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Convener
Public Audit Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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By email:

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Dear Convener

Following the statement made by the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture this afternoon (Thursday 28 April) to the Scottish Parliament, I am writing to confirm that there will be a short extension until the end of May to allow householders across Scotland to complete their census return.

By allowing outstanding online and paper returns to be submitted over a further four weeks, NRS is ensuring that everyone across the country has the opportunity to complete their return and help to shape important services in their community. Around 70,000 households have begun their census returns online but have not yet been completed and a similar number of requested paper forms have yet to be returned.

We are continuing to receive a high volume of census returns both online and in paper and each day our contact centre is continuing to support many householders keen to submit their returns. We want to maximise this ongoing enthusiasm and support from across the nation to complete the census and so have put in place a short extension to ensure everyone's return counts.

We have also put in place a number of additional interventions to further drive response rates, including the use of further reminder letters and post cards, along with increased media and marketing activity. Our Field Force enumerators will continue to offer support and assistance in areas of lower response and our contact centre (0800 030 8308) continues to be available to help.

I would also like to reiterate my gratitude to you for your continued support of the census.

I hope this information is of assistance and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



PAUL LOWE
Chief Executive/Registrar General for Scotland