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## Census 2011

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### Highest Level of Qualification Held

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Doncaster Data Observatory

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06.2.13

# Census 2011 Qualifications

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 This report:

- Provides an analysis of the 2011 Census information that was released in phase 2 relating to the level of qualifications held by the population.
- Compares the data for Doncaster with other areas within South Yorkshire; to the Yorkshire and Humber average and to the England average.
- Indicates how the highest level of qualifications held by the population of Doncaster has changed since the 2001 Census.

## Background

1.2 The questions asked in the 2011 Census relating to qualifications held have been identified as being 'broadly comparable' with those asked in the 2001 Census on the basis that there was a change in the way the question was asked. Respondents were asked to indicate the qualifications they held by ticking boxes against a list of options.

- An extended list of qualifications was introduced in 2011 because of the changing nature and complexity of qualifications. This was also intended to address under-reporting of the lower level and vocational qualifications in 2001.
- Apprenticeships and diplomas were included after the Census Test Evaluation Survey (CTES) found that these qualifications were frequently held by respondents but were not listed. Apprenticeships formed a new group in 2011. In 2001 apprenticeships were not directly captured.
- First degree and higher degree categories were merged into one category.
- 'Other vocational/work-related' replaced the 'other qualifications' tick box to prompt the inclusion of vocational and work-related qualifications in 2011.
- The professional qualifications question was incorporated as a tick box in 2011 because user consultation found that user requirements for this detail had declined.
- A new foreign qualifications tick box was added in 2011 which was preceded by the instruction 'If you have qualifications gained outside the UK, tick the 'Foreign qualifications' box and the nearest UK equivalents (if known)'. This aimed to take account of user demand for data on highest qualification held. It shows that at least one of the respondent's qualifications is foreign, but does not identify which one(s).<sup>1</sup>

1.3 There was also a change to the scope of the population required to respond to the question. All respondents aged 16 or over were directed to answer the questions in 2011, replacing the age parameter of 16-74 in 2001.

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<sup>1</sup> ONS 2011-2001 Census in England and Wales Questionnaire Comparability, December 2012

## 2 Highest Qualifications Held by Doncaster Population

Table 1 below shows the percentage of the resident population aged 16 and above of Doncaster and each comparator area having the highest qualification at each of the identified levels/types.

- 2.1 The proportion of the resident population aged 16+ without any qualifications in Doncaster is higher than the averages for England, Yorkshire and the Humber, and South Yorkshire. Of the 4 areas within South Yorkshire, Doncaster has the second highest percentage after Barnsley. The South Yorkshire average is skewed to some extent due to the relatively high proportion of HE students resident in Sheffield and those who continue to reside there, after graduating.
- 2.2 The positioning of Doncaster in terms of those achieving level 1 as their highest qualification follows a similar pattern. Again, there are relatively more residents aged 16+ with maximum level 1 accreditation in Doncaster than on average across England, Yorkshire and the Humber, and South Yorkshire. There is little difference between Rotherham, having the highest percentage (15.5%) in this category in South Yorkshire, and Doncaster (15.4%), the second highest.
- 2.3 Doncaster has a higher percentage of residents aged 16+ with the highest qualification at level 2 than all of its South Yorkshire neighbours. The percentage is also higher than the averages for Yorkshire and the Humber and for England.
- 2.4 Looking at the cumulative percentage of those whose highest qualification is at level 2 or below, Doncaster and Barnsley perform very similarly and well above the averages for England, Yorkshire and the Humber, and South Yorkshire.
- 2.5 The percentage of Doncaster Residents with Level 3 or higher qualifications is the lowest amongst all of the South Yorkshire comparator areas and also falls below the Yorkshire and Humber and the England average. At level 4 and above the percentage of Doncaster residents is more than 10% below the average for England.
- 2.6 The 'apprenticeships' and 'other qualifications' categories could be at any level and so will affect the accuracy of the actual percentages, though they are unlikely to lead to misjudgements regarding the positioning of the areas due to the relatively small proportion of the population in these groups. It may be reasonable to consider that the Apprentices are distributed in roughly the same proportion between levels 2 and 3 as the rest of the population.

Table 1

## Highest Level of Qualification Held 2011

|                                     | All categories: Highest level of qualification<br>Persons<br>Number | No qualifications<br>Persons<br>% | Level 1 qualifications<br>Persons<br>% | Level 2 qualifications<br>Persons<br>% | Cumulative % below Level 3 | Apprenticeship<br>Persons<br>% | Level 3 qualifications<br>Persons<br>% | Level 4 qualifications and above<br>Persons<br>% | Other qualifications<br>Persons<br>% |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ENGLAND</b>                      | <b>42,989,620</b>   | <b>22.5</b>                       | <b>13.3</b>                            | <b>15.2</b>                            | <b>51.0</b>                | <b>3.6</b>                     | <b>12.4</b>                            | <b>27.4</b>                                      | <b>5.7</b>                           |
| <b>YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER</b>     | <b>4,285,941</b>  | <b>25.8</b>                       | <b>13.6</b>                            | <b>15.5</b>                            | <b>54.9</b>                | <b>4.2</b>                     | <b>12.8</b>                            | <b>23.3</b>                                      | <b>4.9</b>                           |
| <b>South Yorkshire (Met County)</b> | <b>1,093,276</b>  | <b>28.1</b>                       | <b>14.0</b>                            | <b>15.5</b>                            | <b>57.6</b>                | <b>4.0</b>                     | <b>13.1</b>                            | <b>20.7</b>                                      | <b>4.7</b>                           |
| Barnsley                            | 188,335   | 32.3                              | 14.3                                   | 16.2                                   | <b>62.8</b>                | 4.1                            | 11.3                                   | 17.4   | 4.4                                  |
| Doncaster                           | 244,909   | 30.3                              | 15.4                                   | 17.0                                   | <b>62.7</b>                | 4.5                            | 10.7                                   | 17.0   | 5.2                                  |
| Rotherham                           | 208,018   | 29.8                              | 15.5                                   | 16.8                                   | <b>62.1</b>                | 4.4                            | 11.5                                   | 17.4   | 4.5                                  |
| Sheffield                           | 452,014   | 24.3                              | 12.3                                   | 13.7                                   | <b>50.3</b>                | 3.6                            | 15.8                                   | 25.7   | 4.6                                  |

### 3 Comparison of Highest Qualification Held by Doncaster Resident Population over time

Table 2 below shows the percentage of the resident population aged 16-74 in Doncaster and each comparator area having the highest qualification at each of the identified levels/types at the time of the 2001 Census.

3.1 For the populations considered in the qualifications question in each of the two years for all the areas and averages considered in this report, there has been a decline in the percentage of those without qualifications and with maximum level 1 and level 2 qualifications. The percentage across all areas identified has increased for those achieving level 3 and above. Some of this may be due to the extension of the population required to complete the question with the removal of the upper age limit in 2011, thus suggesting that a higher proportion of those aged 75 and above have advanced level qualifications than younger age groups. Government targets to increase achievement at level 3 over the period will have also had some impact.

- 3.1 The situation of Doncaster compared to England, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the rest of South Yorkshire was exactly the same in 2001 as that described above for 2011 regarding those with no qualifications and those with maximum level 1 qualifications. The high proportion of the HE/graduate population of Sheffield, again skews the South Yorkshire position.
- 3.2 The percentage of those aged 16-74 and resident in Doncaster in 2001 with a maximum attainment of level 2 qualifications was above the average for South Yorkshire and Yorkshire and the Humber, but below the England average. Compared with its South Yorkshire neighbours, Doncaster had the second highest percentage in this group behind Rotherham.
- 3.3 In 2001, the percentage of Doncaster residents aged 16-74 having achieved a level 3 or above qualification was below averages for South Yorkshire, Yorkshire and the Humber, and for England. However, Doncaster had the second highest percentage in terms of those holding maximum level 3 qualifications and level 4/5 qualifications in South Yorkshire, only behind Sheffield.
- 3.4 The difference in the data sets between the two years obviously means the direct comparison is not completely reliable. However, the change in the positioning of Doncaster within South Yorkshire regarding the proportion of residents with minimum level 3 qualifications does suggest an area of concern.

**Table 2**  
**All people aged 16-74** **Highest Level of Qualification Held 2001**

|                                 | All people aged 16 - 74 | No qualifications | Highest qualification attained level 1 | Highest qualification attained level 2 | Highest qualification attained level 3 | Highest qualification attained level 4/5 | Percentage of people aged 16 - 74 with:<br>Other qualifications / level unknown |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
|                                 | Number                  | %                 | %                                      | %                                      | %                                      | %  | %   |
| <b>ENGLAND</b>                  | 35,532,091              | 28.85             | 16.63                                  | 19.36                                  | 8.34                                   | 19.90                                    | 6.92  |
| <b>YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER</b> | 3,574,331               | 33.15             | 17.15                                  | 18.03                                  | 7.72                                   | 16.38                                    | 7.59  |
| <b>South Yorkshire</b>          | 916,052                 | 35.89             | 17.50                                  | 17.23                                  | 7.46                                   | 14.48                                    | 7.43  |
| <b>Barnsley</b>                 | 157,569                 | 41.06             | 17.99                                  | 16.69                                  | 5.37                                   | 11.06                                    | 7.83  |
| <b>Doncaster</b>                | 206,011                 | 38.14             | 18.59                                  | 18.54                                  | 5.44                                   | 11.78                                    | 7.49  |
| <b>Rotherham</b>                | 178,329                 | 36.78             | 19.24                                  | 18.76                                  | 5.53                                   | 11.50                                    | 8.19  |
| <b>Sheffield</b>                | 374,143                 | 32.04             | 15.87                                  | 16.01                                  | 10.38                                  | 18.83                                    | 6.87  |

## 4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The percentage of the Doncaster population educated to level 3 and above appears to have increased, as does that across the rest of South Yorkshire and the averages for Yorkshire and the Humber and for England.
- 4.2 The relative positioning of Doncaster appears to compare less favourably with Barnsley and Rotherham than in 2001 in terms of the percentage of the population achieving level 3 and above.
- 4.3 There appear to be barriers to progression from level 2 to level 3 in Doncaster. It is unlikely that this is a supply issue, given that 16 of the 17 Doncaster schools have sixth forms. A more likely influence is the below- average performance at Key Stage 4 (in 2011, 54% of pupils leaving Doncaster schools achieved 5 GCSEs including English and Maths compared to the England average of 58%), meaning that many either continue further study at the same level, seek employment for which qualification at level 2 or below is sufficient or become NEET.