

Correspondence

From: GILL, Preet [<mailto:preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk>]
Sent: 03 June 2018 21:09
To: Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter from the National Statistician

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter. Please accept my apologies for the delay, I have been extremely busy with other matters. I will pass the information to Iain in the next two weeks, but last time I checked, all Gurdwaras, large and small and representing different parts of the community from every region of the UK, that have responded were in favour.

May I ask if the legal advice being received by the ONS will be made public?

Best wishes

Preet



Preet Kaur Gill MP



Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA | 0207 219 2879 / 0121 392 8426

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianPreet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

31 May 2018

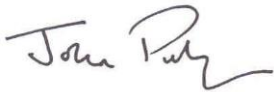
Dear Preet,

I am aware that the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs wrote to Gurdwaras on 31 January seeking views on the question of a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in the 2021 Census.

Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy, wrote to you on 10 April requesting a copy of the survey results, but to date has not received a response.

As you know, we are keen to ensure that we take account of all available evidence when forming our recommendations for the 2021 Census. We are looking to finalise this work over the summer and would therefore be grateful if you could share a copy of the survey results with us as soon as possible, or provide an update on when we can expect them.

Yours sincerely,

**John Pullinger**



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR
BRITISH SIKHS



CHAIR
Preet Kaur Gill MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Alison Thewliss MP
Scottish National Party



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VICE CHAIR
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VICE CHAIR
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Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tannanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tom Brake MP
Liberal Democrat

John Pullinger
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

29 October 2018

Dear John Pullinger,

Re. Sikh tick box in the 2021 Census

We are deeply concerned to learn that the UK Statistics Authority Board agreed the White Paper in principle, with final sign-offs provided by the Chair, on 28 June 2018 knowing outstanding evidence from MPs and Gudwaras was still to be received.

Following your previous letter to the APPG where you stated that the evidence provided would "form part of the information you would use for your final recommendation" we are seeking an explanation as to how this is the case if the White Paper was broadly agreed almost 3 months before.

We would also like assurances that the evidence submitted has been fully examined by the Board and the Chair and request that you share with us what decision was reached in the agreed upon White Paper regarding the Sikh ethnic tick box.

Yours sincerely

Preet Gill MP
Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston
Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs



cc: Sir David Norgrove, Chair of the UK Statistics Authority

Bim Afolami
Mike Amesbury
Tonia Antonazzi
Adrian Bailey
Tom Brake
Lyn Brown
Ruth Cadbury
Sarah Champion
Bambos Charalambous
Marsha De Cordova
Alex Cunningham
Jim Cunningham
Jack Dromey
James Frith
Mike Gapes
Kate Green
Andrew Gwynne
Emma Hardy
Mike Hill
Kelvin Hopkins
Eddie Hughes
Sharon Hodgson
Stephen Kerr
Afzal Khan
Clive Lewis
Liz McGuinness
Anna McMorris
Stephen Morgan
Grahame Morris
Neil O'Brien
Faisal Rashid
Naz Shah
Wes Streeting
Thelma Walker
Matt Western
Mohammed Yasin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2018 12:12
To: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: Bell, Iain <Iain.Bell@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Sikh ethnic tick box in 2020 Census

Dear Statisticians,

Sikh ethnic monitoring is a desperate need for us [REDACTED], who suffer double discrimination and our problems and needs are ignored because in figures, we do not exist.

We are invisible to the policy makers, Police, local authorities and NHS.

Recently, we have been going to funerals of young sikh girls who have died from alcoholism. Everyone knows many sikh men are hard drinkers and die from kidney related illnesses but very few people acknowledge that the problem has spread to the women too.

We applied for lottery grant to hold a conference to highlight this issue, but our grant application was turned down as they want evidence of statistics and the need for services to help the young women.

When our sikh lady gets called the P word or gets attacked in hate crime, the statistics get logged in MAMA Muslim hate crime figures. We do not get mentioned even though our turbans are the target of hate crime, due to mistaken identity.

We are visible by our turbans, yet in statistics, we are invisible.

We are hard working tax paying community, all we ask is fair share of services and jobs.

Nothing more than a tick box in which many of us, born here or from East Africa can put our mark in, as other ethnic boxes are not who we are.

Please look into making sikh tick box a reality this year. From the photo below in Eastern Eye Newspaper of October 2002, I am in the photo with other sikh men, handing over a petition at 10 Downing Street to Tony Blair's government at that time. Please stop discriminating against our sikh community and do not ignore us, the quiet child.



Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy

[Redacted]

By email

3 August 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 29 July, regarding a Sikh ethnicity tick box in the 2021 Census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and ONS will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order and the Census Regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

[REDACTED]

From: GILL, Preet <preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 28 June 2018 15:48
To: Parliamentary Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter from the National Statistician

Categories: Sarah Dealing, Red Flag

Dear John,

I would like to arrange a meeting with yourself to discuss the findings of the Gurdwara consultation. I would also like to discuss the legal advice you have received and whether, although it is not being made public, it can be shared with stakeholders. Would your office be able to advise me of any time you have free in the next few weeks to meet in Parliament?

Best wishes



Preet Kaur Gill MP



Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA | 0207 219 2879 / 0121 392 8426

From: Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 9:28:22 AM
To: GILL, Preet
Subject: Letter from the National Statistician

Dear Ms Gill,

Please find attached a letter from John Pullinger, in response to your correspondence of 3 June.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

UK Statistics Authority
London

13 AUG 2018

John Pullinger CB
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Received



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR

BRITISH SIKHS



CHAIR
Preet Kaur Gill MP
Labour



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Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tom Brake MP
Liberal Democrat

27 July 2018

Dear John,

Census 2021 – Separate Sikh ethnic tick box

Thank you for meeting with myself, Eddie Hughes and Pat McFadden on Monday 23 July to discuss the issue of the proposed addition of a Sikh ethnic tick box on the 2021 Census. Subsequently, I feel there are a number of issues that need to be further discussed.

As you know, I have been meeting with your colleague Iain Bell since September 2017 on this issue, although of course the campaign greatly pre-dates my election as both an MP and Chair of the APPG; 250 MPs' signatures were collected in support of the issue by Dominic Grieve MP a number of years ago. On 17 January, I met with Iain and Lord Singh, during which a number of issues of concern became apparent to me; issues that have only become more serious given the impending decision.

I am deeply concerned with the credence and weight being given to the views of Lord Singh, who is, after all, an unelected Peer. As elected Members, the APPG and the almost 140 signatories of our letter to you in favour of the Sikh ethnic tick box represent roughly **ten million** citizens, each of whom has given us a mandate to represent their views and express their wishes. Lord Singh claims to represent 130 Sikh organisations, and yet no evidence of this claim has ever been produced. I would expect the ONS to seek proof of such claims so as to be able to accurately assess the validity of his claims.



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Furthermore, I feel extremely strongly that Lord Singh fundamentally misunderstands the role of the Census. During our discussion with Iain, and in subsequent articles, Lord Singh's repeated reference to the teachings of Sikhism and frequent allusions to some sort of ulterior motive on my behalf clearly demonstrate his lack of understanding. The issue is one of representation and the provision of services – nothing more.

I was also very disappointed and somewhat confused as to why, following Lord Singh's meeting with Iain in Southall, the ONS did not challenge Lord Singh's subsequent statement, despite Iain acknowledging to me that it was completely inaccurate. Such false information can do a great deal of harm and I would have expected the ONS to have challenged his account.

With regard to the survey sent out by the APPG to 250 Gurdwaras across the UK, my view remains that in the 17 January meeting, it was agreed that public acceptability was a key issue and I would survey the Gurdwaras; a position I reiterated to Iain in an email on 13 February. A copy of the survey and the covering letter was sent to you on 12 February. Lord Singh was opposed to consulting the Gurdwaras, for the obvious reason that he knew they would not support his view.

In Iain's letter of 19 February, he stated that *'I await the legal advice we discussed at our last meeting. When I have received this, I will be in touch to arrange a meeting and inform you of our progress on resolving the ethnicity question for the 2021 Census'*. This implied that we would discuss the legal advice and how it affected the overall position, yet both Iain and yourself were unwilling to do so. I believe it would be extremely useful to discuss any legal advice, as it would allow both you and the APPG to better understand the issues at hand.

Moving on to the survey itself. The survey, of which you have a copy, was carried out in a clear and transparent manner and distributed after agreement from the APPG members as a way of assessing acceptability amongst the community.

The survey was clear, fair and none-leading, and was sent to each Gurdwara along with the covering letter (see attached). Furthermore, no reminder letters were issued. In a remarkable show of unity, all 112 Gurdwaras who responded, that include all the largest Gurdwaras in the UK (such as the Nishkam Gurdwara led by [REDACTED]), have indicated they are in favour of a separate Sikh ethnic tick box. Gurdwaras large and small have responded from all 12 regions of the UK, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and cover the widest spectrum within the community e.g. Singh Sabha Gurdwaras, Ramgharia Gurdwaras, Bhatra Gurdwaras and Ravidas Gurdwaras.

The 112 Gurdwaras have indicated they have a combined official membership of more than 107,000 Sikhs over the age of 18 and total weekly congregations or Sangat of nearly 470,000. This represents over 50% of the known Sikh population, so is by any measure a huge show of support for this move. We know that 82,000 Sikhs wrote 'Sikh' in the 'other' ethnic category, that is some 20% of the population, so to continue to deny Sikhs the recognition that is both legally and morally theirs is to continue to discriminate against a large minority group.



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Following this decisive result, it is beyond doubt that the Sikh ethnic tick box has the undeniable support of the Sikh community and that the public acceptability criteria has been comprehensively met. I have attached copies of all the Gurdwara responses for your records. The community has already begun discussions around the establishment of a fund to take legal action, although I sincerely hope that will not be necessary.

I hope and firmly believe that you will come to the correct decision, and am happy to discuss any of the points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Preet Kaur Gill".

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston

Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianPreet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22 June 2018

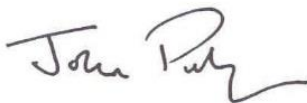
Dear Preet,

Thank you for your response to my letter of 31 May, in which you agreed to share the results of the survey issued by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs to Gurdwaras seeking views on the question of a separate Sikh tick box in the 2021 Census.

While the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will not be making the legal advice on this topic public, ONS will be making its recommendations to Government on topics for inclusion in Census 2021 later in the year. The evidence provided by yourself and the APPG is part of the evidence base that will be used to make our recommendations which will take account of user need and public acceptability.

Once again, many thanks for engaging with us on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

**John Pullinger**

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy

Preet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19 February 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for your response to the minutes of our meeting and a copy of the material sent by the APPG to Gurdwaras.

Your recollection of the meeting is different to ours. Our understanding was that we should consider the legal advice first and if that did not provide an obvious way forward then the survey of Gurdwaras would be a helpful way to assess public acceptability. It was also my understanding that you would share material to support a potential survey, rather than send it directly. There are important considerations to ensure surveys are unbiased in how they present material and while I await the results with interest, I will also need to utilise our independent statistical assurance panel to assess whether the survey will provide unbiased results.

In relation to my visit to the Gurdwara in December, I accepted an invitation to attend as I have a range of different meetings with communities and groups on this issue. The visits to Smethwick and Hounslow were both listening exercises and minutes were not produced for either meeting. As for subsequent comments from Lord Singh and the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) were not aware of the press release issued by the NSO before it was published and are not responsible for its content.

I await the legal advice we discussed at our last meeting. When I have received this, I will be in touch to arrange a meeting and inform you of our progress on resolving the ethnicity question for the 2021 Census.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

John Pullinger CB CStat | National Statistician

Preet Kaur Gill MP
Chair, APPG for British Sikhs
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 December 2018

Dear Ms Gill,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the other members of the APPG for British Sikhs for your contributions in response to the consultation and the research undertaken for the 2021 Census topics.

The recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census have been published today in the White Paper *'Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales'*¹.

The recommendations fully recognise the need for good data on the Sikh community, both in terms of the need for high quality data from the Census and also more widely across all public services. I want to assure you that everyone who wishes to identify as Sikh will be able to do so under our proposals for the Census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made a number of recommendations in the White Paper to ensure we fully meet the need for high quality data for those who identify as Sikh. These are:

- continue to include a religion question, with a specific Sikh response option.
- develop "search-as-you-type" functionality, which will make it easier to specify as one wishes in the "other" box within the ethnicity topic.
- flexible data outputs will allow analysis of those who define their religious affiliation as Sikh (through the religion response option) and those who define their ethnic group as Sikh through the user of the "search-as-you-type" capability on the online ethnic group question.
- increase the analytical offering and outputs for those who identify as Sikh.
- estimate the Sikh population from all sources to assess the numbers who may declare themselves of Sikh background.
- utilise the Digital Economy Act 2017 to undertake data-linking for research purposes that will ensure that data on the Sikh population is available across public services, not just Census-collected data. We will work with Departments across Government to ensure this happens not just for the Census but on an ongoing basis.
- update our guidance on harmonisation to ensure that public bodies are fully aware of their duties to record information on the Sikh community.
- work with members of the Sikh population to encourage wider participation in the Census and raise awareness of the options of writing in their identity in the ethnic group question.
- We are also developing an on-line flexible dissemination system where users can specify the data they need and define their own queries to build tables.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

We have also offered to:

- work with local authorities and provide analysis to help them better serve the different communities in their areas.
- work with communities to ensure the data are easily made available to decision-makers and used.

These recommendations have been made after looking at all the evidence provided up to the publication of the White Paper. Alongside the White Paper we have published an updated topic report on ethnicity² which sets out in more detail the research behind these recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Pullinger

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchupdatedecember2018>

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianPreet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 December 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for your recent letter about the 2021 Census.

As mentioned in my letter of 5 November, a draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June. The minute of that meeting shows that the recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf.

Please be assured that any new information received since the UK Statistics Authority Board meeting in June has been evaluated against the published criteria, and I and the Board have been briefed as appropriate. I am committed to ensuring that the final recommendations are based on all available evidence.

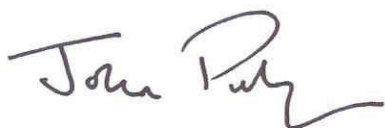
In your letter, you suggest that a draft copy of the APPG Survey of Gurdwaras was shared with the Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy before it was issued. The Deputy National Statistician did not receive a copy of the Survey of Gurdwaras until after it was issued.

To reiterate my letter of 5 November, however, I can assure you that whilst ONS did not endorse the survey, or provide comment in advance on methodology, it is of course forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

The topics for inclusion in Census 2021 and the rationale for each of them (taking account of user need and public acceptability) is due to be published in the form of a White Paper, prior to the laying of the Census Order in 2019.

I will ensure a copy of the White Paper is shared with you on publication.

Yours sincerely,

**John Pullinger**

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population and Public Policy


Sikh Federation UK

by email

13 February 2018

Dear 

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I have publicly committed to continue working with communities as we form our Census recommendations for Government. The meeting in Hounslow was one such engagement at the invitation of the local Gurdwara. I accepted as I have a range of different meetings with communities and groups on this issue. The ONS website statement said that I was attending a meeting there.

In relation to communications following this meeting, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) were not aware of the press release issued by the NSO before it was published and are not responsible for its content.

ONS continues to work through the issues raised in various meetings, and our understanding of public acceptability of the various elements of the ethnicity question under consideration for the Census.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy Office
for National Statistics



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Iain Bell
Director General, Population and Public Policy
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR
BRITISH SIKHS



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Labour



VICE CHAIR
Pat McFadden MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tom Brake MP
Liberal Democrat

12 March 2018

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2018. I consider the minutes sent to me to not clearly reflect the discussion that was had; had I known this was going to be the case, I would have brought my own staff to record proceedings. In addition, I had hoped that draft minutes would have been sent out for agreement before the final copy was shared.

Regarding the letter sent by the APPG for British Sikhs to all UK Gurdwaras, the same letter was sent to all, there were no leading questions and no undue influence was exerted over respondents. This letter was openly circulated and discussed at Gurdwaras both with their congregation and committees. There has been extensive engagement with the letter, with over 60 responses received so far, the results of which I am of course happy to share with you. On the basis of responses received so far, Gurdwaras are extremely supportive of the call to add a Sikh ethnic tick box to the 2020 census.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

I appreciate that the legal advice has taken some months for you to receive, and look forward to discussing that advice in due course. I also have a meeting scheduled with the Cabinet Secretary, David Lidington MP, and will also be meeting with Dominic Grieve MP, given his previous work on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Preet Kaur Gill'.

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Iain Bell
Director General, Population and Public Policy
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ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR
BRITISH SIKHS



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Labour



VICE CHAIR
Pat McFadden MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tom Brake MP
Liberal Democrat

12 February 2018

Dear Iain,

Thank you for meeting with myself and Lord Singh in January. I am writing to inform you that I will not be attending the scheduled meeting on 21 February with Lord Singh and that my staff will be contacting your office to arrange a one to one meeting.

I think it was made patently clear in our January meeting that Census 2021 is not the real issue for Lord Singh, as his focus on theology clearly demonstrated. Furthermore, his comments demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of public service provision. He was also not receptive to writing to Gurdwaras, despite the demonstrable strength of feeling within the community.

Lord Singh also failed to acknowledge that the campaign around this issue was not started by myself, but has in fact been ongoing for a number of years; a fact demonstrated by the collection of 250 signatures of MPs in support of the issue by Dominic Grieve MP a number of years ago.

Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston

Telephone: 0207 219 2879 Constituency Office: 0121 392 8426 Email: preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk
Twitter: @PreetKGillMP Facebook: [facebook/PreetKaurGillMP](https://www.facebook.com/PreetKaurGillMP)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

In a recent article written by Sunny Hundal, Lord Singh persisted in attempting to undermine my position, despite the fact that the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs (APPGBS) had received no contact from Lord Singh since the campaign was taken up by my predecessor in 2005.

I keenly await receipt of your minutes from the January meeting, and any minutes taken from your visit to the Gurdwara in December, as I feel Lord Singh is providing misleading information to the public regarding these meetings. I also await your response to Lord Singh's minutes from the visit to the Gurdwara, as I feel they need to be addressed. I consider some of Lord Singh's comments in the January meeting to be inappropriate, specifically in breeching the equalities act and his assertion that West Midland's Sikhs and Gurdwaras do not practice Sikhism. When asked for evidence of this final point, Lord Singh referenced 130 organisations he represents, but was unable to confirm if any were in fact based in the West Midlands or indeed provide details at all, leading me to question the veracity of his claims.

I have been subjected to repeated misogynistic and condescending attacks from Lord Singh and his followers, and I am no longer prepared to indulge him. As an elected Member of Parliament and Chair of the APPGBS, I feel that the views of this unelected Peer have now been given sufficient consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these points.

Yours sincerely,

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR **BRITISH SIKHS**



31 January 2018

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Census 2021 – Separate Sikh ethnic tick box

The Census 2021 is likely to be the last Census and therefore the final opportunity to ensure Sikhs have a separate Sikh ethnic tick box.

The decision on which new ethnic groups will be included will be recommended by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the next few months and presented in the Census White Paper to Parliament later this year.

It is a fact that 40,000 public bodies at the national and local level, including schools, hospitals, police forces, local authorities, central government departments and other public bodies use ethnic group categories specified in the Census to collect data for public service planning and decision making.

Without a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census the Sikh community and its needs at a local and national level are totally invisible to policy and decision makers.

Therefore, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs in September 2017 increased pressure on the ONS to include a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021.

Nearly 140 MPs representing over 12 million constituents wrote to the ONS and pointed out Sikhs are a legally recognised ethnic group and have been protected under UK law since the historic *Mandla v Lee* ruling in 1983 in the House of Lords.

Demand within the Sikh community for a Sikh ethnic tick box is both high and continuing to grow. The Census 2011 saw 83,362 Sikhs protest by refusing to use any of the existing ethnic group categories and opting to tick 'other' and use the write in option to specify 'Sikh'.

This was nearly an eight-fold increase compared to the Census 2001 and much higher than any other group being currently considered for a separate ethnic tick box.

The ONS has been consulting, listening and last year tested the use of a Sikh ethnic tick box in Hounslow and Wolverhampton that showed the number of Sikhs specifying their ethnic group will increase dramatically if a separate Sikh ethnic tick box is introduced and there is widespread publicity on its use.

In the ONS official consultations in 2015 and 2016 there were requests for 55 new ethnic groups in the Census 2021. These were reduced in number to eight by 23 October 2017 and on 13 December 2017 ONS confirmed it was only considering four new ethnic groups – Sikhs, Jews, Roma and Somali.

The ONS has requested the assistance of the APPG for British Sikhs to help gather the final evidence of 'public acceptability'. We need your assistance by:

- a) Completing the attached pro-forma sheet, scanning it and returning it via the enclosed pre-paid envelope by 14 February 2018
- b) Requesting you contact all MPs that represent your Sangat to confirm they have added their names to the MPs letter to the ONS by contacting my office – the aim is to try and get over 250 MPs from across the political spectrum representing over 20 million constituents to back this vitally important Sikh campaign

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh



Preet Kaur Gill MP

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs

Census 2021 – Separate Sikh ethnic tick box

Insert name and address of Gurdwara
.....
.....
.....

with a membership of

and estimated Sangat of (to the nearest thousand)

support/oppose (delete as appropriate) the inclusion of a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in
the Census 2021.

Add stamp for Gurdwara with appropriate signature(s) and position (s)

Date:

Email address:

Preet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 April 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for your letter of 12 March.

When we last met you agreed to share the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras you had conducted. I would be very interested to see the results of your survey of as soon as possible, and wondered if you were able to share this with me?

We will of course keep you up to date on any decisions relating to the ethnicity question in the 2021 Census.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianPreet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

7 September 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 July which I received on 14 August 2018.

As I said when we met on 23 July, I have only one aim with regards to the Census and that is to deliver the best Census in order to enrich our understanding of all communities. The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, my team have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject. ONS has pre-determined public criteria¹ which are being used to decide on the ethnic group question's design and outputs.

Accordingly, I and colleagues in ONS have been happy to meet with you, listen to what you have to say and consider all information that will help us make the Census a success.

I have spoken to Iain Bell and understand that your recollection of the meeting of 17 January is different to ours, as is outlined in Iain's letter of 19 February. Iain said at that meeting that ONS should consider the legal advice first and if that did not provide an obvious way then a survey of Gurdwaras may be a helpful way to assess public acceptability. It was also Iain's understanding that you would share material to support a potential survey, rather than send it directly to Gurdwaras to ensure that any survey would be widely accepted as impartial and valid. As I understand it, the Survey of Gurdwaras was issued before the note of the meeting was shared. That said, whilst ONS did not endorse the survey or provide comment in advance on methodology, it will of course form a part of the information I use to make my final recommendations, as is the case for all information we receive. Thank you for sharing the responses with me.

The process of evaluating content for the 2021 Census is a continuous one, with ONS accepting additional evidence during and following the initial consultation exercise. The final recommendations will be based on all available evidence, an example of this is shown through proposals for a question on the Armed Forces which was initially assessed as having low user need. Evidence provided by stakeholders after the first announcement of content for the 2021 Census led to a new assessment and the decision to recommend a question on those who have served in the UK Armed Forces, and their dependents. This was outlined in the December 2017 update².

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/the2021censusethnicgroupstakeholderfollowupsurvey>

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchdecember2017>

The White Paper outlining topics for inclusion in Census 2021 and the rationale for each of them (taking account of user need and public acceptability) is due to be published later this year, prior to the laying of the Census Order in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Pullinger

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sikh Federation UK

Via email
sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk

5 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 17 October.

Before addressing your specific concerns, I want to reiterate that we have only one aim with regards to the Census and that is to deliver the best Census in order to enrich our understanding of all communities. The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, my team have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has pre-determined public criteria which are being used to decide on the ethnic group question's design and outputs.

Accordingly, colleagues in ONS have been happy to meet with you, listen to what you have to say and consider all information that will help us make the Census a success.

Within your email you raised concerns with regards to the 'Sikh Names Analysis' which ONS has conducted. Please be assured this work has been completed, however, it has taken longer than expected to get the results ready for publication. We are committed to operating transparently and intend to publish this research as part of a Topic Research Paper alongside the White Paper.

I would like to address your concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, and the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming the National Statisticians recommendations. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey, or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is of course forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

As you note, ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information in mid-August having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will form part of the evidence base on which the National Statistician forms his final recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianPreet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

5 November 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 October.

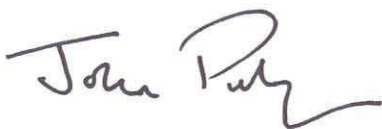
Before addressing your specific concerns, I want to reiterate my letter of 7 September that I have only one aim with regards to the Census and that is to deliver the best Census in order to enrich our understanding of all communities. The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, my team have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has pre-determined public criteria which are being used to decide on the ethnic group question's design and outputs.

Within your letter you raise concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, and the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming my recommendations. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey, or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is of course forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

As you note, ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information alongside your letter dated 27 July, which I received in mid-August, having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will form part of the evidence base for the final recommendations.

The White Paper outlining topics for inclusion in Census 2021 and the rationale for each of them (taking account of user need and public acceptability) is due to be published later this year, prior to the laying of the Census Order in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**John Pullinger**

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy

██████████
By email

3 August 2018

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 29 July, regarding a Sikh ethnicity tick box in the 2021 Census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and ONS will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order and the Census Regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR

BRITISH SIKHS



John Pullinger CB
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Dear John Pullinger,

Re. Sikh tick box in the 2021 Census

Thank you for your letter dated 5th November 2018.

Let me clarify that the draft letter to be sent to Gurdwaras was shared with the Deputy National Statistician and he provided no comments implying the letter was appropriate. Iain Bell had in fact been the one to suggest writing to Gurdwaras to clarify the position. In a meeting which was minuted but not verbatim, he suggested one way of addressing Lord Singh's objections and addressing public acceptability criteria would be to write to all Gurdwaras. I agreed to do that at which point Lord Singh objected and stated he "would not accept these findings even if there was overwhelming support." Iain Bell has raised with me that the objections from Lord Singh are based on theology and not legislation.

It has been brought to the attention of the APPG that Lord Bourne has informed the Sikh Council in writing that the community is divided. Eighty-three thousand in the last census, 140 MPs who have recently supported and the Gurdwara evidence is by no means a community divided.

The APPG has been informed that the community are ready to commence legal proceedings. I am of course keen to avoid it coming to this, but it concerns me that when you met with Members of Parliament on the 23rd of July we were not informed that a draft had been signed off. Can you tell us what was recommended at the UK Statistics Authority



Board meeting in June and whether there have been other recommendations put to the Chair and additions since that meeting.

Whilst you say you continue to accept new information, I am unclear what this means in practice and in what form this takes as well as the potential impact it can have on the draft. I would be grateful for some clarification.

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs


Ian Bell
Office of National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
Pimlico
London
SW1V 2QQ

30.07.2018

Dear Sirs

Re: Sikh ethnicity

I enclose herewith my article making a positive case for Sikh ethnicity. I have already emailed this to you and trust that you have received it.

I am a legal advisor to the Sikh community and pleased to note that there is overwhelming support to create this category and particularly from the youth who form 61% of the Sikh population born in this country.

If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully


The need to recognise Sikh ethnicity



Sikhs across the UK have been campaigning with concerted efforts to ensure that they are given ethnic status. This article examines the validity of their claim.

The majority of Sikhs like myself get confused when they have to tick the ethnicity box and about 83,000 Sikhs ticked the 'other' category in the 2011 census as they could not identify the correct box to express their ethnicity.

Before the British annexed the Sikh Empire in 1849, the Sikh ethnicity was glaringly Punjabi. This included Pakistanis, majority of whom are Punjabis in west Punjab, Pakistan. The international boundaries of states change over a period of time due to wars, annexations or political circumstances. For example, over the past 80 years, the Bangladeshi ethnicity was originally Indian before the Indian independence and after that they became Pakistanis and are now Bangladeshis on the secession of the then East Pakistan.

The Sikh ethnicity must be looked at in that context and there should be no hesitation in affording a separate category for the Sikhs in line with Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

The former Race Relations Act 1976 recognised the Sikh together with the Jews as a separate race. The act was subsequently merged with the Equalities Act 2010 and gives protection to the Sikhs both as a race and religion. The apex court of this country ruled in *Mandla v Dowell Lee* that the Sikhs are not only a race but almost a nation, notwithstanding the majority of them now live under the jurisdiction of the Indian Union. This is akin to the Scottish, Irish and Welsh who are nations within the UK.

However, the concept of Sikh ethnicity is peculiar in itself since the law in this country recognises their legal identity as a race, religion and national group. It is this collective make up that validates their case for recognition as an ethnic group like the Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

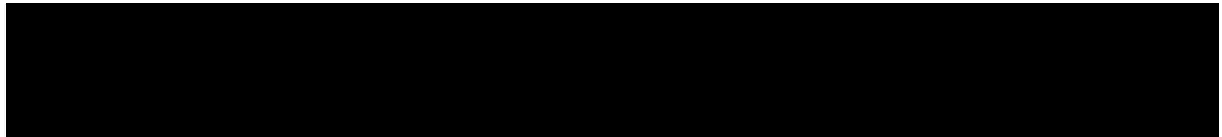
With growing number of adherents to the Sikh faith around the world, irrespective of their colour, race or nationality, the Sikh identity and ethnicity does not change because it is a cardinal principle of Sikhism that one should 'recognise the human race as one' - Guru Gobind Singh.

A separate category for the Sikhs will bring a strong community cohesion between Sikhs and between Sikhs and non-Sikhs. The census monitors the population as well as their demography. Around 61% of Sikhs in the UK are born in this country and it is vitally important that their growing issues such as hate crimes, discrimination and alcohol addiction, as recently reported in a documentary by Victoria Derbyshire on the BBC, are seriously recognised.

The Sikh women are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence, grooming and inequality in the society.

An aggressive monitoring of this most distinguished ethnic minority justifies a separate category for them. Specific information affecting them, elicited from the census reports, will enable the central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to target their resources more effectively and planning support to help those issues in the Sikh community in the national interest.

The government and the Office of National Statistics have taken positive steps to understand the concerns affecting this unique minority.



Official Correspondence
Status Closed

Type of Correspondence 'Treat' Official Correspondence
Ref: 2018\980
Date Received 30/07/2018

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2018 17:42
To: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: iaibell@one.gov.uk
Subject: Fwd: The need to recognise Sikh ethnicity by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

Find below my article about validity and justification for Sikh ethnicity. I trust this will put to rest misconceived and misguided fears by a minority who do not represent Sikh community. Such opposing views are factually misleading. Omission of Sikh category is seriously discriminatory against the Sikhs and my article elaborates the point. I trust that the wishes of majority members of the community including our two Sikh MPs will be honoured.

[REDACTED]

The current omission

PDF

image2018-07-31-152719.pdf

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 August 2018 09:16
To: Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Letter from the Office for National Statistics

Dear [REDACTED]

Re Sikh ethnicity

Many thanks for responding to my letter so promptly.

In my article I had alluded to inadvertent discrimination against the Sikhs in view of omission in the main categories. This is also understandable since there is no consensus as to what constitutes an ethnic group.

Separate category for the Sikhs according to the wishes of the Sikh community other than a tiny minority does not prejudice any one.

I trust that this genuine demand of Sikhs will not become contentious and that is my serious concern as otherwise discrimination claim against ONS is very likely.

I am sure the matter will be resolved sensibly now that NSO has been appraised of all the facts.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sikh Council UK
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

info@sikhcounciluk.org

27 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence addressed to Mr John Pullinger, dated 11 September 2018, regarding the resolution from the recent Panthic meeting and your support for a separate Sikh ethnic category for the next census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

Official Correspondence Status Closed

Type of Correspondence 'Treat' Official Correspondence

Ref: 2018\816

Date Received 22/01/2018

Received From Sikh Federation UK
[view member details](#)

Date draft is due 29/01/2018

Date due to respondent 05/02/2018

Correspondence **From:** sikh federation [<mailto:sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk>]
Sent: 22 January 2018 08:26
To: Bell, Iain <Iain.Bell@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: Preet GILL <preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Re: Letter following yesterday's forum, what has been published by ONS and an invite to to Guru Nanak Gurdwara Gravesend, in the New Year

Dear Iain

It would be helpful to receive an update from you on the issues we raised in writing on 14 December and 21 December.

[REDACTED] completely out of touch with the Sikh community and our main institutions (Gurdwaras) as well as MPs up and down the country that Sikhs have elected to represent them.

We are being asked by the community why ONS is giving so much time and importance to someone they have not elected to represent them (compared to hundreds of MPs), who is ignoring the legal status of Sikhs as an ethnic group and clearly pushing his own narrow 'religious' agenda at the expense of fair treatment to

Sikhs by public bodies in terms of employment and provision of public services.

We are hoping to meet lawyers later this week to update them on progress and consider our options and timing of possible legal action that the Sikh community and ONS will both wish to avoid if possible.

Response



PDF

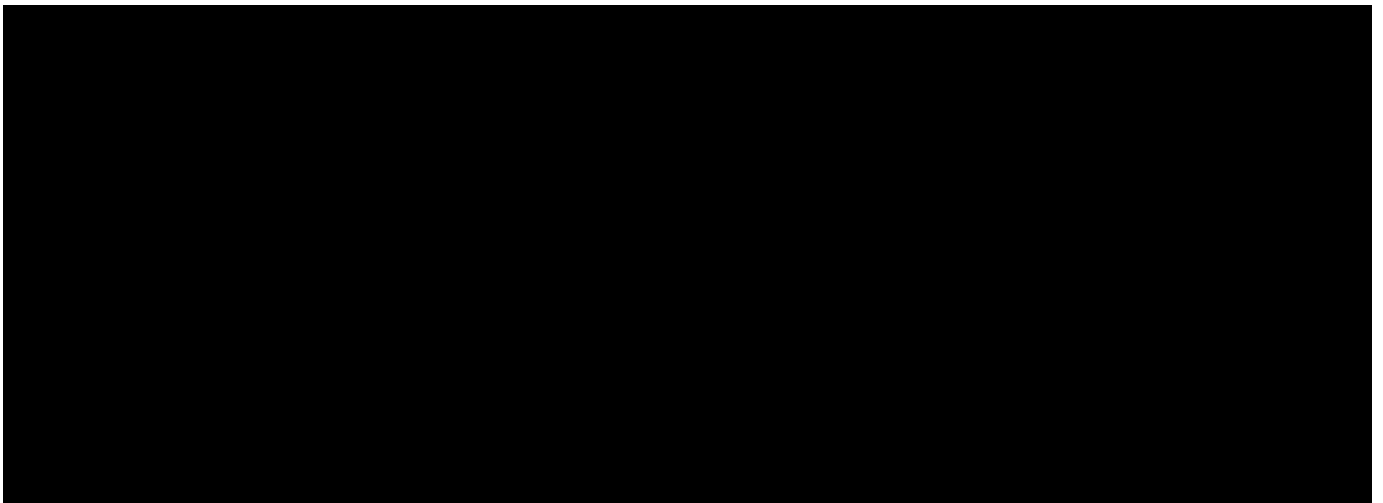
Combined response issued 13/02 - OC 2018 799 - SikhFederationUK.pdf

On Time

Yes

Redrafts Required

Yes



**Official Correspondence
Status Closed****Type of Correspondence** Official Correspondence**Ref:** 2018\836**Date Received** 12/02/2018**Received From** Preet Kaur Gill
[view member details](#)**Date draft is due** 26/02/2018**Date due to respondent** 26/02/2018**Correspondence****From:** [REDACTED]**Sent:** 12 February 2018 15:00**To:** Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>**Cc:** GILL, Preet <preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk>**Subject:** Letter to Iain Bell from Preet Kaur Gill MP

Dear Iain,

Please see attached letter and attachment from Preet Kaur Gill MP. I have also included, for your records, a copy of the letter and form sent by the APPG to British Gurdwaras regarding the Census 2021 issue.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

 PDF

Iain Bell letter 12 Feb 18.pdf Letter to Gurdwaras about ONS.docx

 W*****

From: GILL, Preet [mailto:preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk]

Sent: 13 February 2018 12:45

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Bell,
Iain <Iain.Bell@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Notes of Meeting 17/01/18 - (OFFICIAL SENSITIVE)

Dear Iain,

These minutes do not reflect the meeting that I attended.

I agreed that we should survey gurdwaras and stated I would undertake this work and send you a copy of what we would be putting out. You were happy with this it was [REDACTED] who stated he did not agree with this. Please can you ammend your minutes for accuracy.

I wrote to you yesterday with a copy of the letter the Appg have sent to gurdwaras.

We have now started to receive responses which we are collating.

I await a response to my letter.

Regards

Preet

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Parliamentary Unit <parliamentary.unit@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 11:47

Subject: Notes of Meeting 17/01/18 - (OFFICIAL SENSITIVE)

To: GILL, Preet <preet.gill.mp@parliament.uk>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Bell, Iain <iain.bell@ons.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached the notes of your meeting with Iain Bell on 17 January 2018.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Mr John Pullinger
National Statistician
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
[REDACTED]
national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk;

11th September 2018

Dear Mr John Pullinger

Re: Resolution in support for separate Sikh ethnicity in UK Census

We write to inform you of the following:

A Panthic meeting (open meeting of prominent members of Sikh Community Representatives) from across UK took place on 2nd September 2018 at Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick.

Below is the Resolution unanimously agreed in support for separate Sikh ethnicity in UK Census:

‘The meeting unanimously resolved for a submission on behalf of all those present to be made to the Office for National Statistics with a call for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021. As such the unanimous resolution also re-affirmed Sikhs are a distinct Quom (nation) as well as a religion.

The Law Lords in the historic *Mandla v Dowell Lee* case 35 years ago determined that Sikhs were a distinct community by virtue of certain characteristics. The law of the land is incontrovertible that Sikhs constitute a distinct ethnic group.

It makes complete sense from a theological and practical viewpoint for the Census 2021 to have both a Sikh religious and Sikh ethnic tick box’.

The meeting facilitated by Sikh Council UK was attended by representatives from around fifty Gurdwaras and organisations at short notice to discuss the priority issues on pending matters.

Sikh Council UK has facilitated a number of such Panthic Meetings (open community meetings) in respect of important or impending matters in line with our mission to provide a common platform and framework for Sikhs in the UK to collectively further their interests and objectives.

As you will be aware Sikh groups have been campaigning for separate recognition for Sikh ethnicity over the past few years. The law of the land is well established and confirms Sikhs are not just a faith community but also a distinct racial group on ethnic origins. We are hopeful you will accept the longstanding call from the community and agree to a separate category for the next census.

Thank you for your consideration, as we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Secretary General
Sikh Council UK

Cc:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 September 2018 13:39
To: sikh federation
Cc: Parliamentary Unit
Subject: RE: Results of analysis of Sikh surnames (and midle names Singh and Kaur), Board of Deputies and heads up of final decision

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I no longer work in the Census programme and have therefore passed on your request about the names analysis for a response.

On your last point about how we would announce our recommendation on ethnicity tick boxes, the White Paper outlining topics for inclusion in Census 2021 and the rationale for each of them is due to be published later this year.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

From: sikh federation [mailto:sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 07 September 2018 16:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Results of analysis of Sikh surnames (and midle names Singh and Kaur), Board of Deputies and heads up of final decision

Dear [REDACTED]

See email below. It appears [REDACTED] is way until 17 September.

I think you may be able to assist.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad



On Friday, September 7, 2018, 4:03 pm, sikh federation <sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Hope you are keeping well. It has been a long time since we had a written exchange.

We are preparing a briefing for a group of Conservative MPs. Could you share the final results of the names exercise, especially taking into account those with middle

names of 'Singh' or 'Kaur' as well as surnames. In your last correspondence in October 2017 you mentioned this would be made available.

We also read with interest the position of different Jewish organisations north and south of the border and there have been communications with the Board of Deputies and a meeting is being organised.

We assume you are nearing a final decision of whether or not to recommend a Sikh ethnic tick box for the Census 2021 and assuming a Sikh ethnic tick box is included will wish to consult later exactly where to include the tick box.

I remember when we last officially met you said we and the APPG would be the first to know if your recommendation was not to have a Sikh ethnic tick box given we have been working closely with you for over 4 years. We are therefore assuming no news is good news.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email

3 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 29 July, regarding a Sikh ethnicity tick box in the 2021 Census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and ONS will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order and the Census Regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

DR PHILLIP LEE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Pullinger
Office for National Statistics
Room D265
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport NP10 8XG

31 October 2018

Dear Mr Pullinger

[REDACTED]

I have received the attached correspondence from my constituent above, who would like to raise an issue relating to the UK's Sikh community with you. Please find more details about the issue in point one of the attached correspondence.

I would be grateful for your comments and advice in relation to this matter.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr Phillip Lee'.

Dr Phillip Lee MP
Member of Parliament for Bracknell

To

Dr. Phillip Lee MP
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA.

I am writing regarding five issues and set out my specific requests:

1) Need for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021

The law has recognised Sikhs as an ethnic group for the last 35 years. The Sikh community with the cross-party support of MPs has been demanding this change in the census so public bodies routinely collect information regarding Sikhs to ensure fair treatment with regards to provision of public services.

The UK Statistics Authority is understood to have made recommendations to the Cabinet Office on whether to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census White Paper 2018.

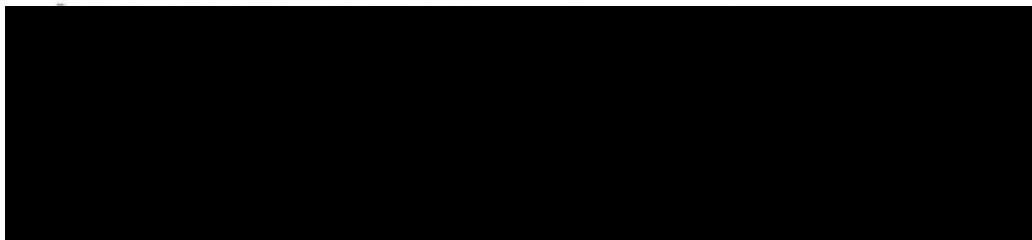
There is written evidence to prove the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in concluding on its "public acceptability" test has chosen to ignore a survey of all Gurdwaras undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs. The survey was to assist the ONS and shared with the Deputy National Statistician in advance of it being sent to all Gurdwaras. The detailed results were shared with the National Statistician following a meeting with the APPG in July 2018.

The survey by MPs had individual responses from over 110 Gurdwaras with an official membership of over 100,000 and a congregation of over 450,000 from different parts of the community across the UK. The survey showed there was 100% support for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the next census.

There is further written evidence that the results of specific research referred to as the "names exercise" using Census 2011 data is being withheld. The research was requested over a year ago by the Sikh Federation (UK) that has been working closely with the ONS since 2014. ONS agreed it would share the results when the work was completed.

The integrity and reputation of the ONS is being called into question as the Deputy National Statistician in a letter to the Sikh Federation (UK) in October 2018 stated the work was in its "final stages" but he told the UK Statistics Authority Board more than three months earlier in June 2018 that the "research on ethnicity response options had concluded" when they approved the draft Census White Paper.

Please write to the National Statistician, John Pullinger as a matter of urgency and copy the letter to the Cabinet Office Minister, Rt. Hon. David Lidington raising my concerns. Also contact the APPG for British Sikhs to sign a joint letter from MPs to John Pullinger, copied to Sir David Norgrove, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority.



John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianDr Phillip Lee MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 November 2018

Dear Dr Lee,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October 2018 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] who has written to you to enquire about the 2021 Census, and the inclusion of a Sikh tick-box within the ethnicity question.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics². The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who have got involved in this process.

I am aware of the concerns raised regarding the 'Sikh Names Analysis' which, I can assure you has been completed. It has taken longer than expected to get the results ready for publication, but we are committed to operating transparently and intend to publish this research as part of a Topic Research Paper alongside the White Paper.

I am also aware of concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, specifically the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming recommendations for Census 2021. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.


ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information in mid-August having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will be a part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations are formed.

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#).

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#).

Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper which is planned for publication later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Pullinger

MICHAEL ELLIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Pullinger
The National Statistician
UK Statistics Authority
London
SW1V 2QQ

Wednesday, 31st October 2018

RE: The inclusion of a Sikh ethnic category on UK censuses

Dear Mr Pullinger,

I am writing to you on behalf of one of my constituents, [REDACTED] who has written to me to enquire about the plans to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in future UK censuses and for statistical purposes.

I understand from [REDACTED] that the UK Statistics Authority has made recommendations to the Cabinet Office to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census White Paper 2018.

However, it is unclear whether any concrete progress has been made and what the intentions of the UK Statistics Authority are for the inclusion of this measure.

[REDACTED] a community leader in my constituency, has explained that these proposed measures are very important to the Sikh community. If you could therefore provide me with a report into this case and advise what can be done to address the concerns of [REDACTED] and the Sikh community it would be much appreciated.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ellis'.

Michael Ellis
Member of Parliament for Northampton North

REPRESENTING NORTHAMPTON NORTH

Abington, Boughton Green, Eastfield, Headlands, Kingsley, Kingsthorpe, Lumbertubs, Parklands, St David, Thorplands

Telephone: 020 7219 7220 Email: michael.ellis.mp@parliament.uk

Iain Bell
Director General, Population and Public Policy
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR
BRITISH SIKHS



CHAIR
Preet Kaur Gill MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Alison Thewliss MP
Scottish National Party



VICE CHAIR
Dominic Grieve MP
Conservative



VICE CHAIR
Lucy Allan MP
Conservative



VICE CHAIR
Mike Gapes MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Pat McFadden MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Taranjeet Singh Dhuri MP
Labour



VICE CHAIR
Tom Brake MP
Liberal Democrat

14 December 2017

Dear Iain,

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Census 2021 event yesterday, I was pleased to attend and to see and hear from such a wide group of stakeholders.

The event did, however, leave me with a few issues which I wish to discuss with you. Firstly, given the extensive consultation already undertaken to date, what else do the ONS intend to do in terms of information gathering, testing or community engagement before making their final decision on a Sikh ethnic tick box?

I would also like to know what further measures are to be taken to ensure compliance with legal obligations, and what, if any, issues are still withstanding.

I must admit, I was surprised by the delay in confirming a Sikh ethnic tick box; a delay that increases the likelihood of a Westminster Hall debate and further work for all concerned. In addition, there has been no official recognition of the views of over 140 Members of Parliament who, representing their millions of constituents, signed a joint letter to the ONS giving their support for a Sikh ethnic tick box.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these points.

Yours sincerely,

Preet Kaur Gill MP
Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston
Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

Preet Kaur Gill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

31 January 2018

Dear Preet,

Thank you for our meeting on 17 January to discuss the issues raised in your letter of 14 December.

As discussed, the Office for National Statistics continue to work through our legal advice and understanding of public acceptability on the topic of the ethnicity question for the Census.

Our offices are in the process of confirming another meeting to discuss the Census in February. I look forward to updating you then.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your new role as Shadow Minister for International Development. I'd be happy to meet soon to discuss how ONS can support you in this capacity.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics



From Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret M. Beckett DBE, MP for Derby South
1 Parliament Street, House of Commons, London SW1A 2NE
020 7219 5135 PA/Sec. 020 7219 2088 PA/Res. Fax: 020 7219 4780

Mr John Pullinger,
National Statistician,
Office of National Statistics,
1 Drummond Gate,
Pimlico,
London SW1V 2QQ.

NB/18

30th October 2018

Dear Mr Pullinger,

I enclose copies of some communications, which I have been receiving from members of my local Sikh community, who, as you can see, are concerned at a number of issues.

As you can see, they ask me to write to you about the inclusion of a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021, and I would be very grateful if you could give me an indication as to whether this is likely to be considered and acted upon.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DAME MARGARET M BECKETT MP

Att.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: 26 October 2018 10:24
To: BECKETT, Margaret; james@derbylabourparty.co.uk
Subject: Current Sikh Issues

Dear Margaret,

I am writing regarding five issues and set out my specific requests:

1) Need for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021

The law has recognised Sikhs as an ethnic group for the last 35 years. The Sikh community with the cross-party support of MPs has been demanding this change in the census so public bodies routinely collect information regarding Sikhs to ensure fair treatment with regards to provision of public services.

The UK Statistics Authority is understood to have made recommendations to the Cabinet Office on whether to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census White Paper 2018.

There is written evidence to prove the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in concluding on its "public acceptability" test has chosen to ignore a survey of all Gurdwaras undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs. The survey was to assist the ONS and shared with the Deputy National Statistician in advance of it being sent to all Gurdwaras. The detailed results were shared with the National Statistician following a meeting with the APPG in July 2018.

The survey by MPs had individual responses from over 110 Gurdwaras with an official membership of over 100,000 and a congregation of over 450,000 from different parts of the community across the UK. The survey showed there was 100% support for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the next census.

There is further written evidence that the results of specific research referred to as the "names exercise" using Census 2011 data is being withheld. The research was requested over a year ago by the Sikh Federation (UK) that has been working closely with the ONS since 2014. ONS agreed it would share the results when the work was completed.

The integrity and reputation of the ONS is being called into question as the Deputy National Statistician in a letter to the Sikh Federation (UK) in October 2018 stated the work was in its "final stages" but he told the UK Statistics Authority Board more than three months earlier in June 2018 that the "research on ethnicity response options had concluded" when they approved the draft Census White Paper.

Please write to the National Statistician, John Pullinger as a matter of urgency and copy the letter to the Cabinet Office Minister, Rt. Hon. David Lidington raising my concerns. Also contact the APPG for British Sikhs to sign a joint letter from MPs to John Pullinger, copied to Sir David Norgrove, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 27 October 2018 19:59
To: BECKETT, Margaret
Subject: Concerns of sikh community in uk

Dear margaret beckett

I am writing regarding five issues and set out my specific requests:

1) Need for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021

The law has recognised Sikhs as an ethnic group for the last 35 years. The Sikh community with the cross-party support of MPs has been demanding this change in the census so public bodies routinely collect information regarding Sikhs to ensure fair treatment with regards to provision of public services.

The UK Statistics Authority is understood to have made recommendations to the Cabinet Office on whether to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census White Paper 2018.

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Please write to the National Statistician, John Pullinger as a matter of urgency and copy the letter to the Cabinet Office Minister, Rt. Hon. David Lidington raising my concerns. Also contact the APPG for British Sikhs to sign a joint letter from MPs to John Pullinger, copied to Sir David Norgrove, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority.

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianRt Hon Dame Margaret M Beckett MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0A

12 November 2018

Dear Dame Margaret,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October 2018 on behalf of members of your local Sikh community who have written to you to enquire about the 2021 Census, and the inclusion of a Sikh tick-box within the ethnicity question.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on the Office for National Statistics' initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics². The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who have got involved in this process.

I am aware of the concerns raised regarding the 'Sikh Names Analysis' which, I can assure you has been completed. It has taken longer than expected to get the results ready for publication, but we are committed to operating transparently and intend to publish this research as part of a Topic Research Paper alongside the White Paper.

I am also aware of concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, specifically the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming recommendations for Census 2021. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

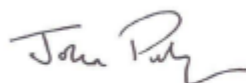
ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information in mid-August having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will be a part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations are formed.

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper which is planned for publication later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Pullinger



30th October 2018

Dear Mr Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy

It has been brought to our attention that the unique issue of Sikhs as a community that falls in several categories was considered at the World Conference against Racism in Durban 2001. We further came to know that there is a proposal for Sikhs to be categorised as an ethnic community in 'any others such as'.

While this is a welcome initiative, we feel that it may not entirely fulfil the commitment United Kingdom made at the Un World Conference when it also signed up to the special paragraph drafted with the Sikhs in mind. We also understand that only two communities fall in this category, the Sikhs and the Jews.

This issue was introduced by Canada and supported by India. A special wording describing the community and the complex interplay of factors that make it was developed during the conference. It call on countries to take action to remove barriers that Sikhs face.

We the Sikhs call ourselves a 'qaum' which we believe encapsulates the paragraph in full. The English language has taken words from many languages including Indian languages. We suggest that the category of 'qaum' be adopted and introduced and Sikhs be classified under that. This will address the shortcomings in the current categories when considered alone, such as religion, ethnicity etc.

**UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE.
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2001, DURBAN, PARA 67 OF THE DECLARATION**

"We recognise that members of certain groups with a distinct cultural identity face barriers arising from a complex interplay of ethnic, religious and other factors as well as their traditions and customs and call upon States to ensure that measures, policies and programmes aimed at eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances address the barriers that this interplay of factors creates"

We think a new and imaginative word is needed to capture the spirit of this paragraph. We propose you introduce the word qaum as one of the categories in the census forms.

Yours Sincerely

President

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population and Public Policy

[REDACTED]
Council of Gurdwara Management Committees UK
Guru Nanak Satsang Gurdwara
Cannock Road
Wolverhampton
WV10 0AL

Via email
info@cmqc.org.uk

12 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October 2018 regarding proposals made at the United Nations World Conference in 2001 and your proposition for us to include the word *quam* as one of the ethnic group categories on the 2021 questionnaire.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on ONS's initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics². The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and to describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who have been involved in this process.

Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper, which is planned for publication later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)



Office for
National Statistics
Swyddfa
Ystadegau Gwladol

Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG

Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth
Heol Caerdydd
Casnewydd
NP10 8XG

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

31 January 2018

Dear Lord Singh,

Thank you for our meeting on 17 January with Preet Gill MP, and your email of 27 January regarding a Punjabi ethnicity tick-box.

As discussed, the Office for National Statistics continues to work through the issues raised in various meetings, and our understanding of public acceptability of the various elements of the ethnicity question under consideration for the Census. This was set out at the Population and Public Policy Forum in December.

I look forward to updating you further on the points you raise in February when we meet again.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

BRITISH SIKH CONSULTATIVE FORUM
89 SOUTH ROAD, SOUTHALL
Middlesex, UB1 1SQ
phone 07932735467 / 07956212343
email admin@bscf.org website www.bscf.org



23/9/2018

Mr Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy

Ref: Sikh Ethnicity

We note with some anticipation the proposal to introduce Sikhs as an ethnic community in the census forms. This has been a general demand from several quarters of Sikh population in the UK. We commend the efforts of organisations who lobbied for this, notably Sikh Federation and Sikh Network. We are also excited at the positive reception from ONS on this.

We observe that a wider consultation was not conducted. We are a key organisation working with DCLG Faith and Integration Unit, and previously Home Office since 2002.

We wish to suggest that the category of ethnicity in the any other may not do justice to the very robust and stronger position taken at the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Durban, where UK was not only a signatory but a key promoter within the European block.

The Durban Declaration para 67 clearly appreciated that discrimination against Sikhs occurs due to a lacunae in law and descriptive language of an appropriate category for Sikhs.

UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2001, DURBAN, PARA 67 OF THE DECLARATION

"We recognise that members of certain groups with a distinct cultural identity face barriers arising from a complex interplay of ethnic, religious and other factors as well as their traditions and customs and call upon States to ensure that measures, policies and programmes aimed at eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances address the barriers that this interplay of factors creates"

The paragraph treats Sikhs more than a religion and ethnic community. It was appreciated that Sikhs either suffer mitigation of rights in accordance with Article 18 of UN ICCPR (international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) or the limitations of being described solely as an ethnic community, a category which sometimes becomes contentious in some European countries.

The issue was brought to the attention of UN by Sikh Human Rights Group, an organisation with Special Consultative Status at UN. The Paragraph was introduced by Canada, supported by India and Australia and then all the countries (180) present.

The British Sikh Consultative Forum is a national body of Sikh organisations and Gurdwaras. It works by regular consultations on key issues, Government initiatives and policies by holding consultations around the country.



BRITISH SIKH CONSULTATIVE FORUM
89 SOUTH ROAD, SOUTHALL
Middlesex, UB1 1SO



[REDACTED]

We request a meeting so we can engage with NSO with the strength of this achievement at UN. The talks and any result will compliment the excellent work done so far. We feel that the Para enables UK to put in action the intention of the paragraph without assessing quantitative support.

We look forward to a meeting

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 11:41
To: Authority Enquiries <authority.enquiries@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: " Ethnicity status for Sikhs"

I read in an Indian newspaper (on the web) that you have agreed to this change.
It seems irrational.
A religion equated with ethnicity? How do you define ethnicity?
Kindly let me have more information.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]

31 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 23 July 2018, regarding a story you read in an Indian newspaper on Sikh ethnicity, and your request for more information.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census including the views gathered from the Gurdwaras. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and ONS will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year and the final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order and the Census Regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2018 12:08
To: Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Letter from Iain Bell, Office for National Statistics

Dear [REDACTED] and Mr Bell

Thank you I am most grateful .

It is perhaps outwith your remit but ETHNICITY is a term wholly without merit.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



22-0-18

Director for Transformation, Population and Public Policy ONS

Dear

Thank you for giving us time on 6 September. I found the meeting extremely useful.

I would like to meet you once more before you finalise your position on what many Sikhs in the UK and India, see as a political ploy to show Sikhs as a separate ethnic or national group, entitled to a separate homeland in India. I will not be accompanied on this occasion

The objection of many Sikhs is that linking Sikhism to a single ethnicity downgrades Sikhism as a world religion open to people of any ethnicity. More importantly, is totally contrary to Sikh teachings against unnecessary division of our one humanity.

Prior to the 2011 Census, your officers came to see me in my capacity as expert witness and lead strategist in the Mandla case. They were not happy about the way the Federation were trying stretch a limited finding that the mostly Punjab born Sikhs then in the UK, could be considered an ethnic group for protection against religious discrimination, into a political claim that Sikhs were an ethnic group per se. I was able to help them.

The Federation, who represent a small extremist group in the Sikh community, are now trying to convince you that this is a majority Sikh demand. It is not. Most Sikhs in the UK, including gurdwara management, are totally unaware of, and uninterested in the implications of ethnic monitoring.

The issues have not been discussed by gurdwara management committees with a prior explanation of the pros and cons, with the sole exception of the meeting attended by the ONS in Hounslow. There the management were totally opposed to calling Sikhs an ethnic group. Despite this, the Federation issued a Press Release claiming that they had the support of Hounslow.

~ Conf

A misleading impression of some gurdwara support, results from Federation activists approaching individual gurdwara members to sign a letter of support, by playing to still lingering Sikh hurt about the treatment of Sikhs by the Indian government in the eighties, claiming that ethnic monitoring will help secure a separate homeland (Khalistan) in India; the real frequently boasted (but totally unrealistic) aim of the Federation.

I have offered to debate ethnic monitoring with anyone from the Federation on any Sikh TV channel; they have refused. They have managed to make themselves the Secretariat of the APPG for British Sikhs and refuse to allow me to query the briefing given to MPs prior to their signing of support.

As some of the attached correspondence shows, nearly all their postings on the internet and social media are couched in hype and un-Sikh-like bravado about Sikhs being a God-chosen race, ignoring key Sikh teachings to the contrary. Sadly, this is accompanied with denigration of other faiths, again despite Sikh teachings of respect.

The aim of the Federation is to bully the ONS to accede to their demands and further an agenda that has nothing to do with the UK census. I would like to meet you to discuss a possibly common approach.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Director for Transformation, Population and Public Policy

[REDACTED]
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

02 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 22 September, providing further information to support your view against the inclusion of a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. As we discussed in our meeting the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is continuing to consider all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census and I have shared the information you provided with the team carrying out this work.

Thank you also for your request of a further meeting, I am happy to meet with you, however due to very heavy diary commitments it is unlikely that this could be arranged before November. Alternatively, I could ask my office to arrange a brief telephone call if this would be useful? Please do let me know how you would like to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

John Pullinger CB CStat | National Statistician

Via email: [REDACTED]

21 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

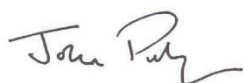
Thank you for your correspondence dated 6 December 2018 on the subject of Sikh ethnicity and a separate ethnic tick-box. All information and views that were provided were considered as part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations for the 2021 Census were formed.

On Friday 14 December 2018, the Government published a White Paper (*Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales*¹) laying out the UK Statistics Authority's proposals for the conduct and content of the 2021 Census. The White Paper includes the Office for National Statistics' recommendations, which fully recognise the need for good data on Sikh communities, both in terms of the need for high-quality data from the census and also more widely across all public services. To ensure the fullest evidence base on which the recommendations were made, we sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who were involved in this process.

On the same day as publishing the White Paper, the Office for National Statistics published a letter (*Census 2021: Meeting the data needs of the Sikh community*²) to Preet Kaur Gill MP (Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on UK Sikhs) further laying out ONS's commitment to meeting the need for high-quality data on Sikhs, and how it plans to meet this.

The final topics and questions to be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

**John Pullinger**

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

² <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/census-2021-appg-sikhs/>



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ੴ ਵਾਹਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕਾ ਖਤਾਬੇ ॥



ਪੰਥ ਕੀ ਜੀਤ



ਮੁੱਖ ਦਫਤਰ

ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ

Head Office

Shiromani Akali Dal

Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy
Office of National Statistics
Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP10 8XG

Dear Mr Bell

Shiromani Akali Dal is the political part of the Sikhs in India and has a history of advocating for Sikh rights since the days of the British Raj and in forming the Punjab State government.

The Sikhs are both people and a faith (Sikhi). We have pride in our distinct appearance, history, language, literature and idiosyncratic traditions. We have throughout history been regarded as a quom (ethno-religious group/ethnic minority). This fact was recognised by the British during the colonial period and in 1982 through the House of Lords judgement.

We are very surprised to read that a small unrepresentative minority are campaigning for Sikhs to be considered purely as a religious group in order to prevent a Sikh ethnic box being included on forms for monitoring purposes. Whatever their motivations they cannot change our historic and cherished belief of being both a faith and a quom.

We would urge the British Government to honour the popular demand of the British Sikhs to be included as a separate ethnic category on the forthcoming Census 2021 form. We look forward to a favourable response.

Regards

[Redacted Signature]

President of Shiromani Akali Dal

ਪਤਾ ਦਫਤਰ :- ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਨੰ. 6, ਸੈਕਟਰ 28 ਬੀ, ਮੱਧਿਮਾ ਮਾਰਗ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ
Address :- Building No-6, Sector- 28 B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.

E-mail :

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
India

21 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, which we received 17 September, in support of a Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year in a White Paper. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
India

21 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 3 September, in support of a Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census and we would welcome any further evidence you would like to send following your investigation.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year in a White Paper. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)



E: INFO@SARBAT.NET
W: WWW.SARBAT.NET

ONS
Outputs and Dissemination Team Census 2021

18 October 2018

Re: Census 2021 Consultation – Sikh Ethnicity Question

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing with regard to the Census 2021 consultation which was held in May 2018.

We have noted the summary of findings from your meeting with Sikh faith organisations on 23 October 2017 as published on the ONS website.

As a Sikh faith organisation, we at Sarbat hold a keen interest in matters such as the one presented here. We are aware the consultation has closed, of course, but nonetheless wish to express our views.


We at Sarbat firmly oppose the inclusion of a Sikh tick box in the Ethnicity question on 2021 Census.

Sikhism is a religion. It is not an ethnicity. In the same way that Christianity (or any other religious group) is not an ethnicity. It is of paramount importance to maintain the clear distinction between religion and ethnicity. Seeking to include a Sikh tick box in the ethnicity question would fundamentally blur such boundaries. Setting a dangerous precedent.

There is absolutely no case that Sikhism be granted special status and elevated from its current, and correct, categorisation as a religion to an ethnicity. The same applies to all other religions.

We would be happy to answer any questions or queries that you may have, and we can easily be contacted at info@sarbat.net or through our website at www.sarbat.net.

Yours sincerely


Sarbat

██████████

info@sarbat.net

25 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 18 October 2018, expressing your concerns about the inclusion of a Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

¹ 2021 Census Topic Consultation

² Ethnicity and National Identity topic report

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

From: Parliamentary Unit

Sent: 19 February 2018 14:49

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting Cancellation: Iain Bell, ONS

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

Please accept this email as notification of the cancellation of your meeting on Wednesday 21 February with Iain Bell, ONS and Preet Kaur Gill MP.

At your last meeting, Iain Bell committed to updating you both on the status of ONS' legal advice. Unfortunately, this has not yet been received; therefore the decision has been made to cancel the meeting.

We will be in touch at a later date to rearrange. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Parliamentary and Correspondence Officer | UK Statistics Authority | Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

[REDACTED]

13 August 2018

Mr John Pullinger
Chief Executive
Office for National Statistics
Room D265, Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8XG

Dear Mr Pullinger

Ethnic Status for Sikhs in the UK - 2021 Census

I invite your attention to a report that appeared in The Times of 23 July 2018 (Appendix A) that 113 MPs have written to the ONS supporting the call that Sikhism is included on the forthcoming census. There have also been a couple of letters opposing this suggestion, which seem to have been influenced by their own agenda. Based on some twenty years experience in the field of community relations I am writing to support the call for ethnic status for Sikhs, which has been a long standing demand of the community, as the following events would show.

Background of Ethnic Terminology

From 1970 onwards there has been further immigration of Asians into the UK, mostly from Uganda, Kenya and the Indian subcontinent. After the 1981 census there was a wide spread concern among them that in the census they were not included as Asians but were in the category of "Blacks", which they argued compromised their identity. The Sikhs said that there should have been enumerated separately as they are culturally different. They were anxious to have their separate identity recognised.

Being a local Asian community relations officer in west London, where there is predominance of Asians, a few leading members of the community contacted me for assistance and advice. In order to determine the strength of their demand I had meetings with different community leaders, Asian councillors and individuals. I found that they were almost unanimous in their demand for separate recognition as Asians, not as "Blacks". They emphasised that they had nothing against them but wanted their distinct culture and identity be recognised.

Recognition by the Local Authority

I then approached the Leader of the local Borough of Hounslow and after several meetings, discussions and submissions of papers the Authority agreed to include Asians as a separate category for its local purposes. This was a good start and the news quickly spread and was covered by the Sunday Times in its issue of 6th June 1988 (Appendix B). Soon after this the neighbouring London Borough of Hillingdon also decided to adopt this procedure. But it did not resolve the wider issue of their recognition at national level.

Role of the Commission for Racial Equality

I then considered it appropriate to obtain the support of the Commission for Racial Equality. I wrote to its Chief Executive explaining the position and suggested that they support the demand for separate recognition of Asians at national level by approaching the Home Office and or the then OPCS (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys). The Chief Executive did not accept the request.

I then wrote an article which was somewhat critical of the CRE for its lack of appreciation of the genuine demand of the Asians, which was published in the Daily Mail of 28th June 1988. This created a lot of controversy and [REDACTED] Vice Chairman of the CRE, recognising its importance issued a statement that they had no policy on it and were open to discussion.

Political interest: Realising the importance of the issue, Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Labour party, sent a member of his staff, Virendera Sharma (now MP for Ealing, Southall) to me to determine the position. I briefed him of the issues involved and also gave him a copy of my talk at the Warwick University on the subject.

Invitation to the Home Secretary

Following continuing concern of the Asian community I approached the then Home Secretary and invited him to visit Hounslow and meet people. He accepted the invitation and I sent detailed briefing, which he valued.

The Home Secretary came on 28th October 1988 and stayed with us for nearly eight hours. During this period I arranged meetings with him of:

- Leaders of different Asian organisations.
- Leader of the Council and those of other political parties.
- The Commander of the local police.
- A deputation of Asians.

At the meetings the Asians and Sikh leaders were unequivocal in their demand for separate recognition.

The meetings were followed by a dinner, which was attended by over 200 people, Asians representing different organisations, leaders of local political parties,

representatives of the local authority and the police. The Asians reiterated their demand at the informal meetings.

In the meantime the government and the OPCS also carried out surveys, which proved that overwhelming majority of Asians, wanted a separate category for them.

Recognition of Sikhs as a separate Race:

Although the Asians were pleased and relieved that their demand had been met wef 1991 census, the Sikhs complained that their demand for separate recognition had not been formally made. This was despite the fact that their separate identity had been recognised by government decisions that Sikh motor cycle riders be given exemption from wearing crash helmet and the building workers from steel helmet. Subsequently, The House of Lords also unanimously (5:0) ruled on the issue of wearing turban by a student that "Sikhs were in that sense a racial group defined by reference to ethnic origins for the purpose of the Act" – 1976 Race relations Act. But they did not have ethnic status in the census.

I therefore support the demand of Sikhs for ethnic status. It is significant that:

- All the 112 Gurdwaras, who replied to the survey conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group, supported the demand for ethnicity status for Sikhs.
- Some 113 MPs have written to the ONS for acknowledging Sikhs as an ethnic group.
- The existing format of the census does not accurately monitors Sikhs who, for example, were born in Pakistan and are now resident in Britain. In fairness they should tick the "Pakistani" box, not of Indian, which would be wrong. This and other considerations prevented many Sikhs from ticking any box.
- Some 83,000 Sikhs therefore ticked no box in the last census and remained unaccounted for.

On a personal note, during the last 35 years I have been paying fairly regular weekly visits to a leading Gurdwara in Hounslow. During this period I have not come across even a single Sikh visitor who was opposed to the suggestion of being enumerated as a Sikh - all wanted to be recognised as Sikhs.

In view of the above I strongly urge the ONS to give ethnic status to Sikhism. Should you have any query, I would be happy to answer.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

The Sunday Times - 23 July 18 "A"

Sikhs to get ethnicity status in census

Kaya Burgess
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The 2021 census is set to list Sikhism as a distinct ethnicity rather than only as a religion.

In the most recent census in 2011, more than 83,000 Sikhs refused to tick any of the choices in the question on ethnicity, rejecting options such as Indian in order to write "Sikh" in the space for "any other ethnic group".

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering the inclusion of Sikhism as an ethnicity on the 2021 form, but had raised concerns over the issue of "public acceptability" and whether the move would have backing across Britain's 430,000-strong Sikh community.

The all-party parliamentary group for British Sikhs offered to write to

gurdwaras to assist the ONS with its public consultation and sent out letters about five months ago.

The Times has learnt that MPs received 112 responses from temples representing more than 100,000 members.

Preet Gill, the first female Sikh MP and chairwoman of the all-party group, said: "Overwhelmingly they have said yes. Not a single gurdwara has opposed it." It is understood that the ONS was likely to back the move if it received backing from more than 60 per cent of the gurdwaras that responded.

Public health bodies use the ONS list of ethnicities when compiling health data and determining provision of services for different ethnic groups.

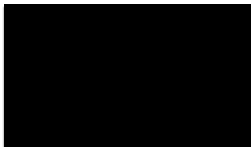
Ms Gill said that issues such as alcoholism within Sikh communities had gone unaddressed as information had not been gathered. Bhai Amrik Singh,

chairman of the Sikh Federation, said: "The final ONS test was one of public acceptability and our main religious institutions have spoken with one voice with 100 per cent backing for a separate Sikh ethnic tick box. The ONS will now have to recommend a Sikh ethnic tick box in the census white paper later this year."

Last year, 113 MPs signed a letter to the ONS supporting calls for Sikhism to be included as an ethnicity on the census. The ONS is also considering the need for separate ethnic designations for Jewish, Roma and Somali Britons.

Sikhs have technically been legally recognised as an ethnic group since the House of Lords ruled in 1983 that a Sikh schoolboy suffered discrimination based on his ethnicity. The option was not available as an ethnicity in the 1991, 2001 or 2011 censuses however.

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public Policy



By email

29 August 2018

Dear 

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 13 August, providing evidence for a Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year in a White Paper. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

From [REDACTED] after received letter



[REDACTED]

Parliamentary Unit

01/09/2018

Re: Sikh Ethnicity Status in 2021 Census

[REDACTED]



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I am most grateful to you for forwarding the letter from Mr Iain Bell which I find very informative and helpful . At present I am in the Middle East and will be returning to London on Monday. I will then study it thoroughly, along with the attachments, and come back to you as necessary.

In view of the importance of the issue involved and information given I propose to release it to the Sikh community with the hope that you will have no objection to it.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Attention of Mr. John Pullinger

The spiritual, political and cultural basis of Sikh ethnicity

The concept of Sikh ethnicity can only be captured if we learn how advent of Guru Nanak gave rise to the principles of Sikhism in the 15th century.

This is aptly explained by Bhai Gurdas in Vaar 1 Pauri 45:

"Maria Sikka Jagat Vich, Nanak Nirmal Panth Chalaya"

'Nanak endorsed his seal of Naam and a new way of life emerged..

This new way of life was a third way of life distinct from the Semitic way of life practiced by Jews, Muslims and Christians and distinct from the polytheistic eastern religions like Hindus.

Each path before Nanak believed in salvation after death. Nanak's third path introduced the concept of salvation before death and therefore one should die while living. Such an individual is called 'Jivan Mukhat' in Sikhism.

'To reach your true home after death, you must consider death while still alive' (page 21 Adi Guru Granth).

'Nanak Ke Ghar Keval Naam' - Guru Arjan

'In the house of Nanak, subscribe to the word(shabad) only'.

This made Sikhs a fiercely monotheistic and mystic faith on this planet.

Sikhism became a religion for the love of god and humanity, and gave every individual the opportunity for their spiritual development irrespective of colour, creed or ethnicity and to experience direct union with the unseen.

The nirmal panth, the new way of life or civilisation, as a new world order, had spanned 249 years of inculcation from Guru Nanak to the time of Guru Gobind Singh, at which point it became Khalsa Panth, the modus operandi of nirmal panth.

From this new way of life emerged the Sikh ethnicity peculiar to them.

In the age of Kalyug, the age of vice, falsehood, inequality, slavery, greed, and injustice, the Khalsa panth precisely reversed these ills and pursued their political ambitions as demonstrated by the establishment of khalsa raj or Sikh empire.

No one has to be born into Sikh ethnicity. It is open to any race, creed or other ethnic group or background, whether you are Chinese, black, white, or Asian. Tara Chand Malhotra was initiated into Sikhi from Hinduism and became leader of the Sikhs as Master Tara Singh. He was succeeded by a Muslim Fateh Mohammed, who became Fateh Singh. The first five initiates into Khalsa Order came from different castes and creeds. Four of them were from India and one was from Pakistan.

The Sikh Ardas, or prayer of supplication is very inclusive. It does not discriminate between the Sikhs and those not born into Sikhi and seeks the good of all mankind.

The apex court in the UK was quite explicit in their reasons in ruling that Sikhs were an ethnic group which was in accordance with concepts of Nirmal Panth. The Ruling stated that to constitute an "ethnic group it had to regard itself, and be regarded by others as a distinct community by virtue of certain characteristics, two of which were essential.

'Firstly, it had to have a long-shared history, of which the group was conscious as distinguishing it from other groups, and the memory of which it kept alive'.

'Secondly, it had to have a cultural tradition of its own, including family and social customs and manners, often but not necessarily associated with religious observance.'

The principles of Sikh ethnicity as derived from Nirmal Panth are unique compared with other socio/cultural groups whether it is spiritual, political, social, cultural ,economic or historic .

The law of the land is incontrovertible that Sikhs are an 'ethnic group'. It can only be altered by an Act of Parliament. To omit a separate section or tick box for the Sikhs in the ethnicity column in the national census is inconsistent with the law. It undermines the legality and accuracy of the national census and discriminates against the Sikhs in the application of Equality Act 2010; notwithstanding that the majority of the Sikh community supports such provision for the purposes of implementation of the law.

Sikh ethnicity and Sikh religion are mutually inclusive. The ethnicity tick box does not currently cater for the Sikhs because a tick box for 'Indian', 'Pakistani' and 'other' cannot reflect the Sikh ethnicity as endorsed by law and by its historical basis derived from Nirmal Panth.

It is therefore proposed that there be a separate section for the Sikhs so that under that section the following boxes can be ticked:

British Sikhs .

Indian Sikhs

White Sikhs

Sikhs of other background.

Such a proposal cannot prejudice anyone because it helps monitor Sikh statistics in the future.





Parliamentary Unit

12/09/2018

Response from Iain Bell: ONS



Dear

Thank you for the latest document posted to us, for the attention of John Pullinger, entitled: "*The Spiritual, Political and Cultural Basis of Sikh Ethnicity*" which we received on 29 August 2018.

Your proposals will be considered along with other evidence we are currently reviewing. As mentioned in my latest reply (dated 3 August), the Office for National Statistics will make its final recommendations to the Government on the 2021 Census content later this year.

Kind regards,
Parliamentary Unit on behalf of Iain Bell, Director General for Population and Public Policy



[Redacted]

Parliamentary Unit

15

Re: Data Request: Ethnicity Group by Religion

Many thanks for your prompt reply.

We estimate that there are around 700000 Sikhs in the UK and this is inconsistent with your figures.

We hope when a separate Sikh category is created for 2021 census it will provide more accurate figures.

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On 14 Sep 2018, at 01:28, Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [Redacted]

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have published a table on Nomis (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>) that should partially satisfy your request.

ONS holds no information on Dalits as a religion in the 2011 Census. The estimate for the number of Jains (Religion) who also identified as Indian (Ethnic Group) in the 2011 Census is not a standard ONS output. You may be able to commission a bespoke table with these variables.

Should you wish to consider commissioning such a table, Census Customer Services (details below) will be able to advise you on the procedure and the associated costs.

The other religions you have requested are available from table DC2201EW: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/dc2201ew>

Please use the "Query data" button to specify your search criteria (for example: Ethnic group = Indian, Geography = England and Wales)

DC2201EW - Ethnic Group by Religion			
ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 13 September 2018]			
population	All usual residents		
units	Persons		
date	2011		
ethnic group	Asian/Asian British: Indian		
Religion	England and Wales	England	Wales
All categories: Religion	1,412,958	1,395,702	17,256
Christian	135,988	131,796	4,192
Buddhist	3,637	3,577	60
Hindu	621,983	613,802	8,181
Jewish	819	816	3
Muslim	197,161	195,952	1,209
Sikh	312,965	310,845	2,120
Other religion	33,003	32,876	127
No religion	44,281	43,575	706
Religion not stated	63,121	62,463	658
In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies.			
The voluntary question on religion in the 2011 Census was intended to capture people's religious affiliation and identification at the time of the Census irrespective of whether they practised or believed in that religion or how important it was in their lives. If a person had no religion then the first of a series of tick boxes could be selected. Care should be taken when using these data not to infer, or allow the inference by others, that the practice of a religion or specific religious activities that are expected of believers has been measured. Unlike other census questions where missing answers are imputed, this question was voluntary, and where no answer was provided the response is categorised as 'not stated'.			
Due to an error in the processing of census data, the number of usual residents in the 'Religion not stated' category has been overestimated by a total of 62,000 for three local authorities: Camden, Islington and Tower Hamlets. More information from http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/census-products--issues-and-corrections/index.html .			

If you have other census related queries, please contact Census Customer Services directly who will be glad to deal with any enquiry.

Web: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censuscustomerservices>

Email: census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1329 444972

Census Customer Services: ONS, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants, PO15 5RR

Kind regards,

Parliamentary Unit on behalf of Iain Bell, Director General for Population and Public Policy

For the latest data on the economy and society, consult our website at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

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Please Note: Incoming and outgoing email messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications
.....

Legal Disclaimer: Any views expressed by the sender of this message are not necessarily those of the Office for National Statistics
.....



Gurbani Centre UK

Promoting Sikh culture, art, music, heritage and education

Founded 1986

Our Ref: SH

Your Ref:

Date: 12.09.2018

Mr John Pullinger
Chief Executive
Office of National Statistics
Room D265, Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP10 8XG

12th September 2018

Dear Mr Pullinger. **RE: Sikh Ethnicity category**

We write to support inclusion of separate Sikh category in 2021 national census. Our charity is one of the oldest Sikh charities in the UK. We have been promoting Sikh art to the Western World and published several books to bring awareness of Sikh people to the non Sikhs.

We note that the change of national census categories is a continuous process: Asians were once included in the Black category. Later Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshi category was created at the prejudice of the Sikhs who were already recognized as an ethnic group by the law of the land.

The current categories do not reflect the Sikh ethnic group. Nor do they provide accurate reflection of their population or demography. Sikhs whose ancestors came from Pakistan cannot tick Pakistani Box nor the Indian Box because they hold on to their unique Sikh ethnicity and identity. Moreover majority of the Sikhs in this country are born in the UK and have acquired British nationality.

In the UK special provisions are made in law to protect the Sikh ethnicity as is the case in the army, judiciary, building sites and transport. We verily believe that statistical data on Sikh ethnicity will be in the national interest to monitor the integration of the community in various fields and areas.

66 Barn Rise, Wembley, HA9 9NN Gurbanicentre@gmail.com Registered Charity No 294736
T: 020 8455 7565

The inclusion of Sikh category speaks for itself as by definition in law they are an ethnic group that needs to be recognised by the Office of National Statistic.

We trust you will honour the wishes of the majority of Sikhs who have responded to you.

Yours sincerely,



(Trustee)

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Wembley, HA9 9NN

gurbanicentre@gmail.com

18 September 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your recent correspondence addressed to Mr John Pullinger, dated 12 September 2018, expressing your support for the inclusion of a separate Sikh category in the next census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and ONS will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy
Office of National Statistics
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP10 8XG

12th January 2018

Dear Iain

I hope you are well, Happy New Year to you and your colleagues at the ONS.

As you are aware as the largest representative body for Sikhs in the UK, Sikh Council has been campaigning and participating in all the consultations for a Sikh tick box under the Ethnicity category being considered for the next census. You may recall the affiliated members meeting at Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick, Birmingham, where members highlighted the reasons for the Councils collective decision to support the Sikh tick box and its importance when for the provision of services.

Also, at the Population & Public Policy Forum meeting on the 13th December 2017, the Council along with other Sikh organisations again participated in the discussions that took place highlighting the lack of data for the sizable Sikh community living and participating in British Society. We appreciate there may be some divergence in views, as I said at the meeting the ONS is not an arbitrator on Sikh theology and the need for the Ethnicity tick box is for the provision of improved services and improved data collection for decision making. This decision has no relevance and does not impede on the core belief that the Sikh faith as a universal faith.

In the New Year Sikh Council had meeting with the race disparity unit to discuss how public services treat people from different backgrounds. To no-one's surprise the unit holds no data on Sikhs whatsoever and the community is invisible when it comes disparity data. The key source for data is the ethnicity category data encapsulated from previous census and other government data sources.

We have requested the Race Disparity Unit to formally approach yourselves at the ONS and make Representation on behalf of the Council and the community to highlight the invisible nature of a community that is substantial in number but invisible when it comes data to improve service provision.

The council and the community look forward to a positive decision ensuring Sikhs are given the legal right to be included under the category of Ethnicity in the 2021 Census.


Thank you as we look to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely



Sikh Council UK

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population and Public Policy


Secretary General, Sikh Council UK
Station House
G46 Old Warwick Road
Leamington Spa
CV31 3NS

13 February 2018

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 12 January providing follow-up information from the Sikh Council.

I would like to thank the Sikh Council for attending the Population and Public Policy Forum on 13 December 2017 and for sharing your views, which will contribute to our evidence base to inform our recommendations on the topics to be included in the 2021 Census.

The Office for National Statistics continues to work through the issues raised in various meetings, and our understanding of public acceptability of the various elements of the ethnicity question under consideration for the Census.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2018 20:40
To: Parliamentary Unit
Cc: Bell, Iain
Subject: feedback from meeting

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]
We havent heard anything from you since we had the meeting with your unit. We will be grateful if you can keep us up dated on your views.

For your interest all Sikh organisations agree with our proposals. So there isnt any difference of opinion on this including from Sikh Council, Sikh Federation and Network of Sikh Organisations.

[REDACTED]

In summary our suggestions and proposal is as follows

NEED

The Sikhs see themselves as one corporate identity

Not all Sikhs consider themselves as religious so religious category does not do them justice

Not all Sikhs originate from Punjab, so they feel they cannot identify with one ethnic category

It is not clear why Sikhs don't seem to do well in public sector fields

There are still hurdles in some sectors to Sikhs being employed with turbans

There are considerable problems in Europe particularly France, Belgium Switzerland etc where turban is still being considered as a religious sign/manifestation

There is a need for a category that makes all Sikhs inclusive, that is teh religious, the non religious, the Sikhs from various ethnic backgrounds etc

PROPOSAL

The UN para 67 from World Conference Against Racism offers a new category / classification that captures communities like Sikhs with 'complex interplay' of factors

It is inclusive of religious Sikhs, non Religious Sikhs, Sikhs of various ethnic backgrounds

Crystalizing the para in one word will help make Sikh inclusive

A category in the census offers the best approach forward

It will solve issues around the various positions among Sikhs in the census and open new opportunities

It will be accepted by virtually all Sikh organisations and institutions

A word that is understood by all Sikhs can be considered

We propose introducing the word Qaum, which is a word used by Sikhs to describe themselves

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2018 08:09
To: Parliamentary Unit
Subject: Fwd: [sikh_news_discussion] Sikh Ethnicity explained; progress & next steps

Categories: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [sikh_news_discussion]
To: sikh_news_discussion
Sent: Thu, 6 Dec 2018 8:00
Subject: Re: [sikh_news_discussion] Sikh Ethnicity explained; progress & next steps

Dear Discussion Groups,

There are two areas those canvassing for this 'ethnic' tick box highlight.

1. Hate crime recording - position: hate crime will be better recorded if we are recorded as an 'ethnic' group in the census.

Reality: hate crime is recorded on a 'perception' basis and a new tick box in the census will make no difference. Moreover Sikhs are already recorded as victims of racial and religious hate crime. Jews and Muslims both have separate hate crime categories for crimes against their respective communities and NEITHER are recorded as an 'ethnic' group in the census. In fact leading Jewish (BoD and CAA) groups have advised against it.

2. Alcohol abuse - position: NHS will be able to target alcohol abuse amongst some Sikhs. Reality: alcoholism is related to Punjabi and pub drinking culture, whilst being promoted in bhangra lyrics with lines like 'jatt hoyigya sharabi'. This has nothing to do with Sikhism (which prohibits consumption) and is a cultural issue. A 'Punjabi' tick box makes more sense in terms of allocating healthcare resource. In any case patients have to self refer to alcohol/substance misuse services.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Network of Sikh Organisations

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 9:03 am, [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk
[sikh_news_discussion] wrote:

Forwarding below recording which explains why UK Sikhs need a dedicated tick box in Census 2021 for accurate Sikh count and continual monitoring to address policy in different fields. It explains the progress and next steps. My impression is that this issue has united Sikhs as no other in my 58 years in the UK:

[REDACTED]

(PI copy paste if click on the above link does not work)

My personal commitment to this issue is above Sikh politics or personalities.

[REDACTED]



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Pullinger
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Our Ref: AK27537
29 November 2018

Dear John,

Re: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

I have recently been contacted by a constituent, [REDACTED] regarding a Sikh ethnic tick box for the next census.

I have copied [REDACTED]'s correspondence here for your reference -

"Need for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021

The law has recognised Sikhs as an ethnic group for the last 35 years. The Sikh community with the cross-party support of MPs has been demanding this change in the census so public bodies routinely collect information regarding Sikhs to ensure fair treatment with regards to provision of public services.

The UK Statistics Authority is understood to have made recommendations to the Cabinet Office on whether to include a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census White Paper 2018.

There is written evidence to prove the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in concluding on its "public acceptability" test has chosen to ignore a survey of all Gurdwaras undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs. The survey was to assist the ONS and shared with the Deputy National Statistician in advance of it being sent to all Gurdwaras. The detailed results were shared with the National Statistician following a meeting with the APPG in July 2018.

The survey by MPs had individual responses from over 110 Gurdwaras with an official membership of over 100,000 and a congregation of over 450,000 from different parts of the community across the UK. The survey showed there was 100% support for a Sikh ethnic tick box in the next census.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

There is further written evidence that the results of specific research referred to as the "names exercise" using Census 2011 data is being withheld. The research was requested over a year ago by the Sikh Federation (UK) that has been working closely with the ONS since 2014. ONS agreed it would share the results when the work was completed.

The integrity and reputation of the ONS is being called into question as the Deputy National Statistician in a letter to the Sikh Federation (UK) in October 2018 stated the work was in its "final stages" but he told the UK Statistics Authority Board more than three months earlier in June 2018 that the "research on ethnicity response options had concluded" when they approved the draft Census White Paper.

Please write to the National Statistician, John Pullinger as a matter of urgency and copy the letter to the Cabinet Office Minister, Rt. Hon. David Lidington raising my concerns. Also contact the APPG for British Sikhs to sign a joint letter from MPs to John Pullinger, copied to Sir David Norgrove, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the concerns outlined by my constituent.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Khan', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Afzal Khan MP
Member of Parliament for Manchester Gorton

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianAfzal Khan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: AK27537

07 December 2018

Dear Mr Khan,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 29 November 2018 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] who has written to you to enquire about the 2021 Census, and the inclusion of a Sikh tick-box within the ethnicity question.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on ONS's initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics². The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who have got involved in this process.

I am aware of the concerns raised regarding the 'Sikh Names Analysis' which, I can assure you has been completed. It has taken longer than expected to get the results ready for publication, but we are committed to operating transparently and intend to publish this research as part of a Topic Research Paper alongside the White Paper.

I am also aware of concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, specifically the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming recommendations for Census 2021. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey, or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information in mid-August having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will be a part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations are formed.

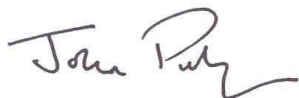
Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper which is planned for publication later this year. The final topics and questions to

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Pullinger



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

UK Statistics Authority
London
12 DEC 2018

Received

Mr John Pullinger
Chief Executive
Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
Pimlico, London
SW1V 2QQ

7 November 2018

Dear Mr Pullinger

Re: Classification of Sikhs as an ethnic minority

I have received representations from members of the Asian community about classifying Sikhs as a separate ethnic minority.

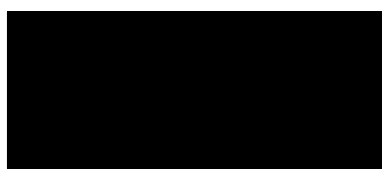
There are strong and differing feelings on this issue from within the community and I was hoping you could provide me with the latest position on this issue. Specifically, is the ONS planning to create this new classification?

I would be grateful if you could respond as soon possible so that I can feedback to my constituents.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Chris Williamson
Labour MP for Derby North



6th December 2018

John Pullinger
Chief Statistician
Office of National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate.
London SW1V 2 QQ

URGENT

Dear Mr Pullinger

Sikh Ethnicity and separate tick Box

I would like to respond to the unwarranted suggestion emanating from your office that Sikh community is divided over the issue of Sikh ethnicity. You will recall that I wrote a couple of authoritative articles, which I believe were copied your department, to explain the basis and origins of Sikh ethnicity. These articles would have elicited the fact that Sikh ethnicity is not a political concession but it is right sui generis - It is not a political concession given to Pakistanis an Bangladeshis.

In any debate there is bound to be some dissent and opposition but it is irrelevant in this issue of Sikh ethnicity as the whole debate is spurious; the law is clear that the Sikhs are an ethnic group. It is this fact which the ONS must focus on and implement.


Those who seek to put spanners in the work are not and cannot be Sikhs. You would know full well that they act on the agenda of someone else's brief. It would be wise to work on the interest of our citizens and country and not be pushed by outside vested interest.

Unless the wishes of majority of the British Sikh community are respected and the law is implemented, I fear that this issue will unnecessarily become contentious and protracted. In that situation the Sikh community shall seek Discovery and identity of those who are opposed to the Sikh sentiments.

I trust you will concur with my views.

Kind Regards



Copy: 
House of Lords
London SW1A OPW

John Pullinger CB CStat | National StatisticianRt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

06 December 2018

Dear Mr Williamson,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 November 2018 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] who has written to you to enquire about the 2021 Census, and the inclusion of a Sikh tick-box within the ethnicity question.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on ONS's initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics². The primary purpose of the Census is to provide accurate data on the population, and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales. To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence on the subject, using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. We are very grateful to all who have got involved in this process.

I am aware of the concerns raised regarding the 'Sikh Names Analysis' which, I can assure you has been completed. It has taken longer than expected to get the results ready for publication, but we are committed to operating transparently and intend to publish this research as part of a Topic Research Paper alongside the White Paper.

I am also aware of concerns regarding the 'Survey of Gurdwaras' undertaken by the APPG for British Sikhs, specifically the suggestion that the results of this have not been considered in forming recommendations for Census 2021. Whilst ONS did not endorse the survey, or provide comment in advance on methodology, I can assure you it is forming a part of the information used to form final recommendations, as is information from other stakeholders and ONS's own research.

ONS had not received the information regarding the results of the Survey of Gurdwaras ahead of the Authority Board meeting in June. We received this information in mid-August having requested the information on both 10 April and again on 31 May. A draft version of the White Paper was shared with the UK Statistics Authority Board in June, this is correct. The minute also shows that recommendations were not final, and that the Chair would sign off a final version of the White Paper on the Board's behalf. Until the White Paper is published, ONS will continue to accept new information, all of which will be a part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations are formed.

Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper which is planned for publication later this year. The final topics and questions

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

to be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Pullinger

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2018 10:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter to John Pullinger

Attn John Pullinger

John Pullinger
Chief Statistical Officer ONS
One Drummond Gate,
Pimlico,
SW1V 2QQ

Sikh community concerns over suggested ethnicity tick box.

Dear John

Thank you for your time last Wednesday. It was a pleasure to meet you.

I am conscious that I tried to cover several areas of concern in a short time.

I am therefore summarising and detailing the main points below under the following headings.

Concern over present ethnic options.

Most Sikhs in the UK are still incensed over the near genocide perpetrated against Sikhs by the Indian government in 1984. Successive Indian governments have refused an open inquiry into the killings. In 2011 this led to an understandable reluctance of many Sikhs to identify themselves as Indian in the ethnic category.

Suggestion: India is a subcontinent with many different ethnicities. We already have smaller geographic ethnicities such as Pakistani and Bangladeshi (part of pre-partition India). Punjab is of a similar area and it would help enormously if ONS were to have a 'Punjabi ethnic option. This was also the view of most of those present at the Hounslow meeting with the ONS. It would meet the approval of most Sikhs and help in addressing the underlying reasons for ethnic monitoring more accurately.

Reasons advanced to justify the recording of Sikhs as an ethnic group.

No cogent reasons have been advanced. All the reasons mentioned are summarised in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]'s article, widely circulated on the internet and discussed below:

Points made [REDACTED]

Before the British annexed the Sikh Empire in 1849, the Sikh ethnicity was glaringly Punjabi. This included Pakistanis, majority of whom are Punjabis in west Punjab, Pakistan. The international boundaries of states change over a period of time due to wars, annexations or political circumstances. For example, over the past 80 years, the Bangladeshi ethnicity was originally Indian before the Indian independence and after that they became Pakistanis and are now Bangladeshis on the secession of the then East Pakistan.

The Sikh ethnicity must be looked at in that context and there should be no hesitation in affording a separate category for the Sikhs in line with Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Comment

- The inherent ethnicity of people in Pakistan and Bangladesh remains the same despite changes in political boundaries. All that has changed is the defined location
- He is right; the ethnicity of most Sikhs in 1849 was Punjabi. It did not change on the annexation of Punjab.
- The words Pakistan and Bangladesh, define geographic areas. 'Sikhs' does not.

2. *The former Race Relations Act 1976 recognised Sikhs as a separate race.*

Comment

- Sikhism teaches 'there is only one human race'. To argue differently goes against basic Sikh teachings. At a time when there was no protection against religious discrimination, the Law Lords agreed that Sikhs who then had their birthplace in Punjab and spoke English as their first language, could be considered an ethnic **group for purposes of protection under the 1976 Race Relations Act**. Most UK Sikhs are now born in the UK and speak English as their first language, and these and other associated criteria used do not apply. Nor is this stretched protection necessary because the 1976 Act has been replaced by the Equalities Act 2010 which gives protection to all religions.

3. *With growing number of adherents to the Sikh faith round the world,*

a separate category for the Sikhs will bring a strong community cohesion between Sikhs and between Sikhs and non-Sikhs.

Comment

- Calling Sikhs an ethnic group has nothing to do with community cohesion which comes from religious literacy and the respecting of difference.

4. *The census monitors the population as well as their demography. Around 61% of Sikhs in the UK are born in this country and it is vitally important that their growing issues such as hate crimes, discrimination and alcohol addiction as recently reported in a documentary by Victoria Derbyshire on the BBC are seriously recognised.*

Comment

- See article on hate crime by [REDACTED] . on work being done to combat hate crime by the better collection of police statistics.

5. *The Sikh women are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence, grooming and inequality in the society.*

Comment

- To suggest Sikh women are particularly recipients of domestic violence is simply insulting. If anything, Sikh teachings on gender equality and respect make this less likely.
- Grooming is predominantly carried out by Pakistani Muslim gangs. Victims are members of other communities.

[REDACTED] :The government and the office of national statistics have taken positive steps to understand the concerns affecting this unique minority. (my highlighting)

.Comment

Sikh teachings would argue we are no more unique than anyone else.

Hidden Agenda behind the demand for ethnic monitoring.

The Sikh Federation who are pushing this demand for calling Sikhs an ethnic group, are arguing for Khalistan-the creation of a separate state for Sikhs in India. In a heavily stacked meeting with the ONS, they invited Kashmir separatists to come along and support them in the belief that a separate ethnicity will help in claiming separate nationality. This is underlined in repeated internet discussion. Gurmukh Singh, a Federation supporter and columnist for the Punjab Times writing in this weekend's paper, openly talks about how ethnic monitoring will lend support to the campaign for recognition of "Sikh Qaumi" (national). Identity

- The government should not national resources in supporting a thinly veiled demand for Khalistan, a Sikh state like Pakistan in which Sikhs enjoy rights denied others.
- Sikh Gurus gave their lives for the equality of treatment for all faiths.
- Monitoring on the basis of 'ethnicity' could mask discrimination against turban wearing Sikhs. The Mandla case was fought to prevent this!

The Sikh Federation and the APPG for Sikhs

Ethnic monitoring of a workforce could d an acceptable quota of

The Sikh Federation has created a number of supposed independent groups such as the International Sikh Youth Federation (their previous name) Sikh Network, and Sikh Agenda to wrongly suggest they have popular support. They have also infiltrated the Sikh Council.

Preet Gill is one of their supporters, and following her election as MP in the last election, the Sikh Federation got her to call a meeting of the APPG (from which three of the five Sikhs in Parliament including myself were excluded). She elected herself Chair, and promptly got the Federation to act as secretariat.

The APPG and the Federation then lobbied some 120 bewildered MPs (anxious to win Sikh support in elections), to give their support to a demand which they were told would protect Sikhs from discrimination.

There is no substance to their claim that many gurdwaras support them. Many of the gurdwaras they cite are members of the Network of Sikh Organisations UK, of which I am the Director, and say much the opposite,

Sikh Theology

- Ethnicity used in the sense of racial difference is totally against all notions of race. The Sikh Gurus taught, 'recognise the oneness of the human race'.
- Stretching the use of ethnicity to protect a turban wearing boy from religious discrimination, when there was no other protection, was my idea and was put forward by the CRE in the early 80s.
- To suggest that this means members of a world religion (in different parts of the world, under different jurisdictions), constitute a distinct ethnic group is contrary to the normal meaning of the word.
- To do so for supposed economic, cultural or political reasons, is an affront to the Gurus' teachings. (see attachment by [REDACTED] and Opinion already provided by [REDACTED], the UK's leading expert.
- Regarding threats by the Federation that they will resort to legal action if the ONS do not listen to them, the ONS only have to say that British courts have clearly ruled that UK law cannot decide on religious interpretation, and this naturally extends to government and government departments.
- The Network of Sikh Organisations UK will rely on this ruling of non-justiciability.

Kind regards


Q & A on
ethnicity.docx


spectator.docx


Times Ethnicity
25-7-18.pdf


Hate Crime
3-8-18.docx

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of National Statistician

Sent: 07 August 2018 09:44

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: National Statistician <national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>; Parliamentary Unit

<Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Letter to John Pullinger

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for our recent meeting, and the additional material provided in your email.

I have passed this to the Census team for their consideration.

Kind regards,

John

John Pullinger | National Statistician

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

020 7592 8613 | 07835949036 | national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk

[@ONS](#)



ਦਿੱਲੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ

(ਦਿੱਲੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਅਧਿਨਿਯਮ, 1971 ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪਾਰਿਤ ਅਧੀਨ ਸ਼ਰਾਪਿਤ ਸੰਸਥਾ)

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਭਵਨ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਰਕਾਬ ਗੰਜ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ-੧੧੦੦੦੧

DELHI SIKH GURDWARA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Statutory Body Estd. under the Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1971 of the Govt. of India)

Guru Gobind Singh Bhawan, Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib, New Delhi-110001

Ref. 12466/2-6

Date 4/9/2018

Iain Bell,
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy
Office of National Statistics,
Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road,
Newport, NP10 8XG.

Dear Iain Bell,

It is submitted that DSGMC is a religious body established under Indian parliament Act, 1971 which manage all historical Gurdwaras of Delhi and Sikh affairs. It also run a chain of schools, institutes, ITI's, colleges, old age home and many charitable dispensaries. Hundred thousand students are studying in our schools/institutions.

The Sikh people have over hundreds of years suffered several episodes of genocide for their distinctive beliefs. We have evolved into a quom (ethnic group) with unique set of beliefs, traditions, culture, history, literature, vocabulary etc. This is widely recognized and accepted across the world. An expletive of this is the House of Lords judgment in UK in 1982.

We are concerned as approached by Sikh Sangat, Sikh Council UK and number of Gurdwaras to include the Sikhs as a distinct ethnic group for purposes of Census and other monitoring arrangements to inform public policy or allocation of resources.

Clearly as in any community there will be individuals who anglicize or for whatever other reason deviate from their roots. Under these conditions may make spurious arguments such as that the Sikhs are purely a faith in spite of all the evidence. We hope that these would be considered for what they are -minority views of unrepresentative individuals.

We urge you to support the longstanding demand for inclusion of Sikhs as a distinct quom (ethnic group) for the 2021 Census Purposes.

Yours Sincerely

GENERAL SECRETARY

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and
Director General for Population & Public
Policy

[REDACTED]
Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee,
[REDACTED]
India

21 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 4 September, in support of an Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and we published a specific report outlining our next steps for these topics².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year in a White Paper. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

Yours sincerely



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

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President,
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,
Sri Amritsar Sahib-143006.

Ref. No. SPL/03/09/18

Dated 03/09/18

Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy
Office of National Statistics
Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP10 8XG

Dear Deputy National Statistician - Mr Bell

We are a statutory body in India set up by the British during the days of the Raj in 1925 for the administration of all historical Sikh places of worship in the pre partitioned state of Punjab. We can categorically confirm that the Sikh are an ethno-religious group and regard our selves both a religious and ethnic community (quom).

We were pleased with the outcome of the 1982 Mandla Vs Lee case decision. We urge you not to be distracted by some misguided arguments being presented that Sikhs are just a religious group and that majority Sikhs would not be supportive of a separate ethnic category tick box for monitoring and Census purposes. From our investigation there is overwhelming support amongst the British Sikhs for Sikhs to be included as a distinct ethnic category.

We politely request that the demand by the British Sikhs is favourably supported.

Yours sincerely



President – Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandakh Committee

Phone :



e-mail: info@sgpc.net, website: www.sgpc.net

Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy
Office of National Statistics
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP10 8XG

2nd November 2017

Dear Iain

Many thanks for taking time to meet with representatives of Sikh Council UK yesterday (01.11.17). We found the meeting to be both constructive and informative. It is apparent from discussions that took place that you have a strong understanding of the Community's requirements for an ethnic Sikh tick box for the 2021 census.

As mentioned at the ONS update meeting on the 23rd October 2017 and again during this meeting, Sikh Council UK having entered its 4th Administration since inception of 2010 is the largest democratically constituted representative body of the British Sikhs. Our membership made up of Gurdwaras, Sikh Organisations, Educational Establishments and Youth Groups of a local and national stature across United Kingdom.


Our fundamental approach is consistent in taking consensus based decisions, this includes our policy positions which are determined through consultation with the wider community as well as our membership. Hence: our representations by the virtue of process are a view of the majority. As such from the outset in 2011 we have maintained that it is essential for there to be a separate the Sikh category in the ethnic box of Census. We have communicated this to your respected selves and as already noted through engagement with the ONS consultations at every given opportunity.

As can be appreciated in most communities it is common to have a few individuals that represent themselves with a differing view – However: it is crucial that this should not be a distraction from the main issue, there should be no question of having a debate on whether or not Sikhs are an ethnic group (It is clear that they are). With parliamentarians fully engaged in this process we urge you to completely take into consideration, their support along with the responses to the consultations undertaken previously.

I welcome your acceptance of my invitation to meet affiliated members of the Council, hopefully this can be in the Midlands. As discussed at the meeting this will naturally need to happen before the next stakeholder meeting scheduled for the 13th December 2017. Indeed this will provide you the opportunity to hear from the community at the grassroots level regarding the census debate as well as an opportunity to engage with the council's membership.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future

Kind Regards



Secretary General
Sikh Council UK



Office for
National Statistics
Swyddfa
Ystadegau Gwladol

Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG

Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth
Heol Caerdydd
Casnewydd
NP10 8XG

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy


Secretary General,
Sikh Council UK

By email

8 November 2017

Dear 

Thank you for your recent correspondence following our meeting on 1 November.

I am pleased to accept your invitation to meet again to engage further with the Sikh Council UK, and will happily join you in the Midlands as requested.

I will ask my office to engage with yours to set this up at a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics

Iain Bell | Deputy National Statistician and Director
General for Population & Public Policy

██████████
██████████
British Sikh Consultative Forum

██████████
Southall
UB1 1SQ

02 October 2018

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 23 September 2018, requesting a meeting to discuss a Sikh ethnicity tick box in the 2021 census.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census. Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2015 with the 2021 Census topic consultation¹, asking stakeholders for views on our initial thoughts on which topics we should ask questions on in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topic and we published a specific report outlining our next steps².

Our current position, on most of the topics that the ONS will recommend for the 2021 Census, was published in an update in December last year³. ONS will make its final recommendations to government on the 2021 Census content later this year in a White Paper. The final topics and questions to be included in Census 2021 will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and the Census Regulations in 2020.

The General Secretary of British Sikh Consultative Forum, ██████████, has written to us recently in his role as Director of The Sikh Human Rights Group, and a meeting between himself and ██████████, Director of Transformation, Population and Public Policy, with responsibility for the 2021 Census is currently being arranged. You would be welcome to join this meeting should ██████████ agree. Should you require a separate meeting, we can look to arrange this. Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Bell

¹ [2021 Census Topic Consultation](#)

² [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](#)

³ [2021 Census topic research: December 2017](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2018 11:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sikh ethnicity - Ref: CCC106452
Attachments: CT0568_2011 Census - Ethnic Identity write-in response Sikh - England and Wales.xls; M221aNat_to_Gor.xls; Copy of nomis_2018_07_31_113742.xlsx; Copy of nomis_2018_07_31_113943.xlsx

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find four documents attached to answer your enquiry regarding ethnic group and religion regarding 2001 and 2011 censuses.

For information, historic census data is available here: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | Chief Media Officer Population & Census | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR | Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter: @ONS

Dear ONS,

My name is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I'd like to get some more specific stats and facts on the ethnicity issue to better understand the 'Sikh' debate about being recognised as such.

Specifically, could I obtain stats relating to how many participants in the Census in 2001 and 2011 put themselves down as 'Other' and then 'Sikh'?

Also, how many respondents have registered themselves within the religion category as Sikh in 2001 and 2011?

Many thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

--
Follow me on Twitter: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk>
Sent: 27 July 2018 15:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sikh question on the census

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for this.

Can you tell me if other minority groups are asking for the same thing? If so, which ones? I'm trying to get some context.

If you're not able to tell me now, it might be interesting to have a conversation at another time, so I can be a bit more across this issue and understand it better.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 July 2018 15:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sikh question on the census

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand you've had a chat with my colleague [REDACTED]

This is what we're saying at the moment:

"ONS is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity 'tick box' in the 2021 Census including the views gathered from the Gurdwaras. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and the Official for National Statistics will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year."

Here's a link to background on the consultation with the Sikh community.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/ethnicgroupnationalidentityreligionandlanguage/summaryofthemeetingwiththesikhcommunity23october2017>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] Chief Media Officer Population & Census| Office for National
Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk| Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter: @ONS

From: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk]

Sent: 27 July 2018 12:36

To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: Sikh question on the census

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our conversation, I'd be grateful if you could clarify some of the following points.

Why have the ONS been speaking to the Sikh community and what exactly have the discussions been about?
What stage are the discussions at?
What would need to happen for the new question about Sikh identity to go onto the census?
What other ethnic groups are asking for the same thing?
What ethnic groups have had a change from "religion" to "ethnicity".
What is the difference between the two in terms of the census?
What happens next?

If someone would like to speak to me, I am on my mobile today - [REDACTED]

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Senior Producer
BBC Religious Affairs*

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 July 2018 10:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Latest lines/Background on Sikh community and the Census

Dear [REDACTED]

Our position on this is:

“ONS is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity ‘tick box’ in the 2021 Census including the views gathered from the Gurdwaras. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and the Official for National Statistics will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.”

Do let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | Chief Media Officer Population & Census | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR | Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter: [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 July 2018 09:58
To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]<garnett.compton@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk> [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Latest lines/Background on Sikh community and the Census

Importance: High

Hello,

I sent the attached email to [REDACTED] yesterday, but I'm not sure whether he's available.

Grateful if someone could let me know the current position, particularly as a minister is visiting India and there seems to be quite a lot of coverage about this over the past few days.

Could someone get back to me asap please.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Integration and Faith,
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government,
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF

[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2018 10:49
To: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk
Subject: FW: Sikh community and the Census

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time on the phone and your interest in this.

Our position:

“ONS is considering all the evidence for and against a possible Sikh ethnicity ‘tick box’ in the 2021 Census including the views gathered from the Gurdwaras. No decisions have been made yet on the census questions and the Official for National Statistics will not present its recommendations until a government White Paper later this year.”

Do let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] Chief Media Officer Population & Census | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter: [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk]

Sent: 23 July 2018 09:22

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Times article

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time on the phone and your interest in the census story. It's important to note the Times has now changed its line (updated article below) to reflect the fact that NO decision has been made on the content of the 2021 Census. It now reads, more accurately: "Sikhs may get ethnicity status in census"
The newer piece also reflects this statement from us, which I'd be grateful if you quoted:

"Our recommendations for the 2021 Census will be included in a government White Paper later this year."

Regards,

[REDACTED] | Chief Media Officer Population & Census | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau
Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR | Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter: [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

Sikhs may get ethnicity status in census

[REDACTED] Religious Affairs Correspondent
July 23 2018, 12:01am. The Times

- [Religion](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [UK politics](#)

The 2021 census appears set to list Sikhism as a distinct ethnicity rather than only as a religion, after more than 100 temples backed the move.

In the most recent census in 2011, more than 83,000 Sikhs refused to tick any of the choices in the question on ethnicity, rejecting options such as Indian in order to write "Sikh" in the space for "any other ethnic group".

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering the inclusion of Sikhism as an ethnicity on the 2021 form, but has not yet made any decision. It had raised concerns over the issue of "public acceptability" and whether the move would have backing across Britain's 430,000-strong Sikh community.

The all-party parliamentary group for British Sikhs offered to write to gurdwaras about five months ago.

The Times has learnt that MPs received 112 responses from temples representing more than 100,000 members.

Preet Gill, the first female Sikh MP and chairwoman of the all-party group, said: "Overwhelmingly they have said yes. Not a single gurdwara has opposed it." It is understood that the ONS was likely to back the move if it received backing from more than 60 per cent of the gurdwaras that responded.

Public health bodies use the ONS list of ethnicities when compiling health data.

Ms Gill said that issues such as alcoholism within Sikh communities had gone unaddressed as information had not been gathered. Bhai Amrik Singh, chairman of the Sikh Federation, said: "The final ONS test was one of public acceptability and our main religious institutions have spoken with one voice with 100 per cent backing for a separate Sikh ethnic tick box. The ONS will now have to recommend a Sikh ethnic tick box in the census white paper later this year."

The ONS is also considering an ethnic option for Jewish, Roma and Somali Britons. A spokesman said no decision would be announced until a government white paper is published later this year.

The move does not have universal backing. The ONS consulting a range of Sikh groups last year and said some had noted: "Being Sikh is a choice, not something you belong to at birth", adding that not all Sikhs are from the same, largely Punjabi background, as "there are white and African Sikhs".

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 December 2018 15:23
To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Sikh ethnicity tick box

Thanks [REDACTED] Do let me know if there is anything further related to objections by some groups who feel it does not meet their demands.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

On 17 Dec 2018, at 15:18, [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

Just checking, have you seen our press release? This contains a quote from John Pullinger too. I've attached it in case.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Population and Census PR and Media Officer |
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 5RR | Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | Web: www.ons.gov.uk | Twitter:
[@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 December 2018 15:14
To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk
Subject: Sikh ethnicity tick box

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time just now.

As discussed, I was after a statement that covers the reactions to the White Paper concluding that such a tick box would not be included in the census.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

--

London Correspondent
Press Trust of India (PTI)
310 Liner Hall, Regent Street
London W1B 3TB
[REDACTED]

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<Sikh_Release_WP.docx>

From: 2021Census Consultation
Sent: 24 September 2018 15:10
To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

Hello [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has emailed in regarding various questions.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Business Support Officer, Question and Questionnaire Design
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
[REDACTED] | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 September 2018 14:57
To: 2021Census Consultation <2021census.consultation@ons.gov.uk>; National Statistician
<national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

Dear Census 2021 team,

I would firstly like to thank [REDACTED] for meeting with me on the 6th September 2018. At the meeting I raised a number of concerns regarding the consultation with the Sikh community, and has promised please find attached a document outlining them in more detail and a PPT which shows the interconnectedness of the groups you have been consulting. I also attach a letter that I sent to Ian Cope after the October Consultation meeting in 2017 (31/10/2017).

As you know engagement with communities presents real challenges for policy makers who usually have little knowledge of the diversity within a community. The recent debate on the Sikh ethnic tick box has certainly highlighted the conflicting opinions on this issue amongst Sikhs. It is clear that you have been in discussions with several Sikh bodies such as the Sikh Federation (UK), Sikh Council (UK) and Sikh Network for many years regarding the issue. These bodies all support the inclusion of the tick box. This raises the question of whether these Sikh bodies are acting as true representatives of the entire Sikh community or whether they are acting as lobbying groups to push their specific agendas. What has certainly been lacking is transparency on how community views were elicited and what methodology was used to arrive at a particular stance before talking with the ONS.

The two most common pieces of evidence presented in support are that 83,362 respondents manually entered Sikh in the ethnicity section of the 2011 census and that the ethnic tick box is supported by 112 Gurdwaras who wrote into the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs.

Examining this evidence raises several questions about methodology and representation.

- Have the views of the 346,658 Sikhs who presumably ticked one of the existing ethnic categories being taken in to account?
- Whose membership list was used by the APPG for British Sikhs to write to Gurdwaras for the final 'public acceptability test'?

- Most importantly how did the leadership of the 112 Gurdwaras consult their congregations before writing their letters of support?

Finally, what has also not been raised is the relationship between these various Sikh groups that you have consulted, in terms of their alignment on certain political and social causes and the common membership across them (please see attached PPT). These links were clearly highlighted when Sikh Federation recently organised a meeting through Sikh Council UK on the September 1st, and then the Sikh Federation Convention in Willenhall on the 16th September to endorse the call. Please note these meetings were attended mainly by Sikh Federation gurdwaras, and the claim that 10000 people attended the event on the 16th September is false.

As a theologian looking at the debate one cannot suggest that Sikhism is both a religion (open to all) and an ethnicity. What is clear is that there will no doubt be unintended consequences if the ethnicity persuasion prevails. Whilst I have serious concerns about the impact this will have on religious identity, my main concerns at present focus on community engagement and the lack of it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2018 10:19
To: 2021Census Consultation <2021census.consultation@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

We have been in contact previously about the Sikh Ethnic Tick Box debate. I was wondering is there a possibility that I can have a conversation/meeting with you about this issue because I am very concerned about the evidence and the legal argument that is being put forward.

FYI You may be interested in the following

[REDACTED]

<https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/what-sikhs-think-about-making-sikh-an-ethnic-category-on-the-2021-census-this-campaign-is-divisive-and-counter-productive/>

If you wish to speak to me you can get me on [REDACTED]

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: 2021Census Consultation
Sent: 05 September 2018 16:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email regarding a Sikh ethnic group tick box.

I'm aware that you will be meeting with [REDACTED] tomorrow, which I hope gives you the opportunity to discuss your concerns.

Thank you for your interest in the 2021 Census.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2018 10:19
To: 2021Census Consultation
Subject: Sikh Ethnic Tick Box

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

We have been in contact previously about the Sikh Ethnic Tick Box debate. I was wondering is there a possibility that I can have a conversation/meeting with you about this issue because I am very concerned about the evidence and the legal argument that is being put forward.

FYI You may be interested in the following

[REDACTED]

<https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/what-sikhs-think-about-making-sikh-an-ethnic-category-on-the-2021-census-this-campaign-is-divisive-and-counter-productive/>

If you wish to speak to me you can get me on [REDACTED]

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2018 18:25
To: Parliamentary Unit; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sikh concern about Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) update

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2018 15:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sikh concern about Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) update

Further to my other email, here is the second bit of correspondence.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Acting Deputy Director, Census
Office for National Statistics
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5RR

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 21 December 2017 at 21:36:50 GMT
To: Iain Bell <iain.bell@ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Sikh concern about Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) update

Mr Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician
NSO

Dear Iain Bell


The Sikh Missionary Society UK, the oldest Sikh religious education organisation in the UK with over 2000 members, was established in 1969.

The Society continues to participate in the ONS consultations relating to the need for a separate Sikh tick box as a sizeable and distinct British ethnic minority. The Sikhs have always been represented and recognised as a theo-national people (a *qaum*) e.g. during the Indian independence talks with the British before 1947. There are no religious reasons why British Sikhs should not be so counted and, most importantly, monitored to address equality policy by thousands of public and private sector bodies.

In the circumstances and in view of the ongoing ONS consultations, we are most concerned about a press release by the Lord Indarjit Singh's network (please see below.) This has also gone on Sikh forums with thousands of members in the Sikh diaspora.

Your name has been mentioned and statements attributed to you. We hope that there will a clarification from you in due course about the nature of this meeting and if the statements are true.

Kind regards and seasons best wishes.


Chair, Advisory Board
The Sikh Missionary Society UK

<http://www.sikhmissionarysociety.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

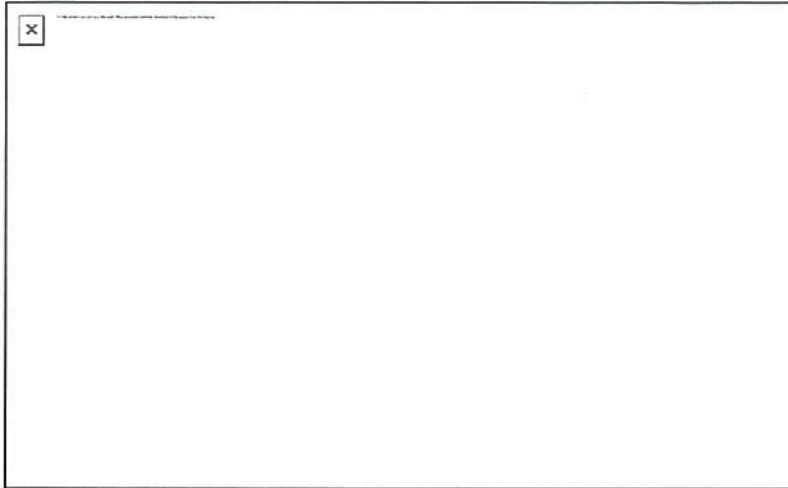
From:  [sikh_news_discussion]
<sikh_news_discussion@yahoogroups.com>
To: "sikh_news_discussion@yahoogroups.com" <sikh_news_discussion@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2017 18:47:27 GMT
Subject: [sikh_news_discussion] Fw: Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) update

An update from the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO)
[View this email in your browser](#)



SIKHS AND ETHNICITY

Meeting with member of ONS leadership team held at Sri Guru Singh Sabha
Hounslow



Background: Ian Bell Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) had been invited to the gurdwara over the weekend to discuss concerns felt by the committee over attempts to categorise the Sikh community as an ethnic group. This was as a private meeting to be held with a few members of the committee. An invitation had also been extended to Lord Singh of Wimbledon. As he was not a member of the committee, he first obtained clearance from Ian Bell that it would be OK for him to attend.

On the day of the event a number of people from The Sikh Federation (SFUK) turned up uninvited at the gurdwara demanding to be heard. Ian Bell felt he'd already heard the SFUK's views on a number of occasions, and wanted to hear the views of other parts of the Sikh community. The President of Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Hounslow generously allowed in individuals from the SFUK to join the meeting.

Ian Bell proceeded in giving a short presentation about the census and its importance. The meeting was then opened for general discussion. In an abuse of hospitality, the SFUK began recording proceedings and taking over the meeting, stating Sikhs were an ethnic group and must be monitored as such. Lord Singh of Wimbledon explained that the House of Lords in 1983 had allowed for Sikhs to be counted as an ethnic group solely for protection under the 1976 Race Relations Act. This this was done because there was then no protection against religious discrimination, but the situation today was different because all religions are protected by legislation. He explained that Sikhism was a world religion, which should not be confined to those of Punjabi ethnicity.

Ian Bell confirmed that there was no substantial under-recording of Sikhs in the response to the question on religion. In response to a question on the possible misuse of data, he also confirmed that that there were rigid checks in place to prevent this.

Lord Singh, emphasised that all Sikh organisations should use their influence to get the fullest possible response to the religious question. He reminded the meeting that at the time of the 2011 census some Sikhs had ill advisedly campaigned against identifying Sikhism by Sikhs as a religion.

In reply to a question Ian Bell of the ONS explained the importance of ethnicity in providing appropriate medical and other services to those from different parts of the world. Members of the Hounslow gurdwara management committee were unanimous in their view that Sikhs were members of a world religion that was not limited by constraints of ethnicity and people could be Sikhs from different ethnic backgrounds. Some of the arguments advanced by SFUK, varying between the questionable and ludicrous are given below:

- One gentleman stated that he had seen figures that gave the Sikh population in Hounslow as 25% and he felt it should be higher. The gurdwara president who explained that the Sikhs formed no more than 10 per cent of the population of Hounslow corrected him. (We have since corroborated this with official ONS figures.)
- Another argued that ethnic monitoring was necessary to protect Sikhs against discrimination, but failed to explain where such discrimination was taking place.
- Another argued that the Sikhs should be given a favoured status because of the contribution Sikhs had made to Britain over the years.

Some of the arguments used by those who felt Sikhs should be recorded as a religion only are given below:

- Ethnicity is linked to genetic makeup and that trying to tie religion to ethnicity leads to absurdities. A Committee member asked the SFUK, does a person's ethnicity embodying DNA change if he or she converts to Sikhism? This was met with silence from the SFUK representatives.
- The Sikh Gurus have always taught against dividing people into different groups and races, emphasising we are all members of the same one human race.
- Guru Nanak travelled the length and breadth of India and to different countries to emphasize the universality of Sikh teachings. People from any part of the world can become Sikhs.
- No evidence had been produced to show that Sikhs would gain in any material way by being classified as an ethnic group, but even if there were, it would be wrong to try and gain material benefits by compromising Sikh teachings.
- Lord Singh reminded the meeting that the Mandla case in the early eighties was fought to protect the rights of a Sikh schoolboy to wear Sikh religious symbols. He explained that ethnic monitoring could prevent such protection. He gave the example of a large organisation like the BBC being shown to have the right number of ethnic Sikhs, masking possible discrimination against those that wear Sikh symbols.
- Lord Singh said there was considerable discrimination against Sikhs in the provision of services by the government and various government bodies. Communities like Jews and Muslims were being given additional resources, not as a result of ethnic monitoring, but because of effective lobbying. (neither community is categorised as an ethnic group by the census). Today, hate crimes against Sikhs are still being recorded under the 'Islamophobic hate crime' category by forces like the MET and other agencies. Ethnic monitoring cannot help remove this blatant discrimination.

In response to calls from SFUK members to arrange more meetings, Ian Bell said that he would like to reflect on what he'd heard, and if whether or not an effective case had been made for a Sikh ethnic tick box or not. Members of the gurdwara committee made clear they saw no sense and only confusion in a separate Sikh ethnic tick box.. Bell confirmed the ONS had received legal threats from certain sections of the Sikh community if the 'ethnic Sikh tick box' wasn't included in the 2021 census.

The meeting concluded with the President [REDACTED] and all present thanking Ian Bell of the ONS for coming to Hounslow from South Wales on a Saturday, and wishing him by a comfortable journey back home.

[REDACTED] Joint General Secretary at Hounslow gurdwara said: 'Gurdwara, Sri Guru Singh Sabha Hounslow (SGSS) held a successful meeting on 16 December 2017 with the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The object of the meeting was for SGSS Management to understand the overall situation and provide its view, which was in the main generated via a previous internal meeting.'

He went on: 'In view of continued progress on the issue of 'authenticity', the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) not only kindly accepted our invitation to attend but also helped immensely by providing structure and input to the event. We are most thankful to Lord Indarjit Singh and the NSO for their contribution and assistance.'



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Our mailing address is:
info@nsouk.co.uk

Official Correspondence Status Closed

Type of Correspondence 'Treat' Official Correspondence

Ref: 2018\1053

Date Received 22/11/2018

Received From
[view member details](#)

Subject Population

Issue Tags Census; Sikh; Ethnicity

Sensitivity Standard

For Signature By Deputy National Statistician

Responsible Deputy
National Statistician Population and Public Policy

Responsible Director

Responsible Deputy
Director

Action Officer [REDACTED] DNS

Date draft is due 29/11/2018

Date due to respondent 06/12/2018

Correspondence *Response to be issued from [REDACTED] as Director, and PU to issue.*

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 November 2018 14:32

To: Census Customer Services <Census.Customer.Services@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: 183273/IT Sikh Ethnic tick box 2021 census

Hi,

Could you please let me know if the white paper on the Sikh Ethnic tick box has been drafted? If it has, is it still possible to make representations? I would particularly like to know if the views of Sikh women were sought?

Thanks for your help.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Director of Transformation,
Population and Public Policy

[REDACTED]

Via email
[REDACTED]

04 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent correspondence, dated 22 November 2018, enquiring about the 2021 Census White Paper. Recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census are being put forward in a White Paper which is planned for publication later this month. Until the White Paper is published, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will continue to accept new information, all of which will be a part of the evidence base on which the final recommendations are formed. The final topics and questions to be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

Question development for the 2021 Census started in June 2016 with the 2021 Census topic Consultation [2021 Census Topic Consultation](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/updateon2021censusforenglandandwales)¹, asking stakeholders for views on ONS's initial thoughts on which topics to include in 2021. 460 stakeholders responded to the Ethnicity and National Identity topics and ONS published a specific report outlining the next steps for these topics [Ethnicity and National Identity topic report](https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/topicreport04ethnicityandnationalidentitypostreleaseversion....pdf)². To ensure the fullest evidence base for decision-making, we have sought to engage with all those who have an interest and evidence (for example, on the subject of a Sikh ethnic group tick-box), using pre-determined published criteria to evaluate potential question topics and question design. This is to ensure that the primary purpose of the Census, which is to provide accurate data on the population and describe the social condition and fabric of England and Wales, is achieved.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/updateon2021censusforenglandandwales>

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/topicreport04ethnicityandnationalidentitypostreleaseversion....pdf>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2018 13:00
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent request for Iain Bell to call Preet Kaur Gill MP

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]
Preet has got back to me and said it's regarding the recent correspondence re [REDACTED] that Preet was copied into. I hope this is sufficient information.
Many thanks.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 12:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent request for Iain Bell to call Preet Kaur Gill MP

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

I know we spoke recently on the phone about Ms Gill's request for a phone call, but I would be extremely grateful if you would provide further insight into what Ms Gill would like to discuss with Iain. Any further details would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks in advance. I hope you have a nice weekend.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Parliamentary Officer
UK Statistics Authority | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol
[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk | www.ons.gov.uk | @ONS

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk]
Sent: 23 October 2018 17:01
To: Parliamentary Unit <Parliamentary.Unit@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk>
Subject: Urgent request for Iain Bell to call Preet Kaur Gill MP

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

Preet would like to speak to Iain Bell as soon as possible. Would it be possible for Iain to call Preet on her mobile:

Many thanks.

Personal Assistant to Preet Kaur Gill MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston

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[REDACTED]

From: sikh federation <sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2018 20:45
To: Bell, Iain
Cc: Parliamentary Unit; Preet GILL
Subject: Re: FAO: [REDACTED] Letter from Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Iain

Thank you for your letter dated 4 October 2018.

This was in response to our correspondence dated 7 September 2018 about the results of the names exercise that we suggested ONS undertake as part of their research. The names exercise work by ONS started around twelve months ago and ONS told us in writing the results would be shared with us when the work was completed.

In your letter dated 4 October 2018 you have stated this work "was in its final stages". We were in shock this work had not been completed.

However, lawyers acting for us have advised us the UK Statistics Authority Board minutes dated 28 June 2018 indicate you told the Board "that research on ethnicity response options had concluded." Please share the results from the names exercise ASAP as work must have been completed unless the UK Statistics Authority Board were misinformed on 28 June 2018.

As you are aware the Sikh community has told ONS it was likely to challenge the ONS in Parliament and possibly in the courts if Sikhs were discriminated against by not being granted a Sikh ethnic tick box given Sikhs are a legally recognised ethnic group and the substantial body of evidence presented.

We have been advised courts would not look kindly on statements by senior ONS staff in correspondence that subsequently proved to be factually incorrect as this would call into question the integrity of ONS staff responsible for the Census.

The same Board minutes from 28 June 2018 indicate the draft Census White Paper was considered by the Board and the Board agreed the White Paper, subject to changes reflecting Board comments and discussion.

We have copied this email to Preet Kaur Gill MP, the Chair of the APPG for British Sikhs as MPs met John Pullinger on 23 July 2018 and presented important evidence from Gurdwaras to help with the ONS public acceptability test that ONS was expecting to help make a final decision on the Sikh ethnicity option.

John Pullinger at the meeting requested the detailed returns from each Gurdwara that were provided by the APPG the following week. However, the UK Statistics Authority Board minutes from 28 June 2018 indicate this evidence that was outstanding was not considered before the draft Census White Paper was finalised.

MPs, Gurdwaras and the Sikh community at large will be deeply disturbed by such an unprofessional approach dismissing the views of Gurdwaras and their elected representatives.

Worryingly John Pullinger failed to share with MPs at the meeting on 23 July 2018 that this evidence may have come too late and a final decision had already been made on the contents of the Census White Paper by the Board of the UK Statistics Authority at its meeting on 28 June 2018.

To make matters worse John Pullinger misled MPs by giving the impression by requesting the detailed information i.e. individual returns from 112 Gurdwaras that the ONS needed this information before making a final decision.

How does the decision by the Board of the UK Statistics Authority at its meeting on 28 June 2018 on the final contents of the Census White Paper sit alongside John Pullinger's latest letter to the APPG Chair on 7 September 2018 where he stated the evidence provided by the APPG would "form a part of the information I use to make the final recommendations?"

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
General Secretary
Sikh Federation (UK)

On Thursday, 4 October 2018 11:26:19 BST, Parliamentary Unit wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached for a letter from Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician, in response to your correspondence of 7 September.

[REDACTED]

From: Compton, Garnett
Sent: 10 September 2018 13:39
To: sikh federation
Cc: Parliamentary Unit
Subject: RE: Results of analysis of Sikh surnames (and midle names Singh and Kaur), Board of Deputies and heads up of final decision

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I no longer work in the Census programme and have therefore passed on your request about the names analysis for a response.

On your last point about how we would announce our recommendation on ethnicity tick boxes, the White Paper outlining topics for inclusion in Census 2021 and the rationale for each of them is due to be published later this year.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

From: sikh federation [mailto:sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 07 September 2018 16:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Results of analysis of Sikh surnames (and midle names Singh and Kaur), Board of Deputies and heads up of final decision

Dear [REDACTED]

See email below. It appears [REDACTED] is way until 17 September.

I think you may be able to assist.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

See a forwarded message

On Friday, September 7, 2018, 4:03 pm, sikh federation <sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Hope you are keeping well. It has been a long time since we had a written exchange.

We are preparing a briefing for a group of Conservative MPs. Could you share the final results of the names exercise, especially taking into account those with middle

names of 'Singh' or 'Kaur' as well as surnames. In your last correspondence in October 2017 you mentioned this would be made available.

We also read with interest the position of different Jewish organisations north and south of the border and there have been communications with the Board of Deputies and a meeting is being organised.

We assume you are nearing a final decision of whether or not to recommend a Sikh ethnic tick box for the Census 2021 and assuming a Sikh ethnic tick box is included will wish to consult later exactly where to include the tick box.

I remember when we last officially met you said we and the APPG would be the first to know if your recommendation was not to have a Sikh ethnic tick box given we have been working closely with you for over 4 years. We are therefore assuming no news is good news.

Kind regards

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