

Press Launch of the 2016 Census of Population

Introduction by Pádraig Dalton, Director General, Central Statistics Office

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the launch of Census 2016. I would like to extend a special thanks to An Taoiseach for taking time out from his busy schedule to be with us today.

Before I pass you over to the Taoiseach to perform the official launch I would like to say a few words about what the census means to the CSO, and for official statistics in Ireland.

The census of population, carried out every five years, is the CSO's largest and most challenging statistical operation. Counting every single person in the state on a single night is no easy task and, as you can imagine, an enormous amount of work has already gone into this census to get us here today. This forthcoming census on the 24th April will be a traditional census which means census forms will be delivered by hand to every household in the state over the next five weeks, and will then be collected in person. The CSO rely heavily on the dedication and commitment of our census enumerators and field managers to do this work on our behalf. I have every confidence that our 5,200 field staff will carry out this census with total professionalism and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them in advance.

The census in Ireland enjoys great support from the public. I like to think this is because people trust the CSO to protect their information, and to treat it as strictly confidential. Of course statistical confidentiality is at the heart of everything we do in the CSO: the confidentiality of census information is guaranteed by law and I would like to reassure the public that no identifiable

information relating to individuals or households collected in the census will ever be shared with any other body or agency. We in the CSO are justifiably proud of our unblemished record in protecting the confidentiality of all census information and it is our top priority to maintain this record!

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that the census is not only about everyone, it is also for everyone. All census information is available for everyone to use and will be published in great detail on the CSO web site. The results will provide an invaluable insight into how Ireland has changed over the past five years, not only in terms of overall population but also net migration, housing, homelessness and many other aspects of social and economic change.

Without further ado I would now like to call on the Taoiseach to officially launch the 2016 Census.