

2001 Census undercount

In summary:

During the 2001 Census, Southwark was recognized as one of a few 'hard to count areas' then highlighted by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) as for detailed analysis due to a significant risk of an under-estimating the population. It was concluded that Southwark's population had to be re-estimated due to:

- A high number of unprocessed forms (late returns, system crashes, sent to wrong borough). Southwark had the highest number of these in England & Wales. An adjustment was made using the Census Coverage Survey to estimate to number of unprocessed forms.
- Three wards Friary, Consort and Barse (Currently the lower half of the current Livesey ward and upper half of Nunhead ward) were under-counted, due to some properties being missed. These were re-estimated based on the Council Tax count of addresses and the household size from the existing Census Ward level results.

After consideration of all the evidence, the population of Southwark in 2001 was re-estimated, and it was concluded that the Census had under-estimated the population by 6,552. However the final Census figure for Southwark published in 2002 was not amended in light of this calculated undercount. The report highlighting this undercount was published in 2004. It's unclear if this under-estimated amount was added to subsequent population estimates.

See the following report for Southwark's 2004 analysis of data