



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264
Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1754
Date 21 October 2024

THE 1901 ONLINE CENSUS

Thank you for your FOI request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 5 October 2024. You asked to see any correspondence between the Public Record Office (PRO) and the NAO on the 1901 Online Census Project.

We have checked our records and can confirm that we do not hold any information in scope of your request. To put this statement in context, we operate standard [retention periods](#) and dispose of information in accordance with these. Information relating to our value for money studies is retained for 6 years unless there is a particular reason to continue to hold specific documents. Our report [Unlocking the Past: The 1901 Census Online](#) was published in 2003 and we no longer retain any information relating to this study.

If you have not already done so, you may wish to contact The National Archives with any queries you have about the project. You can submit a FOI request via the form at the following link: [Make a Freedom of Information enquiry - Contact us \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#).

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer