

Ringling Census 2026

Enumerator Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Census?

The Census aims to estimate the number of ringers and to improve understanding of the ringing community. It is part of the wider Ringing 2030 programme and will provide a baseline for future planning, recruitment and development initiatives.

2. How will the survey be distributed?

The Census team will distribute the survey links centrally via email and social media channels. Enumerators are asked to encourage and support complete and forward the links on as necessary.

3. Are the surveys to be completed during Census Week or afterwards?

The surveys are intended to be completed in one go after the Census Week period, reflected what actually happened during that period.

4. Will there be standard wording or promotional material for towers?

Guidance materials, templates and briefing information are being developed so that consistent messages can be shared across associations and towers.

5. What surveys are being conducted?

There are two surveys:

- An individual survey for ringers.
- A tower survey for towers with four or more bells.

Together these will help build a picture of ringing activity and participation across the country.

6. What is an Enumerator?

Enumerators are volunteers who will help maximise responses from a selected list of towers. They will encourage participation, follow up non-responders and record outcomes to help ensure that the Census results are as representative as possible.

7. What is the “Hot List”?

The Hot List is a group of approximately 500 towers selected for follow-up. Responses from these towers are particularly important to the statistical methodology being used to estimate the size and characteristics of the ringing community.

8. Why is it important for towers outside the Hot List to participate?

Every completed survey improves the quality of the Census. Even towers that are not part of the Hot List contribute valuable information about the scale, diversity and activity of the ringing community.

9. How many towers will I be allocated?

The intention is that each enumerator will be allocated approximately three to four towers, usually in an area where they have local knowledge or connections.

10. When will I receive my tower allocations?

Tower allocations are expected to be issued roughly one month before Census Week.

11. What if a tower is overseas or not local to me?

You are not expected to visit distant towers in person. Use email, telephone and local contacts where possible, and record any difficulties encountered.

12. Will towers know in advance the survey is coming?

Awareness activity is already taking place through newsletters, meetings and local communications. Further reminders and support materials will be provided before Census Week.

13. Can I help additional towers if I finish my allocated list?

The primary responsibility is to support allocated towers. Any wider activity should be coordinated with the Census team to ensure the methodology is not affected.

14. When is Census Week?

Census Week is planned for 16-22 November.

15. What will I be expected to do?

Enumerators will:

- Make initial contact with allocated towers before Census Week.
- Encourage completion of the survey.
- Follow up towers that have not responded.
- Record outcomes for every allocated tower.
- Use local knowledge and contacts to identify appropriate contacts where necessary.

16. How much time should this take?

The expectation is that participation should require only a modest commitment, with surveys taking around ten minutes to complete and follow-up activity focused on a relatively small number of towers.

17. What should I do if I cannot find a tower contact?

You may use local knowledge, association contacts, church websites, clergy contacts and publicly available resources such as Crockford's Directory or A Church Near You where appropriate. . Not all websites are up to date, so multiple approaches may be needed. If difficulties persist, seek support from the Census team.

18. What if the tower captain does not use email or online forms?

Enumerators may offer practical assistance, including acting as a scribe and entering information on behalf of the tower representative where appropriate.

19. What if the tower captain is too busy to complete the survey?

Offer assistance, suggest that another suitable person completes the survey, and gather whatever information is available. The aim is to help the tower participate, not to create additional work for volunteers.

20. What if a tower does not respond at all?

Record all attempts to make contact and any information you are able to establish. Responses from non-participating towers are still useful for understanding the wider ringing community and supporting the Census methodology.

21. Should inactive towers be recorded?

Yes. Outcomes should be recorded for all allocated towers, including those that are inactive or where no ringing currently takes place.

22. What if I find conflicting information?

Do not make assumptions. Check multiple sources, distinguish between confirmed facts and assumptions, note where information came from and seek support if the situation remains unclear.

23. Are there any safeguarding considerations?

Yes. Enumerators should avoid direct contact with individuals under 18 and should follow the guidance provided in the Enumerator Pack.

24. How will confidentiality be protected?

The Census team has emphasised confidentiality throughout the process. Data sharing and reporting arrangements will incorporate appropriate data protection measures and enumerators should only use information for Census purposes.

25. Will I be able to see which of my towers have completed the survey?

The Census team plans to provide a mechanism for sharing completion status for allocated towers. Further details will be supplied before Census Week.

26. When do survey responses close?

The current target is 6 December, although the final deadline is still to be confirmed by the Central Census Team.

27. Will the survey ask what methods or compositions were rung?

No. The survey is not expected to ask for that level of detail.

28. How will the Census deal with ringers who belong to more than one band or towers that share ringers?

The statistical methodology has been designed to take account of shared bands, ringers attending multiple towers and similar complexities. These issues have already been considered in the survey design and analysis approach.

29. What if a tower organises an extra event during Census Week to increase attendance?

The Census team has indicated that such activity should not materially affect the overall results and may simply lead to double counting that can be accounted for within the wider data.

30. Is there support available for Enumerators?

Yes. In addition to Gemma and the central help desk, briefing sessions, FAQs, templates and peer support channels are available. The FAQ will continue to be expanded as new questions arise.

31. Is there an Enumerator WhatsApp group?

Yes. A temporary WhatsApp group is available to provide peer support and facilitate discussion between enumerators during the Census period. The group has been configured so that phone numbers are not generally visible unless participants are already in one another's contacts. However, volunteers should review WhatsApp's own privacy settings and make their own decisions about participation.

32. Who do I contact if I need help?

Contact the Census support team through [Gemma](#), who is acting as the central help desk for enumerator queries and follow-up support. The wider core team can be contacted via survey@cccbr.org.uk