

# Your local Address Custodian

## Helping to make the 2021 Census a success

The census is a comprehensive, detailed, and highly valuable collation of citizen-centric data. Fundamentally, the integrity of the data collection for the census depends on the work of Address Custodians who work at the heart of local government throughout England and Wales.

The census details collected from householders is a key data source for allocating funding to authorities in England and Wales.

In addition to using census data to calculate the needs formulae, census data is also used by policy-makers to:

- Understand the resident population, the total and particular age groups (eg 0-18,13-19,18-64,65+)
- Calculate sparsity - the census is used to help calculate sparse and super-sparse areas which can receive additional funding
- Inform needs indices which ultimately derives from the census - eg country of birth, single person households and many others.

This time around, in 2021, the Office for National Statistics will use AddressBase to make sure that no households get missed from census data-collection.



The data that populates AddressBase is primarily provided by each local authority's Address Custodian. So, from the outset, the work of Address Custodians will play a formative part in helping local authorities access the funds they need for service delivery.

Custodians' work will help the census collect data accurately from every different type of property: identifying each household and making sure each one is included.

## In 2021, the census will use AddressBase

AddressBase is a dataset that's maintained by GeoPlace (a joint venture between local government and Ordnance Survey). It draws on the nation's best address data sources, which primarily includes local authority inputs.

In the December 2018 white paper, 'Help shape our future',



## GeoPlace's role in curating data

GeoPlace is the central source for UK addresses and streets. We work with every council in England and Wales, managing a central hub of 42 million addresses and 1.39 million streets.

All 348 councils feed this data to us, as do central government, Royal Mail and the Scottish, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Island governments.

The data must then pass through our validation which contains 359 checks before it's accepted into the database – around two million records are updated every month – and we enrich that data with attributes from other authoritative sources, too.

The local authorities have a statutory responsibility to approve and create these addresses. We support an annual data-quality improvement process with those organisations, which sets expectations around completeness and accuracy.

We're constantly innovating to find even better ways of improving the quality, overall.

the ONS explained how it will use AddressBase to ensure the right address details are used for every household:

*"A prerequisite for an inclusive and successful census will be a comprehensive high-quality address register covering all households and communal establishments in England and Wales..."*

*"...ONS will not build a separate address register, as was the case for the 2011 Census. It will work in partnership with GeoPlace, local authorities and other suppliers to ensure AddressBase is capable of supporting the census and ONS's ongoing needs."*

needs an in-depth understanding of location intelligence and spatial data management.

Custodians act as the central source for all address intelligence in their areas; responsible for maintaining the council's address data to agreed national standards.

Every address curated by a Custodian has a direct value to the council. Not just in terms of funding, but also because the authorities use the census's outcomes to target their resources and plan for future demands.

## Your local Address Custodian

The information stored in AddressBase comes from various sources. Data supplied by each local authority is collated by an Address Custodian. Every local authority has their own Address Custodian. Custodians are responsible for the creation, maintenance, upkeep, and delivery of the authority's Local Land and Property Gazetteer.

Custodians are highly skilled. This is detailed, complex work, which



## Confidence in quality

GeoPlace works closely with the Address Custodians. We take the data they've entered into their Local Land and Property Gazetteers; we curate it, enrich it, quality-assure the dataset, and then make it available as AddressBase.

Ordnance Survey then distributes the AddressBase product for use by local and central government, the emergency services, and the private sector. With these tried-and-tested methods for collecting and publishing the information, the Census Liaison Managers can have confidence in the quality of the data they're using.

In the run-up to Census 2021, Address Custodians, GeoPlace and ONS will work even more closely together to identify, classify, locate, and address all residential dwellings and institutions. In this way, residents will be accounted for according to the appropriate Census procedures.

## Custodians help us to deal with 'difficult' addresses

Colloquially, a 'difficult' address is one that makes it harder for us to curate our databases with high levels of accuracy and consistency. In particular, houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) make it hard to specify how many households may be living in one building. Likewise, information about people living in communal establishments (care homes, student residences, prisons or boarding schools) are 'difficult' to capture with accuracy.

These account for a tiny proportion of the total number of residences listed – for HMOs just 85,000 out of 25.5 million addresses in the 2011 census – but it is vitally important to record their details accurately. Even more so, when they often provide homes for people in need of extra support and have a big influence on the needs of a local community.

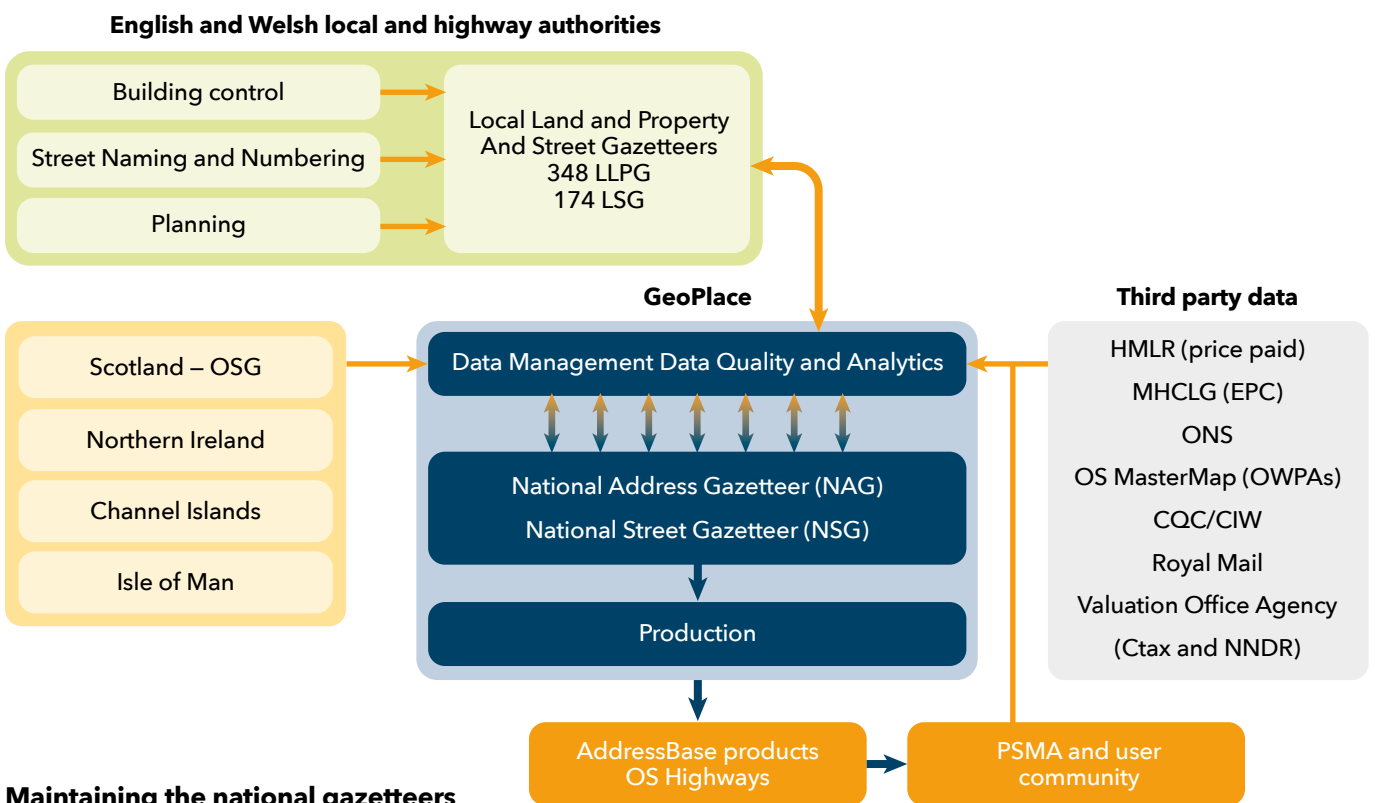
Custodians play a crucial role in identifying communal establishments and feeding local knowledge about them to us, and into AddressBase. By drawing on several data sources, Custodians can ensure classification codes are complete, up to date, and the correct UPRN is allocated. They can indicate how many people are understood to live at the address and ensure there's a reliable indicator of the location.

## Partnership working

Every address maintained by Custodians has a direct value to the council. Not just in terms of the amount of funding awarded to councils, but also because local authorities use the census data to target resources and plan future demand.

The quality of the data collection for the next census will be heavily reliant upon on the Address Custodians' work.

**Your local Address Custodian, the Office for National Statistics, and GeoPlace are all working together to deliver the best possible outcomes from the 2021 Census.**



### Maintaining the national gazetteers

If you'd like to know more about this work, or about the address register held by your local authority, or even to be put in touch with your local Address Custodian directly, you can email us at: **Support@GeoPlace.co.uk**



GeoPlace is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey

