

Harmonised Concepts and Questions for Social Data Sources

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**GSS Harmonised Principle**

Accommodation and Household Information

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## About This Document and Update History

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### GSS Harmonised Principle

#### About this document

This document forms part of a series of GSS Harmonised Principles, designed to provide approved harmonised questions, definitions and outputs for a variety of social and business related topics. The use of harmonised questions, definitions and outputs will provide greater consistency for survey producers and comparability when using data.

For more information, please see the Introductory Document, available on the GSS website:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/methodology-2/harmonisation/>

#### This is Version 3.4 published in March 2018

This document has been updated to Version 3.4 to reflect the change to the Harmonisation Team email address. There has been no change to the harmonised questions

#### Previous versions:

##### Version 3.3 published in June 2017

This document has been updated to Version 3.3 to reflect the change away from 'Primary Principles' and 'Secondary Principles' to 'GSS Harmonised Principles'. There has been no change to the harmonised questions

##### Version 3.2 published in May 2015

This document was updated to Version 3.2 to correct minor formatting errors and to change the term '*Harmonised Standards*' to '*Harmonised Principles*' as agreed by the National Statistics Harmonisation Group.

##### Version 3.1 published in August 2012.

This document was updated to reflect changes made to the Harmonised questions. These changes were ratified by the Heads of Profession for the Government Statistical Service.

##### Version 3.0 published in December 2008.

This document was updated to Version 3.0 to reflect changes in the format, placing the 'Inputs' before the 'Outputs'.

##### Version 2.0 published in April 2008.

This document was updated to Version 2.0 to reflect changes in the contact details for the Harmonisation Team.

##### Version 1.0 published in June 2004.

This document is part of a series that replaced the Harmonised Concepts and Questions document. We have been working to make our guidance easier to find and clearer to use. Other than the formatting and layout changes, there are no new changes to questions or outputs in this version.

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## Introduction

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### GSS Harmonised Principle


#### Contact us

For more information about Harmonisation or to join our mailing list, please visit our website at:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/methodology-2/harmonisation/>

If you would like further information or have any questions, please contact:

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## Accommodation Type of Household

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### Inputs

ALL HOUSEHOLDS

#### BASIC QUESTION

– **INTERVIEWER CODE, IS THE HOUSEHOLD'S ACCOMMODATION:**

1. a house or bungalow
2. a self-contained flat, maisonette or apartment
3. a room or rooms (e.g. bedsit or flatlet)
4. other?

*Interviewer instructions:*

*If the household occupies a flat in a converted house, code 2.*

*For a household to be included in category 3, it has to share either a kitchen, bath/shower or WC with another household space*

IF A HOUSE OR BUNGALOW AT BASIC QUESTION

#### TYPE OF HOUSE/BUNGALOW

– **INTERVIEWER CODE, IS IT:**

1. detached
2. semi-detached
3. terrace (including end-terrace)?

*Interviewer instructions:*

*A semi-detached house is one of a **pair** which is joined together. A house at the end of a terrace must be coded 3 even if there are only three houses in the terrace.*

*Houses which are joined only by a garage (link-detached) should be coded detached.*

IF A FLAT OR MAISONETTE AT BASIC QUESTION

#### TYPE OF FLAT/MAISONETTE

– **INTERVIEWER CODE, IS IT:**

4. Purpose-built (including in block or tenement or over shops)
5. Part of a converted house
6. Part of other converted building (e.g. former school, church or warehouse)
7. In a commercial building (e.g. in an office building or hotel)?

IF OTHER AT BASIC QUESTION

#### TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION

– **INTERVIEWER CODE, IS IT:**

1. A caravan, mobile home or houseboat
2. Some other kind of accommodation?

## Accommodation Type of Household

### Outputs

The output describes a household’s **accommodation**. In most cases a household’s accommodation is an entire dwelling, so that the type of dwelling is the same as the type of accommodation. When, however, two or more households are sharing a dwelling the type of dwelling will not be the same as the type of accommodation because they will refer to different physical spaces.

#### Output Categories: Accommodation type of the household

<b>House or bungalow</b>		
	Detached	xxx
	Semi-detached	xxx
	Terraced*	xxx
	All houses and bungalows	XXXX
<b>Flat or maisonette</b>		
	Purpose built	xxx
	Non purpose built	xxx
	All flats or maisonettes	XXXX
	<b>Other accommodation types**</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
	<b>All accommodation types</b>	<b>XXXXX</b>

\* Note: Includes end of terrace

\*\*Note: Includes bedsits; includes caravans and mobile homes.

Most government social surveys are of the private household population, so no separate categories have been proposed for institutions. The sample coverage should be documented.

## Length of Residence

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### Inputs

#### IF HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON

##### PERIOD LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS

– **How long have you lived at this address?**

1. Less than 12 months
2. 12 months but less than 2 years
3. 2 years but less than 3 years
4. 3 years but less than 5 years
5. 5 years but less than 10 years
6. 10 years or more

#### IF PERIOD 10 YEARS OR MORE

– **Can I just check how long you have lived here?**

1. 10 years but less than 20 years
2. 20 years but less than 30 years
3. 30 years but less than 40 years
4. 40 years or longer.

Interviewer instruction:

*Note that both questions relate to address rather than place. It may be possible that an individual is living at a different address from 12 months ago but is living in the same town and county.*

#### IF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS

##### MONTHS LIVED AT ADDRESS

– **How many months have you lived here?**

## Length of Residence

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### Outputs

#### Output Categories: Length of residence

Less than 12 months	XXXX
12 months, less than 2 years	XXXX
2 years, less than 3 years	XXXX
3 years, less than 5 years	XXXX
5 years, less than 10 years	XXXX
10 years, less than 20 years	XXXX
20 years, less than 30 years	XXXX
30 years, less than 40 years	XXXX
40 years or more	XXXX

#### All lengths of residence

XXXXX

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## Household Motor Vehicles

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### Inputs

Two question options are given: a simple option and a more detailed version.

#### **Simple question**

ALL HOUSEHOLDS

MOTOR VEHICLES

**How many cars or vans are owned or available to the household: 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4+**

Include company cars (if available for private use).

#### **Detailed question**

HAVE ANY MOTOR VEHICLE?

**Do you, or any members of your household, at present own or have continuous use of any of the motor vehicles listed on this card?**

Include company cars (if available for private use). Please remember to include not just cars but also light vans, motorbikes, scooters and mopeds.

1. Yes
2. No

TYPE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

**For each vehicle in turn, I would now like to ask you about the first/second/third... vehicle. Is it...**

1. a 4-wheel car (side windows behind driver)  
- include multi-purpose vehicles and people carriers.
2. a 4-wheel drive passenger vehicle (side windows behind driver) e.g. Landrover, Jeep or similar.
3. a 3-wheel car (side windows behind driver)
4. a light van (no side windows behind driver) - include pick-ups and car-based vans.
5. some other type of van or lorry
6. a motorcycle / scooter (with or without sidecar)
7. a moped
8. some other motor vehicle (please specify)

Notes:

*Mobility scooters to be excluded even if they can be used on the roads*

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

**Is (the vehicle).....**

1. privately owned
2. or is it a company vehicle?

Notes:

*'Privately Owned' includes vehicles:*

- *being bought on hire purchase*
- *used continuously i.e. for private as well as business purposes*

*'A Company Vehicle' is any car for which someone in the household pays company vehicle tax. It includes cars supplied by an employer, spouse's employer etc. Company cars provided exclusively for company business where no private usage is permitted should be excluded (at the first question on vehicle ownership or continuous use). Cars purchased from an employer should be coded as privately owned.*

## Household Motor Vehicles

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### Inputs

ALL HOUSEHOLDS

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

- **Does anyone in your household have the use of a powered mobility scooter?**

1      yes

2      no

ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITH A VEHICLE (*CODE NON-ZERO AT MOTOR VEHICLES QUESTION*)

PARKING (*new question*)

- **Where is the vehicle usually parked overnight? Is it....**

1.      in the garage (at this address)?

2.      not garaged but still on the property of this address?

3.      on the street or public highway?

4.      or elsewhere (at or near your home)? (Please specify)

5.      (Does not usually park at or near home)

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## Household Motor Vehicles

### Outputs

There have been minor changes to the wording of questions since 1996/97 but these are unlikely to affect outputs significantly. The most recent changes are the inclusion of separate categories for specific types of vehicle, in particular allowing 4-wheel drive vehicles to be separately identified, and the addition of questions about mobility scooters.

#### Output Categories: Household motor vehicles

##### Household owns or has continuous use of:

<b>No motor vehicles *</b>	XXXX
<b>One or more motor vehicles *</b>	XXXX
1	XXXX
2	XXXX
3	XXXX
4 or more	XXXX

##### All households

XXXXX

*\* Note: Motor vehicles include cars, multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), light vans and motor cycles, but not mobility scooters.*

#### Output Categories: Parking of motor vehicle

##### Motor vehicle parked:

- in garage at this address
- on the property of this address
- on the street
- elsewhere nearby
- does not usually park at or near home

##### All households with motor vehicles

#### Output Categories: Powered Mobility Scooters

##### Use of powered mobility scooter:

- Yes
- No

## Number of Rooms

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### Inputs

IF HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON

#### NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

- **How many bedrooms do you have in this accommodation?**

Interviewer:

- *Include only rooms that were intended to be used as bedrooms when the property was built, or that have been permanently converted for use as a bedroom eg through a loft conversion.*
- *Include all rooms that were intended to be used as a bedroom even if they are currently not being used as a bedroom.*
- *Include bedsits.*
- *Exclude living rooms or dining rooms that are being used for sleeping.*

#### NUMBER OF KITCHENS

- **How many kitchens do you have in this accommodation?**

Interviewer: *narrowest side must be at least six-and-a-half feet from wall to wall*

#### NUMBER OF LIVING ROOMS

- **How many living rooms do you have?**

Interviewer:

- *Include dining rooms.*
- *Include sun lounges or conservatories that are used all year round.*
- *Exclude halls, landings and alcoves and rooms used solely for business.*
- *Exclude bedsits and communal lounges in sheltered accommodation*

#### NUMBER OF UTILITY ROOMS

- **How many utility and other rooms do you have?**
  - *Exclude bathrooms, toilets and small kitchens*

*Note: only the above types of room are added together to generate the “total number of rooms” variable in the 20010/11 English Housing Survey. Bathrooms, separate toilets and kitchens under six-and-a-half-feet wide are not included in this count.*

**Users may, for other reasons, also need to know about the following other room types available to the household. If so, the following questions are suggested:**

#### NUMBER OF BATHROOMS

- **How many bathrooms do you have?**

Interviewer: *With plumbed in bath/shower*

#### NUMBER OF TOILETS

- **How many toilets?**

Interviewer: *excluding those already counted under number of bathrooms*

#### NUMBER OF SMALL KITCHENS

- **How many kitchens UNDER six-and-a-half-feet wide do you have?**

#### NUMBER OF WCs

- **How many inside flush toilets do you have?**