presentation for full UK output

If the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are used to produce a UK output then the presentation of data should follow Box 2.12. It is important to note that due to some of the differences in the format and wording of the Scotland harmonised country specific ethnic group question some responses are not directly comparable. Response categories should be aggregated and presented at the main level category with footnotes to explain the differences in the data collection process.

Box 2.12 Presentation for ethnic group data in the UK when using harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

White*	XXX
Irish Traveller **	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups***	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British****	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group*****	XXX

Issues to note when presenting UK data based on using the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland

* This category could include Polish responses from the country specific question for Scotland which would have been outputted to 'Other White' and then included under 'White' for UK (also see ** for issue with Gypsy, Traveller and Irish Traveller). Also be aware of the possibility that 'White Africans' could have been recorded under 'Other White' and then included under 'White' for UK.

** For Northern Ireland, 'Irish Traveller' is collected under its own ethnic group. Where numbers for 'Irish Traveller' are small or disclosive in Northern Ireland it is recommended to output to 'Other ethnic group'. Where numbers are small or disclosive for England, Wales and Scotland it is recommended to output to 'Other White'.

There are differences in data collection across the UK for 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller', which make it difficult to produce a UK estimate. Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland and they are both output under 'White'. However, if there is a need to show a UK output for, 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller' (and the numbers are not small or disclosive,) the responses from the GB questions can be combined with the responses from the 'Irish Traveller' category from Northern Ireland. It is recommended that 'Roma' responses are included under 'Other ethnic group' and a footnote should be presented to clarify this. However for Scotland it is likely that some 'Roma' might be included under Gypsy/Traveller. Northern Ireland's framework for monitoring minority ethnic and migrant people' published by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in July 2011 recommends that Roma is categorised under 'Other' ethnic group. This is because there is a distinct category for Irish Travellers, who by law (Race Relations Order) are categorised as an ethnic group in their own right. Roma is not a subset of the Irish Traveller group and the need is to have accurate data on both Roma and on Irish Travellers).

***This classification isn't broken down for the country specific question for Scotland and a footnote should be included to explain differences in data collection.

****Differences in the terminology and data collection of the country specific Scotland question make these categories difficult to compare. The 'African' category in the Scottish question is presented in a separate section to the 'Caribbean' or 'Black' category, however, under the harmonised output these two categories are output as part of 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British'. The African categories used in Scotland could potentially capture 'White/Asian/Other African' in addition to 'Black' identities.

*****See Irish Travellers above

Ethnic Group Question

Outputs

If the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are used along with the England and Wales question for Scotland then the presentation of data should follow Box 2.13 with footnotes to explain differences in data collection.

Box 2.13 Data presentation for a UK output when using harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the England and Wales ethnic group question for Scotland

White*	XXX
Irish Traveller **	XXX
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	
White and Black Caribbean	XXX
White and Black African	XXX
White and Asian	XXX
Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background	XXX
Asian/ Asian British	
Indian	XXX
Pakistani	XXX
Bangladeshi	XXX
Chinese	XXX
Any other Asian background	XXX
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	
African	XXX
Caribbean	XXX
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	XXX
Other ethnic group	
Arab	XXX
Any other ethnic group***	XXX

Issues to note when presenting UK data based on using the harmonised country specific ethnic group questions for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the England and Wales question for Scotland

* There are differences in data collection across the UK for 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller' which make it difficult to produce a UK estimate see **.

** For Northern Ireland, 'Irish Traveller' is collected under its own ethnic group and should be presented as 'Irish Traveller'. Where numbers for 'Irish Traveller' are small or disclosive in Northern Ireland it is recommended to output to 'Other ethnic group' (***). Where numbers are small or disclosive for England, Wales and Scotland it is recommended to output to 'Other White'.

There are differences in data collection across the UK for 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller', which make it difficult to produce a UK estimate. Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland and they are both output under 'White'. However, if there is a need to show a UK output for, 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller' (and the numbers are not small or disclosive,) the responses from the GB questions can be combined with the responses from the 'Irish Traveller' category from Northern Ireland. It is recommended that 'Roma' responses are included under 'Other ethnic group' and a footnote should be presented to clarify this, however for Scotland it is likely that some 'Roma' might be included under Gypsy/Traveller. Northern Ireland's framework for monitoring minority ethnic and migrant people' published by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in July 2011 recommends that Roma is categorised under 'Other' ethnic group. This is because there is a distinct category for Irish Travellers, who by law (Race Relations Order) are categorised as an ethnic group in their own right. Roma is not a subset of the Irish Traveller group and the need is to have accurate data on both Roma and on Irish Travellers).

Ethnic Group Question

Annex A

(FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

Box 3.1 2001 Harmonised ethnic group question/single presentation

What is your ethnic group?
Choose one section from A to E, then select the appropriate option to indicate your ethnic group

[GB]

A. White

British

Any other White background, *please write in*

B. Mixed

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed background, *please write in*

C. Asian or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background, *please write in*

D. Black or Black British

Caribbean

African

Any other Black background, *please write in*

E. Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese

Any other, *please write in*

Ethnic Group Question

Annex A

(FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

Box 3.2 2001 Harmonised ethnic group question for two-stage ethnic group question

Eth01	GB
To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong. Is it...	
<i>Running prompt - code first that apply</i>	
White	
Mixed	
Asian or Asian British	
Black or Black British	
Chinese, or	
Other ethnic group?	
Applies to all	
Eth01NI	NI
To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong. Is it...	
<i>Running prompt - code first that apply</i>	
White	
Mixed	
Asian	
Black	
Chinese, or	
Other ethnic group?	
Applies to all	
EthWh	GB
And to which of these groups do you consider you belong	
British	
Another White background?	
Asked if: Eth01 = White	
EthWhNI	NI
And to which of these groups do you consider you belong	
Irish Traveller	
Another White background?	
Asked if: Eth01 = White	
EthMx	UK
And to which of these groups do you consider you belong	
White and Black Caribbean	
White and Black African	
White and Asian, or	
Another Mixed background?	
Asked if: Eth01 = Mixed	
EthAs	UK
And to which of these groups do you consider you belong	
Indian	
Pakistani	
Bangladeshi, or	
Another Asian background?	
Asked if: Eth01 = AsianAB	

EthBI

UK

And to which of these groups do you consider you belong

Caribbean

African, or

Another Black background?

Asked if: Eth01 = BlackBB

Eth0th

UK

Please can you describe your ethnic group

Enter description of ethnic group

**Asked if: (Eth01 = Other) OR (Ethwh = WhitAO) OR (EthMx = MXOth) OR
(EthBI = BlackO) OR (EthAs = AsiOth) OR (Eth01NI = Other) OR (EthWhNI =
WhitAO)**

Eth02

UK

Press space bar to enter coding frame

**Asked if: (Eth01 = Other) OR (Ethwh = WhitAO) OR (EthMx = MXOth) OR
(EthBI = BlackO) OR (EthAs = AsiOth) OR (Eth01NI = Other) OR (EthWhNI =
WhitAO)**