



Ringling Census 2026 – Data Processing Statement

1. Who is responsible for the data

The **Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR)** acts as the **Data Controller**, meaning it is legally responsible for how personal data is collected, used, stored and protected.

The census is delivered on behalf of the CCCBR by authorised volunteers (including the census committee and data analysts), who act under its authority and instructions.

External platforms that host or process data on behalf of the CCCBR (e.g. the online survey platform and any cloud storage used) act as **Data Processors**.

2. What data we collect

The census will collect information necessary to understand the current state of ringing, including:

- Ringing-related information (e.g. towers, activity, experience)
- Limited demographic data (age band, gender and age when the person started ringing). The census does not ask about religion or ethnicity.
- The individual ringer survey does not ask for names or contact details. Optional name, email and/or phone details may be provided by tower representatives on the tower return so that queries about that return can be followed up. The survey platform also collects technical data such as IP address, cookies, device and browser type for security and to limit duplicate responses. Free-text answers may contain unsolicited personal details; these are screened and redacted before analysis where reasonably practicable. No names or contact details are collected from under-18s.

Some combinations of information may indirectly identify individuals. For this reason, all individual responses are treated as identifiable data and handled accordingly.

We aim to minimise data collection to what is necessary for statistical and research purposes.

3. How we use the data

The data is collected and used **solely for research and statistical purposes**, including:

- Estimating the number and distribution of ringers
- Understanding participation and trends
- Supporting planning, development and outreach within ringing

The data will **not** be:

- Sold or shared for commercial purposes
- Used for unrelated marketing or individual profiling

Results will normally be reported in **aggregated (non-identifiable) form**.

4. How the data is stored and handled

Storage

- Data is initially collected and stored within a secure EU-hosted online survey platform, confirmed with the provider in an appropriate data processing agreement.
- Extracts of the data may be stored in secure cloud storage and/or on managed devices used by authorised analysts.

Access

- Access is restricted to authorised individuals who require it for census delivery or analysis
- Enumerators and analysis volunteers act under the CCCBR's authority as volunteers and treat the data in confidence whilst handling census data.

Security controls

- Data access is limited and controlled
- Files are shared only through secure, access-controlled environments
- Identifiable data is separated or reduced wherever possible

Where analysis is undertaken outside the UK, only **coded or pseudonymised datasets** will be used, with identifying information retained separately under tighter control.

5. Retention and deletion

- Identifiable data will be retained only as long as necessary to complete analysis and reporting
- After this, data will either be:
 - Deleted, or
 - Retained in genuinely anonymised form for long-term statistical comparison; pseudonymised data remains personal data and will have a fixed deletion date

The proposed retention schedule is: raw responses, including free text, deleted 10 years after the final report; a redacted analysis dataset kept until the next census; tower representatives' contact details deleted once results are compiled; and aggregate non-identifiable results kept indefinitely.

6. Your rights and transparency

Participants will be informed about:

- Who is responsible for the data
- What data is collected and why
- How it will be used and protected

The lawful basis is Article 6(1)(f) UK GDPR (legitimate interests). Participants have the right to object to processing based on legitimate interests (Article 21), to access their data where the response can be identified, and to raise concerns or complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Because individual responses carry no names, the CCCBR may be unable to locate a person's response unless they provide details that identify it.

The privacy information will state the legitimate interest relied on and will show the Article 21 right to object clearly and separately. Any optional future-contact activity will be separate from the census and based on consent, with a process for withdrawal and suppression of future communications.

7. Summary

In summary, the Ringing Census 2026:

- Is conducted under the responsibility of the CCCBR
 - Collects only necessary data for research purposes
 - Uses data in aggregate form wherever possible
 - Applies proportionate safeguards to storage, access and analysis
 - Ensures identifiable data is protected, minimised, and not retained longer than required
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