

**The Office for National Statistics has built an address register for the 2011 Census. These frequently asked questions may be of help if you are contacted directly by a member of the public.**

**Why is someone looking at my house?**

The Office for National Statistics is checking addresses across England and Wales, making sure that houses and flats are on the address register ready for the 2011 Census.

**What is the 2011 Census address register?**

This is a list of all households in England and Wales. It's used to send out census questionnaires so that everybody can be counted.

**Why is this street being checked?**

The address register has to be accurate. 3.6 million addresses are being checked at the moment. This is about 15 per cent of England and Wales' postcodes. Your area is being checked because it is part of a random sample, or because it contains a few discrepancies, such as the same flat being called garden and ground floor on the address register. The address register has to be right so that everyone gets a census questionnaire.

**Who is an address checker?**

Address checkers are employed by the Office for National Statistics. There will be some 360 address checkers across England and Wales between May and August 2010. They have all been through the Office for National Statistics security checking procedures.

**What are they doing?**

Address checkers are looking to see if the address register matches the property. For example, some older properties have been converted into flats. The address checkers look for signs of this, like multiple doorbells, satellite dishes and the numbers of bins. They make sure that the address register has got the right information on it.

**How do I know who they are?**

- Address checkers all wear photo ID, on a purple lanyard
- They will never cross the threshold into a house and will only knock on your door if they have a query like whether the property is in a particular postcode. Address checkers may step inside bigger establishments, such as hotels and guest houses
- Address checkers all carry census leaflets

**What is the census?**

Every ten years the census takes a snapshot of the population of England and Wales. The next census is in March 2011. Everyone is asked the same questions at the same time. Knowing how many people live where means decisions, like planning for the future, are focused on accurate, relevant details. It's crucial – and required by law – that everyone takes part.

**How can I find out more?**

Check out [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

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