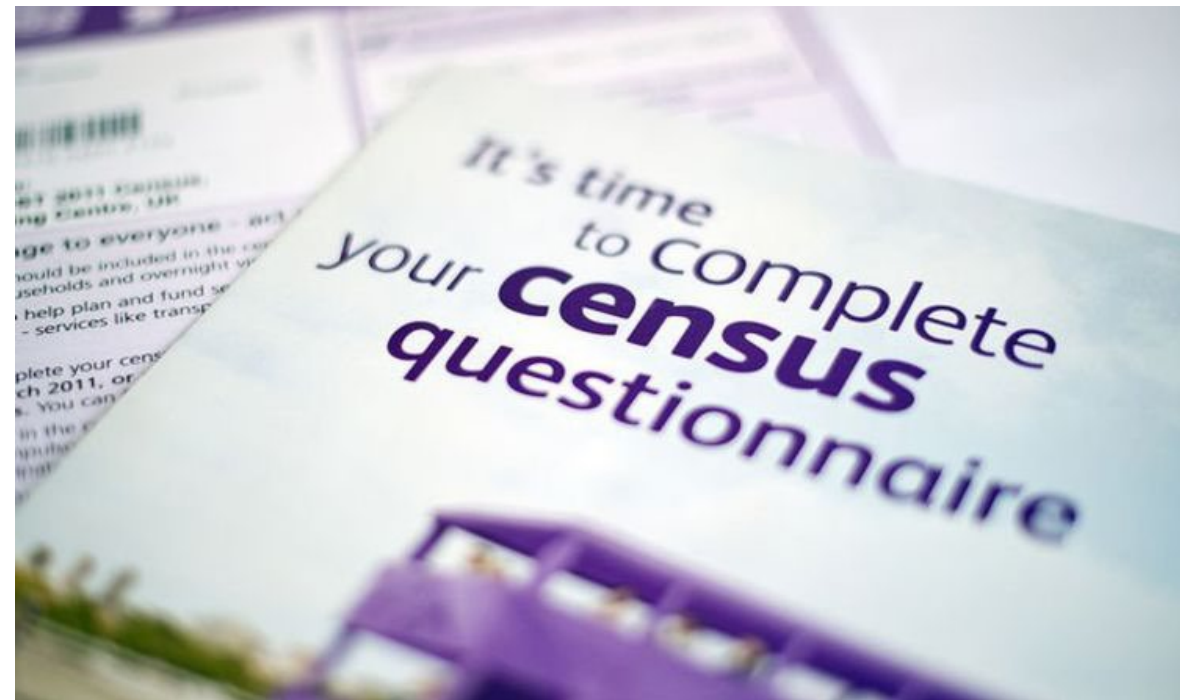# Census 2021

What to expect and when

Census 2021
What to expect and when

Nigel de Noronha, University of Manchester

17th May 2022

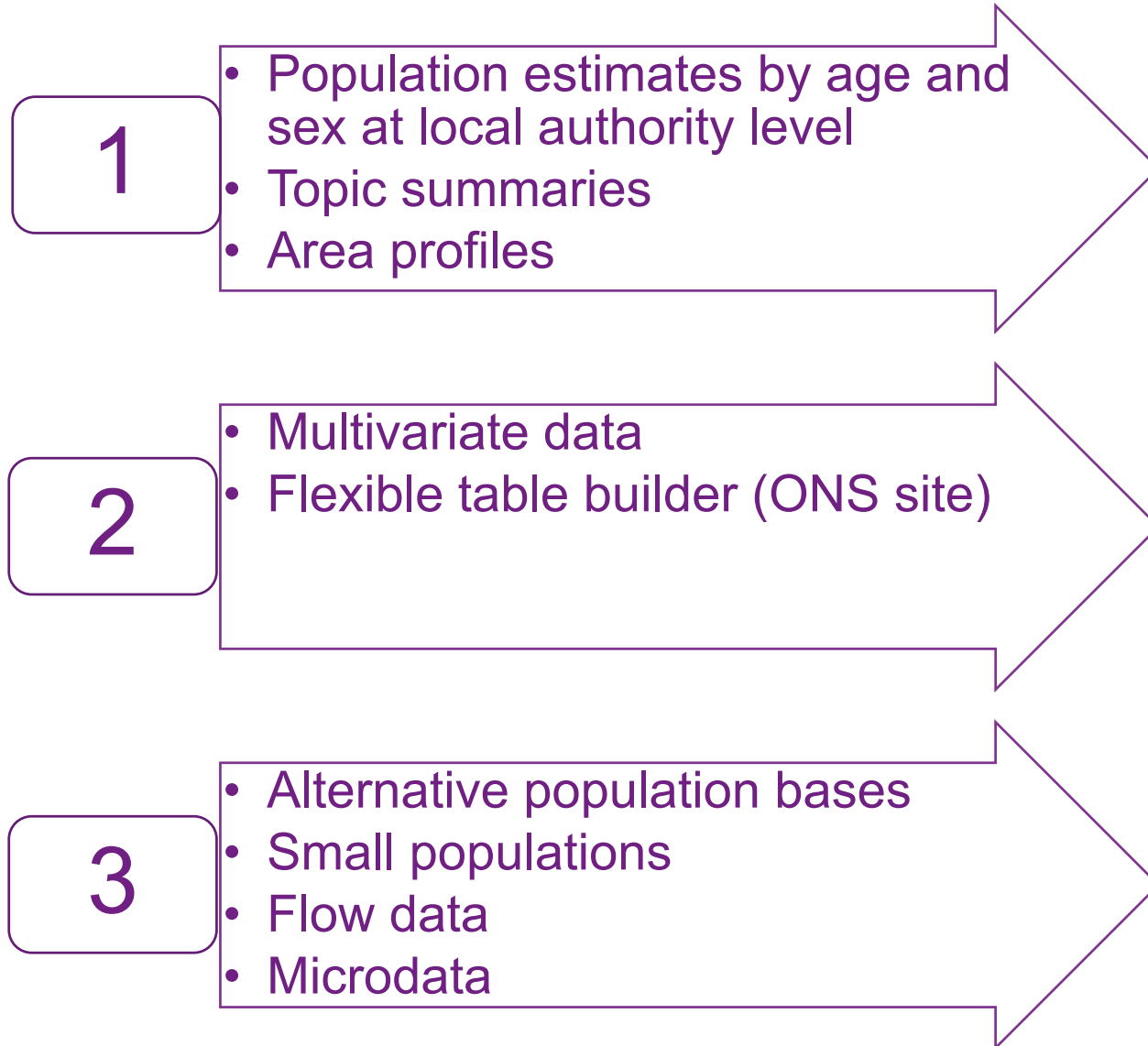# What we will cover

ONS release plans

Considerations

UK Data Service products

ONS Release plans

Based on ONS publications at 16th May 2022

Phased release over a year

1
- Population estimates by age and sex at local authority level
- Topic summaries
- Area profiles

2
- Multivariate data
- Flexible table builder (ONS site)

3
- Alternative population bases
- Small populations
- Flow data
- Microdata

First release 4 weeks after announcement and the rest expected within a year for England and Wales

Northern Ireland first release 24th May 2022 but slower schedule for release of the data
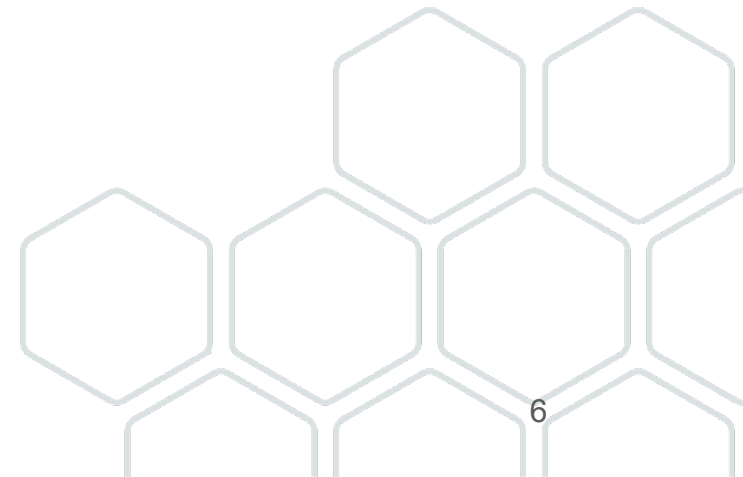
Scotland census a year later and extended by a month due to low number of returns – expect to be at least a year later

UK wide census release to follow all data being available

Phase 1 – topic summaries

Mainly univariate data released every two to three weeks after initial population estimates

- demography and migration

- ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion

- health, disability, and unpaid care

- housing

- labour market and travel to work

- sexual orientation and gender identity

- education

- UK armed forces veterans

Geographical data

Boundary data		
Administrative e.g. Local authority, Health	Electoral e.g. constituency, ward	Statistical areas built on output areas

Output area geography

Output area minimum 40 households and 100 residents, average target 125 households, maximum 250 households and 625 people

- introduced in 2001
- aim for more homogeneous population through matching characteristics of population
- but try to minimise changes

Built into larger super output areas

- lower level super-output areas (LSOAs) minimum 400 households and 1,000 people, maximum 1,200 households and 3,000 people – used in published statistics e.g. IMD, recorded crime
- Mid-level super output areas (MSOAs) minimum 2,000 households and 5,000 people, maximum 6,000 households and 15,000 people – used in published statistics e.g. educational attainment, Covid cases

All boundaries constrained within local authorities

Area profiles

Population
Sex, Age
Legal partnership status
Residence type
Country of birth
Length of residence in UK
Household composition

Housing
Household size
Tenure
Car or van availability
Accommodation type
Central heating

Work
Economic activity
Hours worked
Industry
Occupation

Education
In full time education
Highest qualification

Identity
Ethnicity
National identity
Religion
Language

Health
General health
Long term health problem or disability
Provision of unpaid care

Phase 2

Defined sets of tables including two or more variables at different geographical scales

Flexible table builder (incorporating statistical disclosure control)

The variable categories will vary between univariate and multivariate tables based on statistical disclosure control. This is likely to lead researchers to need to balance geographical scale and the level of detail available.
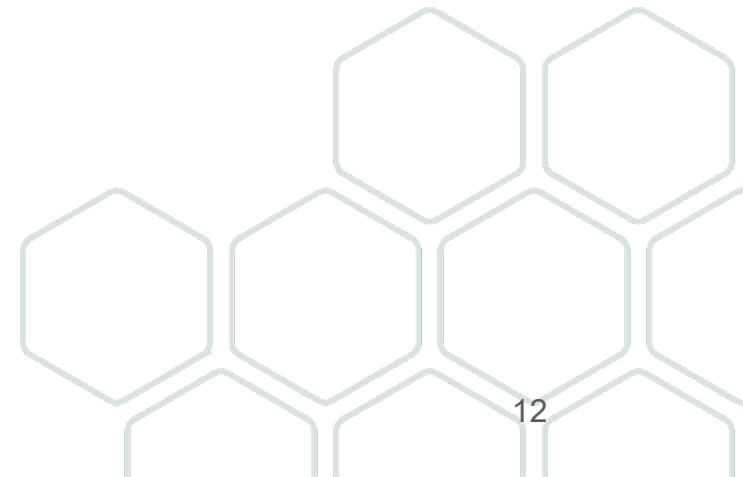
Phase 3

- Alternative population bases

- Small populations

- Flow data

- Microdata

Alternative population bases

- Short-term population (intend to stay in the UK less than 12 months)

- Workplace

- Workday

- Out-of-term

- Second address

Small populations

Write-in categories for univariate analysis depending on statistical disclosure control:

- Ethnic group

- Country of birth
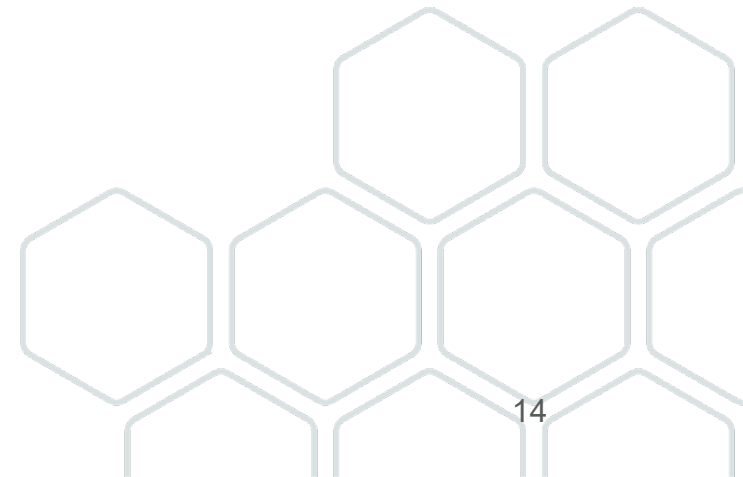
- Religion

- National identity

… with a commitment to produce datasets including Cornish, Jain, Kashmiri, Nepalese, Ravidassia and Sikh and …

… consideration of including British Sign Language, Romanian, Somali, Turkish Cypriot

Flow data

Providing origin destination data covering

- Migration flow

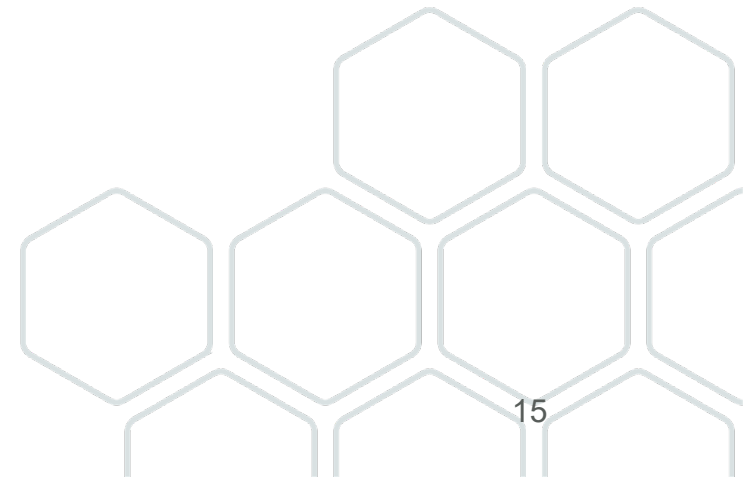- Workplace flow

- Second address flow

- Student flow

Microdata samples

Safeguarded data includes

- Individual 5% samples including regional or combined local authority geography

- Household 1% sample

- Submission of 1% individual sample to University of Minnesota international database

Secure data

- Individual 10% sample

- Household 10% sample

Considerations

Issues to consider

- Impact of Covid-19 impact on e.g. employment, place of residence, work and education

- Coverage and statistical imputation

- Changing geography

- General trust and unwillingness to disclose some characteristics

UK Data Service products

Census products

UKDS versions

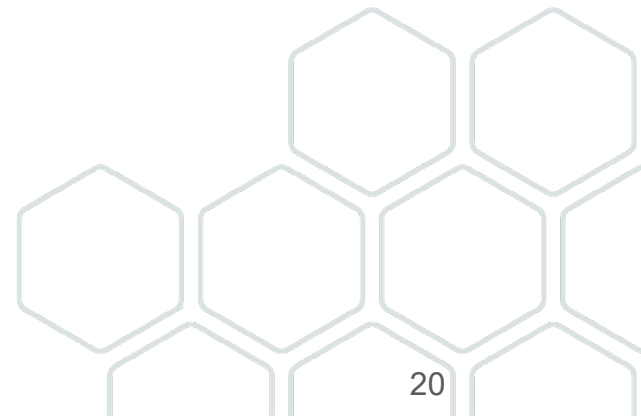(alternatives provided by ONS, NOMIS and potentially others)

Data

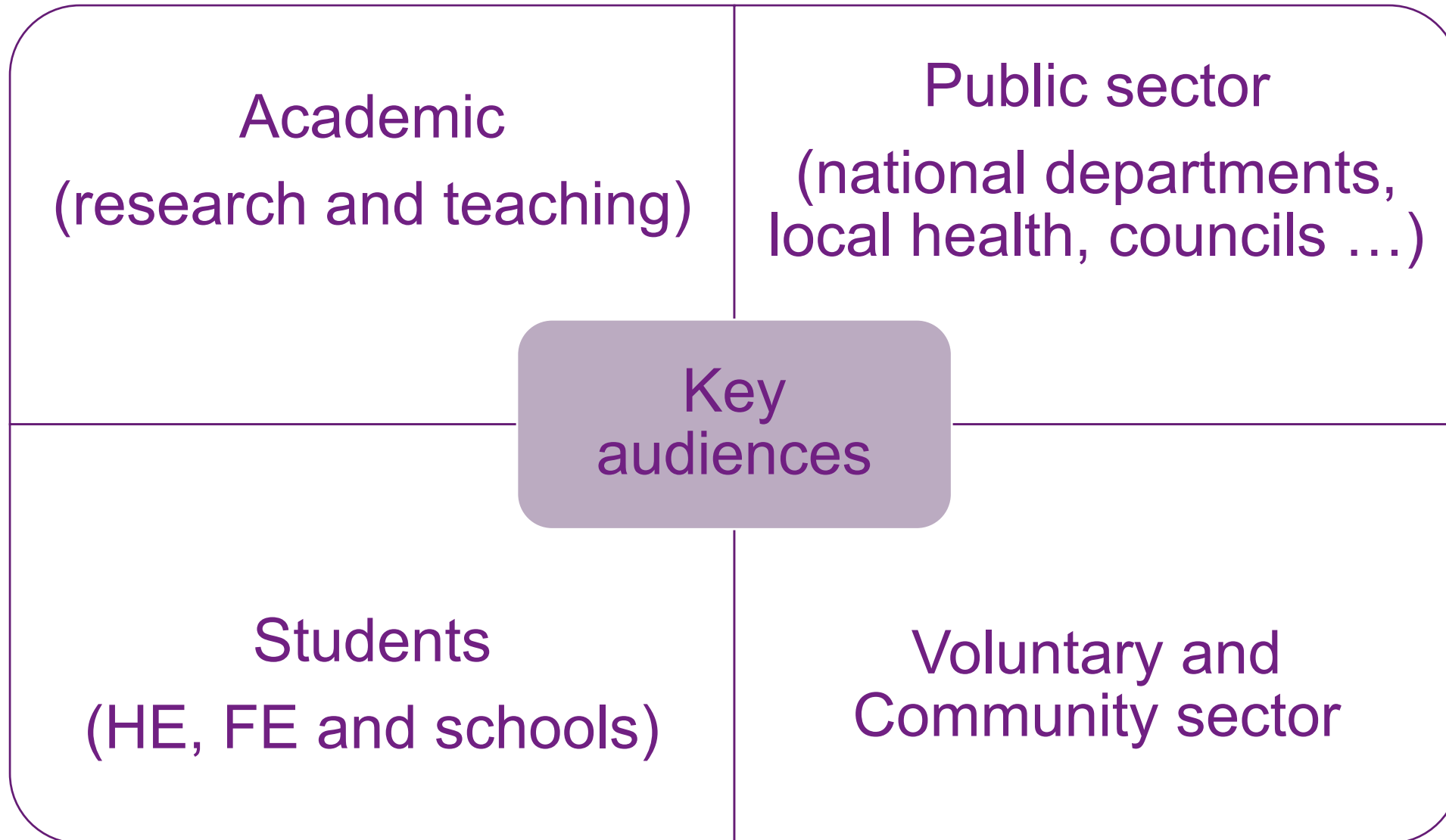Likely to also be available from other sources

- Aggregate data – interface to select variables (allowed combinations)
- Geographical data – boundaries used in census outputs

Likely to only be available from UK Data Service

- Flow data
- Microdata

Targeted for specific audiences

Academic
(research and teaching)

Public sector
(national departments, local health, councils …)

Key audiences

Students
(HE, FE and schools)

Voluntary and Community sector

Training

- Awareness raising (like this session)
- How to … sessions
  - Aggregate data
  - Boundary data
  - Flow data
  - Microdata
  - Techniques and substantive areas of interest

Contextual background
  - Statistical disclosure control
  - Modifiable areal unit problem
  - Coverage and imputation
  - Implications of Covid-19

… and engaging targeted audiences in planning and research design

Support

- Documents providing updates on release schedules
- Video materials supporting training
- Explainer for key census variables
- Help Desk

Thank you.

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