Community profiling: diversity in Brent – evidence pack

To inform 2021 Census planning and engagement

11/05/21

Brent

BUILDING A BETTER BRENT

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About this report

- **Background:** The aim of this report is to collate intelligence about Brent's different communities to inform 2021 Census planning and engagement work. The analysis focuses on diversity in Brent and explores data by ethnicity, nationality, country of birth and language. The aim is to profile both well established groups and newer communities to ensure effective engagement.

- **Data:** The 2011 Census remains the most comprehensive source of diversity data at a local level, but as data are now nine years old, the figures fail to capture important changes since 2011 – particularly more recent migration from parts of Europe. While alternative, and more timely, data sources about newer populations are available, they have different limitations (ie they only cover part of the population, or cannot provide data for small areas in the borough). For these reasons, this report considers a range of sources, and brings Census data together with more up to date administrative and survey data. Considered together, this data provides valuable insight about different communities in Brent.

- **ONS and community engagement:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is employing Community Advisors (CAs) who will work with specific communities locally. Brent has been allocated 6 advisors, shared with other Councils, to work with the following communities: **Black African; Black Caribbean, Arab, Indian, Pakistani, and Somali residents**. The profiling that follows includes coverage of these specific groups but also aims to identify other significant groups, missing from this list, who may also require particular support to engage effectively with the 2021 Census.

- **Future work:** This report summarises the first stage of analysis - the aim is to continue developing the evidence base as the analysis progresses.

Diversity in Brent - overview

Brent is home to many communities and is one of the most diverse boroughs in London.

- **Ethnicity:** Almost two thirds of the population (64%) are from BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) groups, the third highest in London. A further 19% of residents are from White minority groups*. The remaining 16% of residents are White British, the second lowest rate in London.

- **Country of birth:** Brent attracts residents from all over the world. In 2011, over half (55%) of the Brent population were born outside the UK – the highest percentage in England and Wales. The Census identified Brent residents born in 215 different countries.

- **EU nationals**: Brent has a large European population: around one in five Brent residents have EU nationality (20%) – the highest rate in London. By August 2020, EU nationals in Brent had made 76,480 applications to the EU settlement scheme, the second highest number in the UK. The largest number of applications were from Romanian and Portuguese nationals. Administrative and survey data both suggest the size of the borough's EU national population has increased significantly since the last Census.

- **Language:** Around 150 different languages are used in Brent. In 2011, 37% of the Brent population used a main language other than English – the 2nd highest in England. Around 9% of adults in Brent have poor proficiency in spoken English. In terms of numbers, residents born in India and Poland comprised the largest groups with poor proficiency (numbering 5,110 and 2,669). Proficiency levels are typically lower for older residents, particularly women.

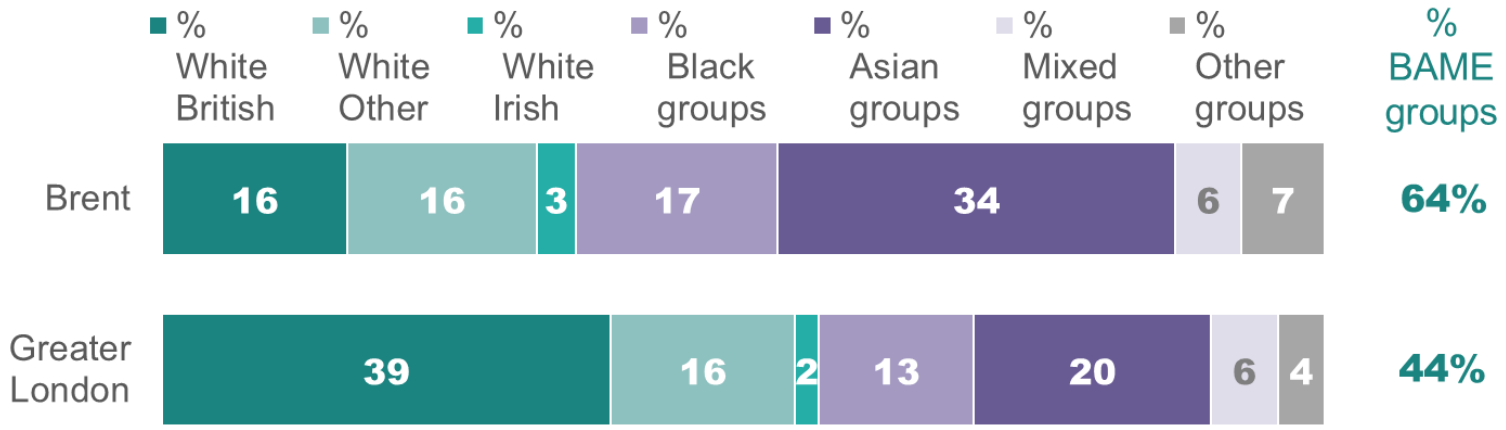
Source: GLA Ethnic projections for 2019; ONS, Annual Population Survey (2019); ONS, 2011 Census; Brent Pupil Census (January 2020); Home Office (EUSS data to June 2020). (*) White Other and White Irish groups.

Ethnicity and country of birth

Ethnic diversity in Brent - overview

- Brent is one of the most ethnically diverse boroughs in London. The latest GLA projections indicate that almost two thirds of the population (64%) are from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic (BAME) groups, the third highest in London, after Newham and Redbridge.
- Brent has a large Asian population: one third of residents are from Asian groups compared with 20% across London. Around 17% of Brent residents were from Black ethnic groups, higher than the London average (13%).
- Around 16% of residents are White British, the second lowest rate in London, after Newham (13%). Brent also has a significant population from White minority groups: 16% are from the 'White Other' group and 3% are White Irish.

Population by ethnicity, Brent and London, 2020 (GLA projections)

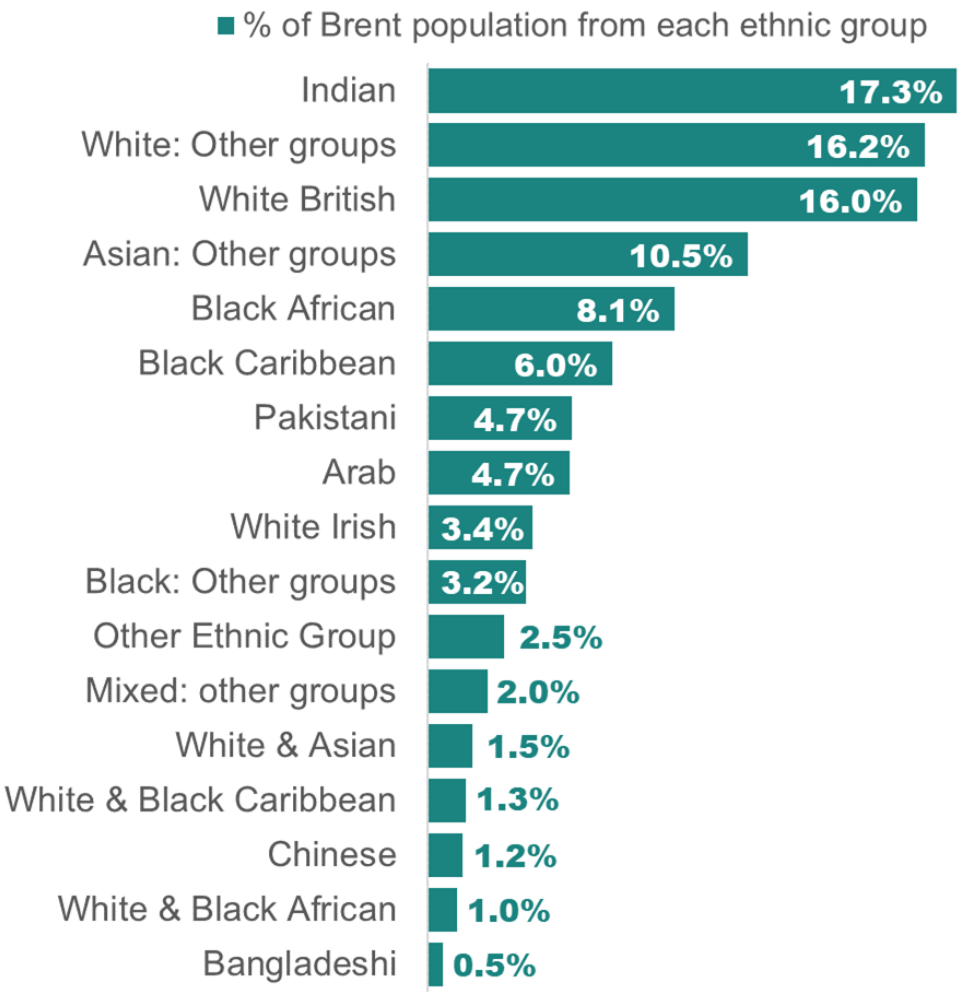


Source: Greater London Authority, Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led)

Population by ethnic group

- One in six residents have an Indian ethnic background – more than double the London average (17% vs. 7%) – and the fourth highest in London.
- Other groups particularly well represented in Brent (compared with other areas in London) include the White Irish, Arab and the 'Asian Other' group (this includes Sri Lankan, Afghan, Filipino, Nepalese and Tamil residents*).
- Around 17% of Brent residents were from Black ethnic groups, higher than the London average (13%).
- It is estimated that around 16% of the Brent population are from 'White Other' groups – up from 14% in 2011. Around three quarters of this ethnic group were from countries in Eastern and Western Europe in 2011.

Population by ethnic group, Brent, 2020

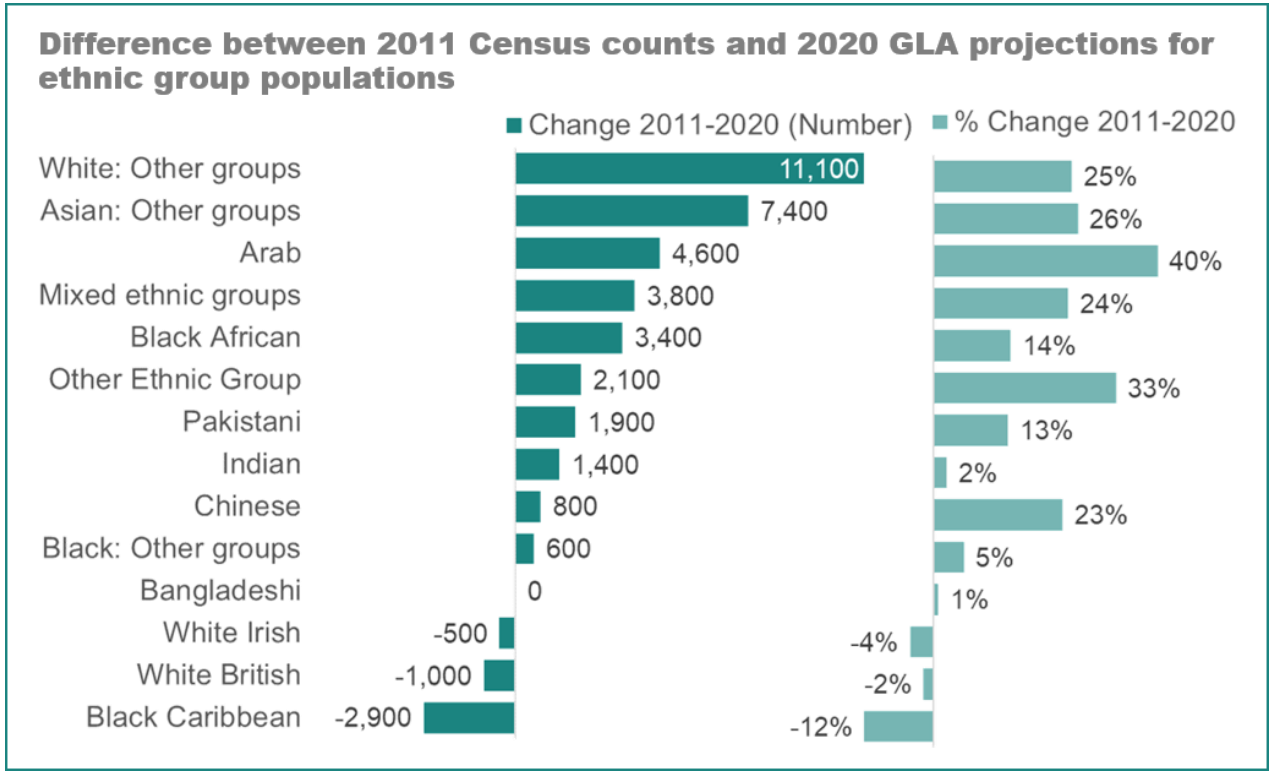


Source: Greater London Authority, Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).
(*) Analysis of Census data shows these five groups made up 75% of the Asian Other group in 2011 (Table QS211EW).

Ethnicity: Change since 2011 Census

GLA projections provide some insight to how different populations might have changed since 2011. Comparing the projections with Census counts suggests the White Other population has seen the largest rise in number since 2011: a projected increase of over 11,000 (+25%), while the Arab population has seen the biggest percentage increase (+40%). In contrast, some of the borough's more established groups have seen less change, with some actually declining in population (e.g. the Black Caribbean population).

GLA population projections by ethnicity for 2020	
White: Other groups	55,800
Asian: Other groups	36,000
Arab	16,000
Mixed ethnic groups	19,600
Black African	27,800
Other Ethnic Group	8,600
Pakistani	16,300
Indian	59,400
Chinese	4,000
Black: Other groups	11,100
Bangladeshi	1,800
White Irish	11,800
White British	54,900
Black Caribbean	20,800

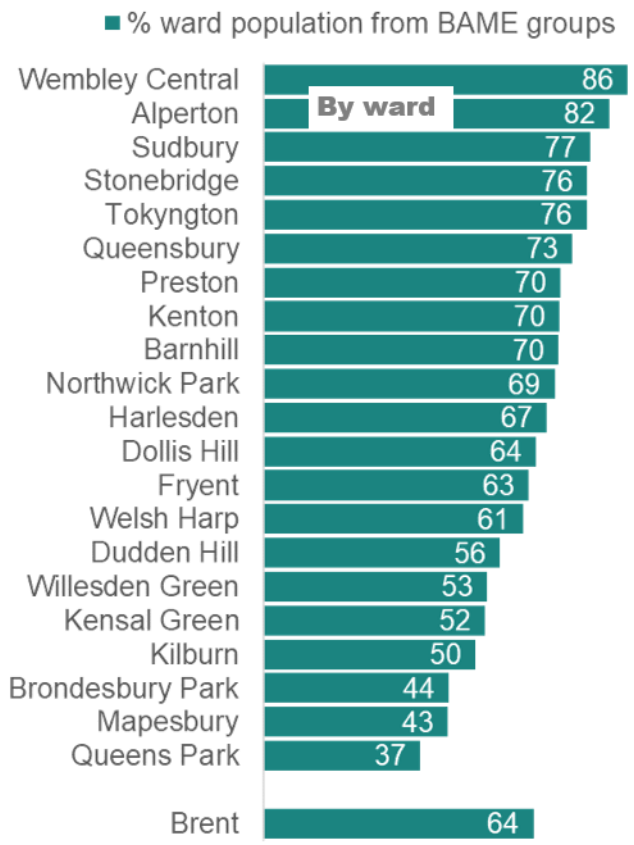


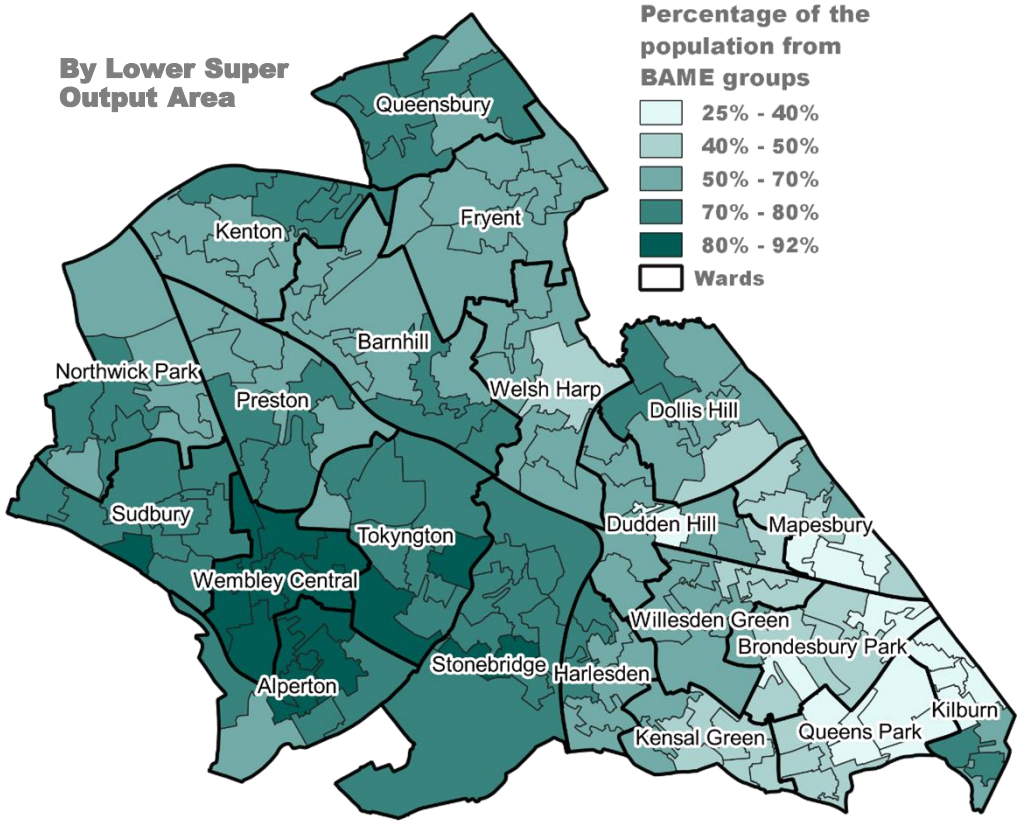
Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario), figures rounded to nearest hundred.

BAME population by ward / LSOA - 2011

The Census provides insight on how the ethnic profile of the population varies across the borough. In 2011, the percentage of residents from BAME groups ranged from 37% in Queens Park up to 86% in Wembley Central. The maps that follows focus on the ethnic groups that the ONS Community Advisors will be working with.

BAME population (%) by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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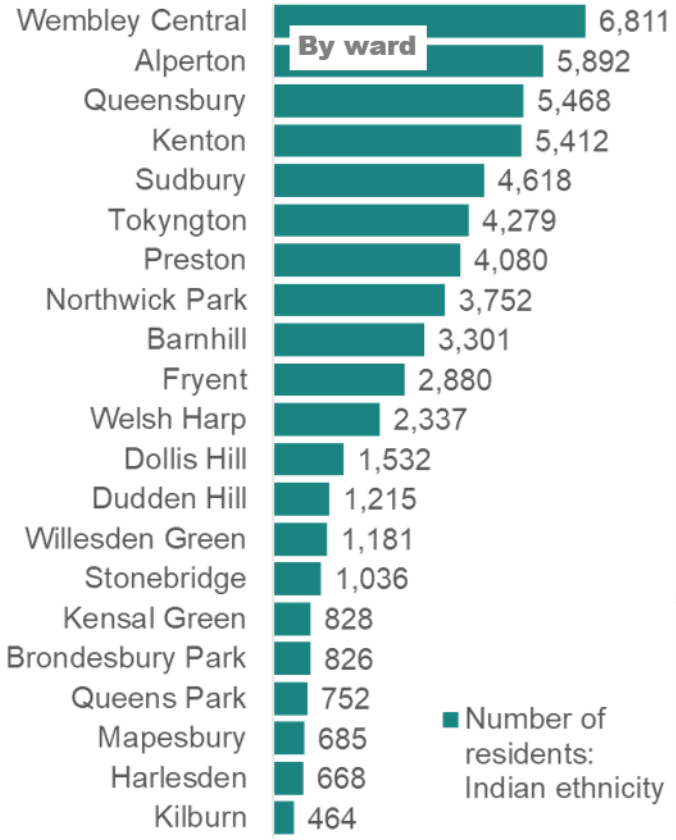
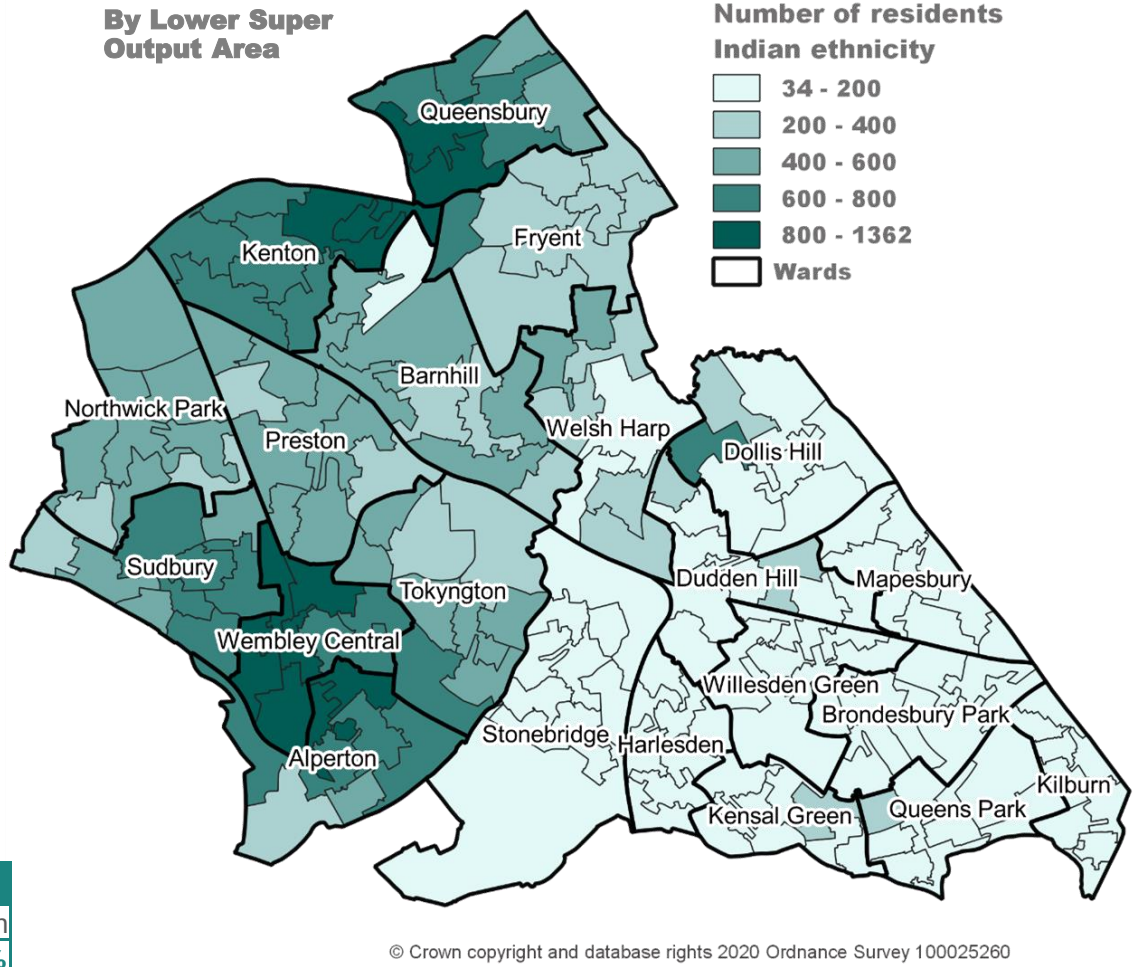
Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW). BAME groups =Black, Asian and Minority ethnic groups.

The Indian population

Number of residents: Indian ethnicity, Brent, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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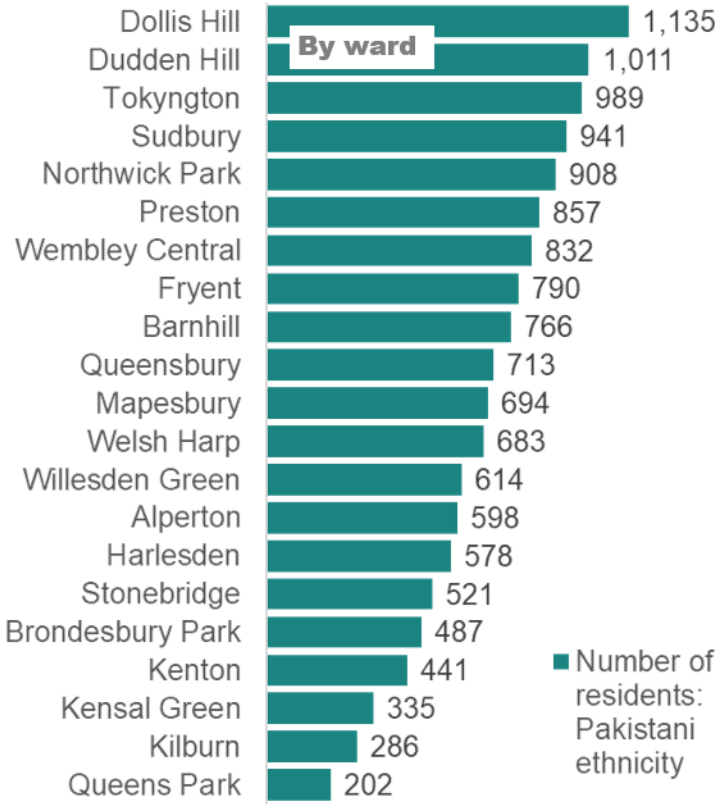
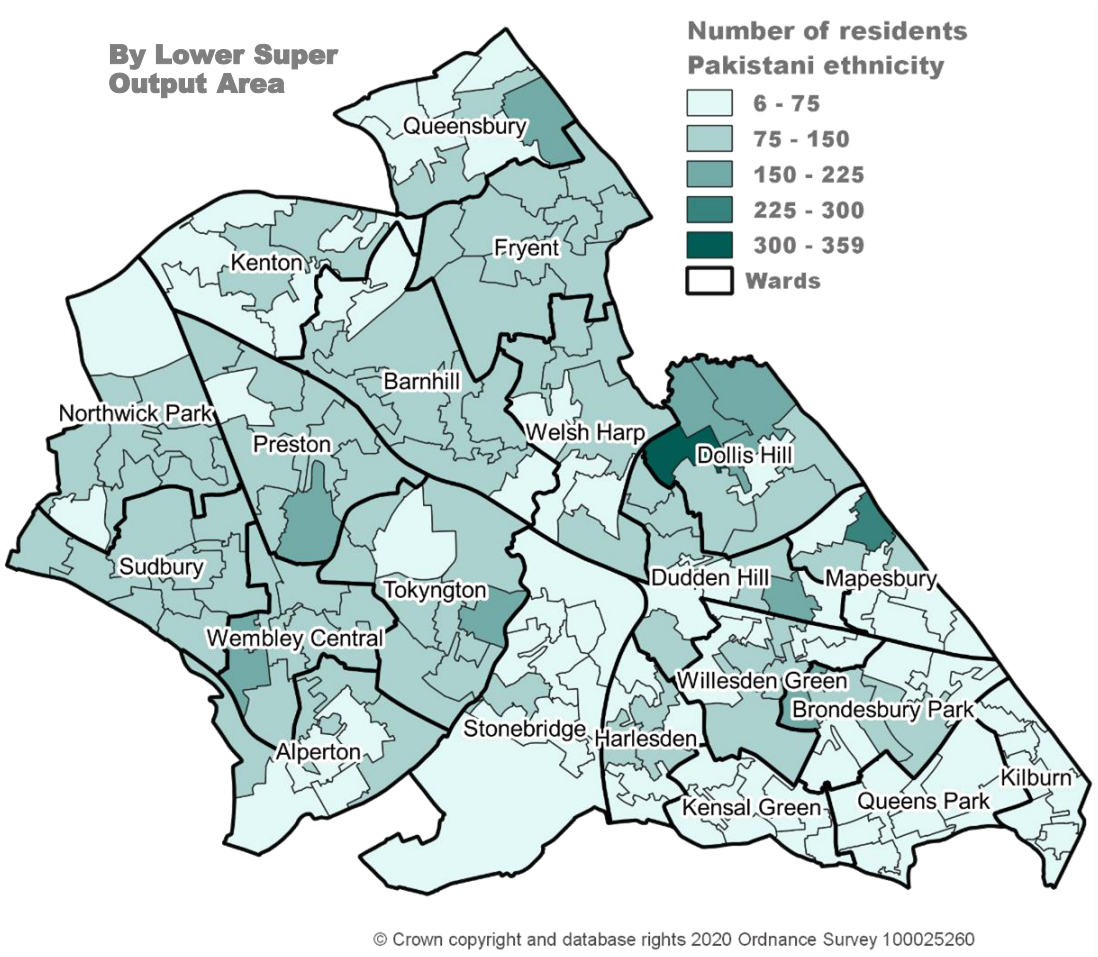
Brent totals: Indian population		
	Population	% of population
2011 Census	**58,017**	**18.6%**
2020 Projection (GLA)	**59,400**	**17.3%**

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).

The Pakistani population

Number of residents: Pakistani ethnicity, Brent, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census



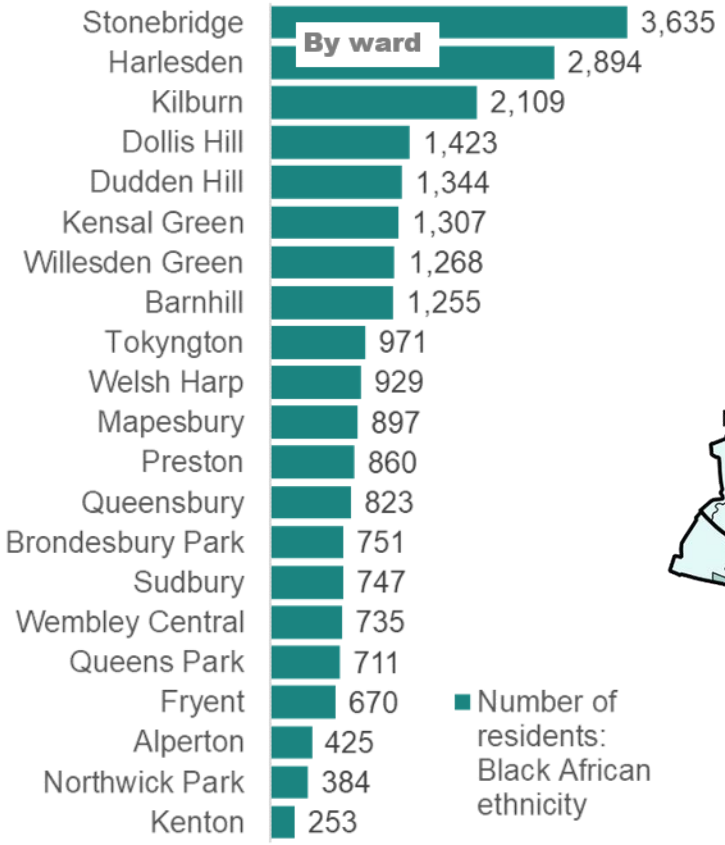


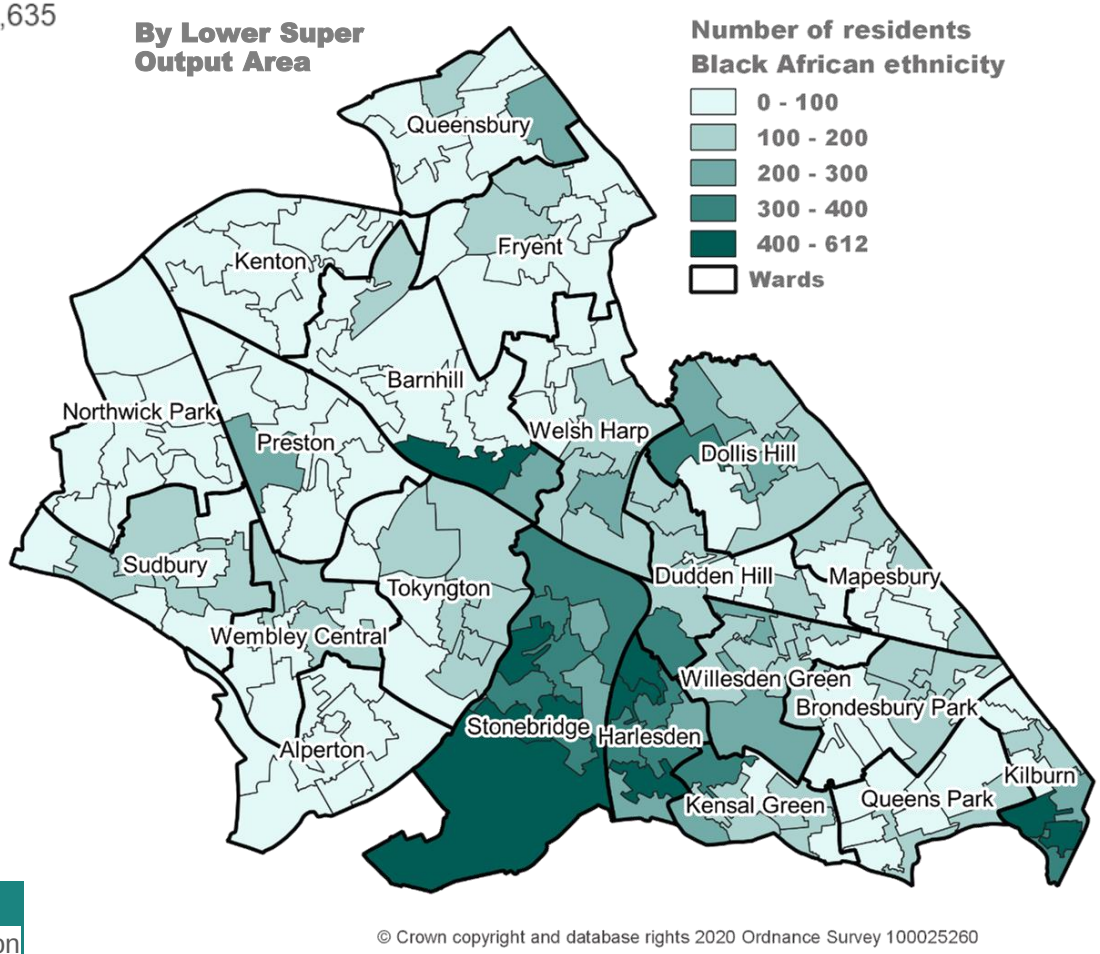
Brent totals: Pakistani population		
	Population	% of population
2011 Census	**14,381**	**4.6%**
2020 Projection (GLA)	**16,300**	**4.7%**

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).

The Black African population

Number of residents: Black African ethnicity, Brent, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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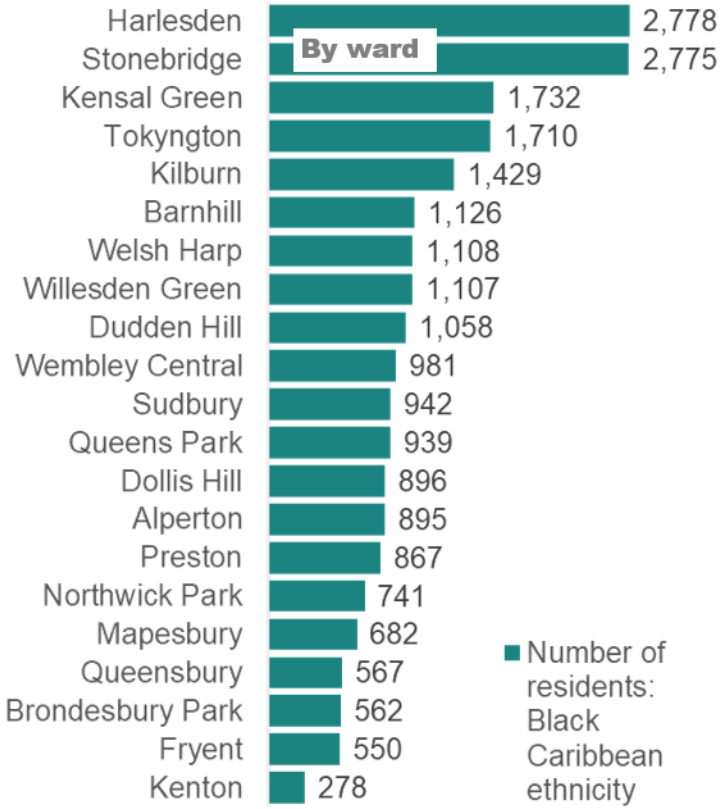
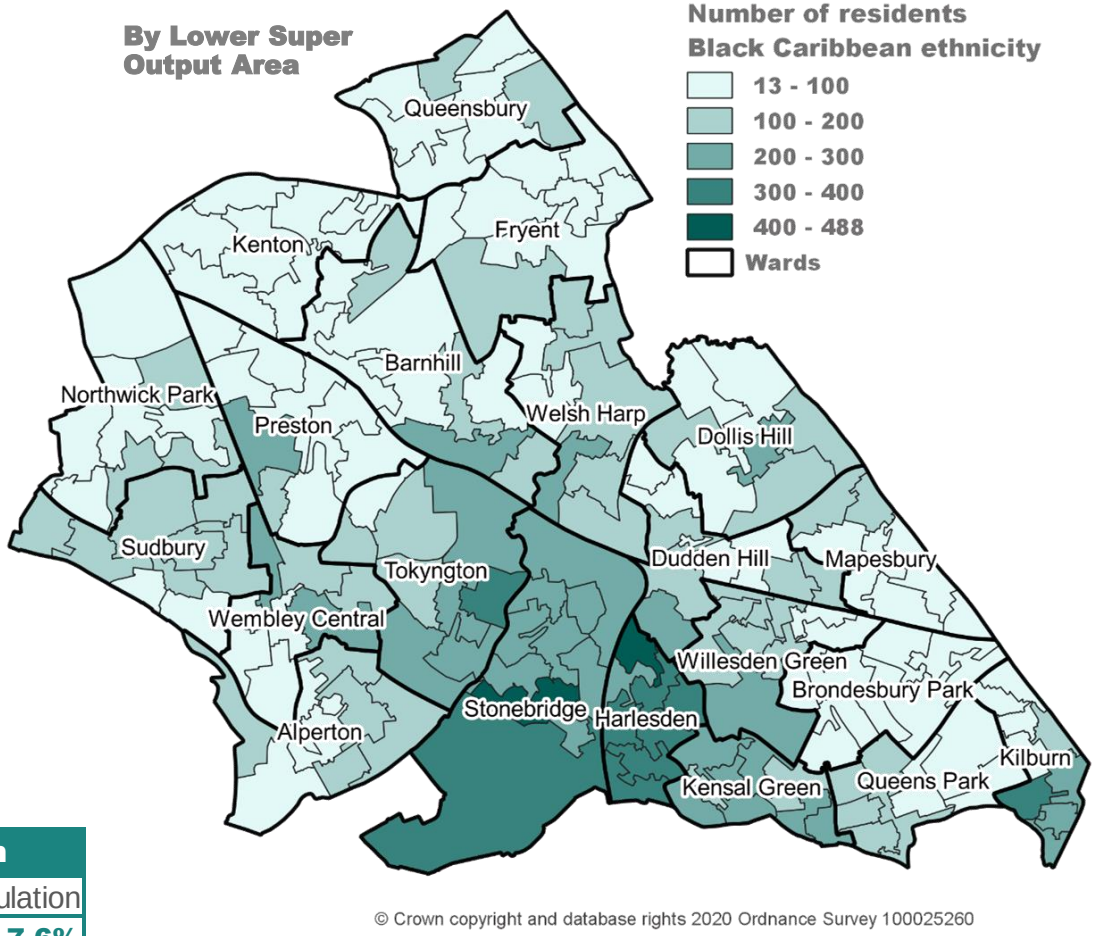
Brent totals: Black African population		
	Population	% of population
2011 Census	**24,391**	**7.8%**
2020 Projection (GLA)	**27,800**	**8.1%**

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).

The Black Caribbean population

Number of residents: Black Caribbean ethnicity, Brent, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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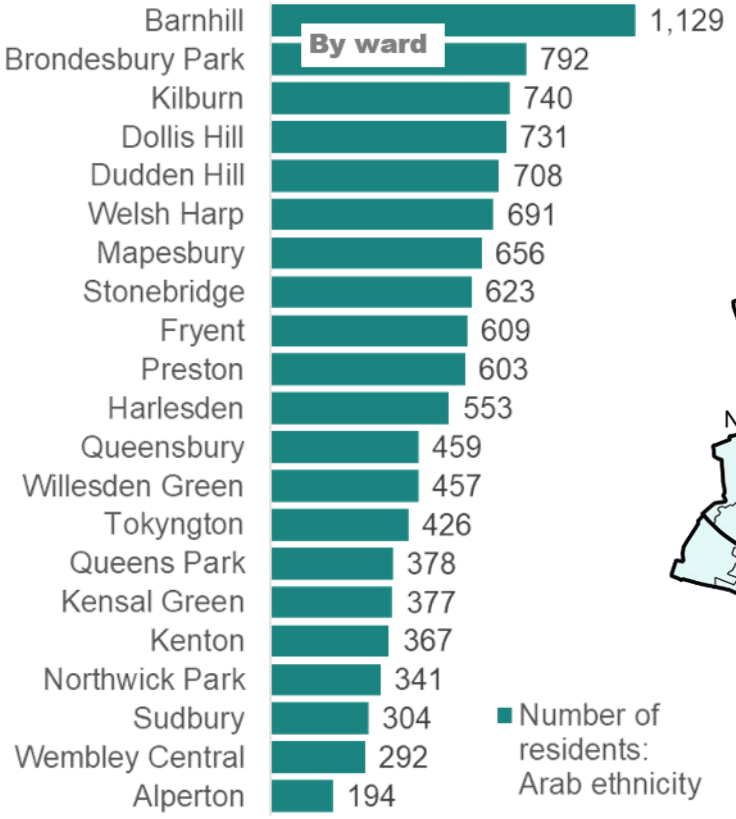
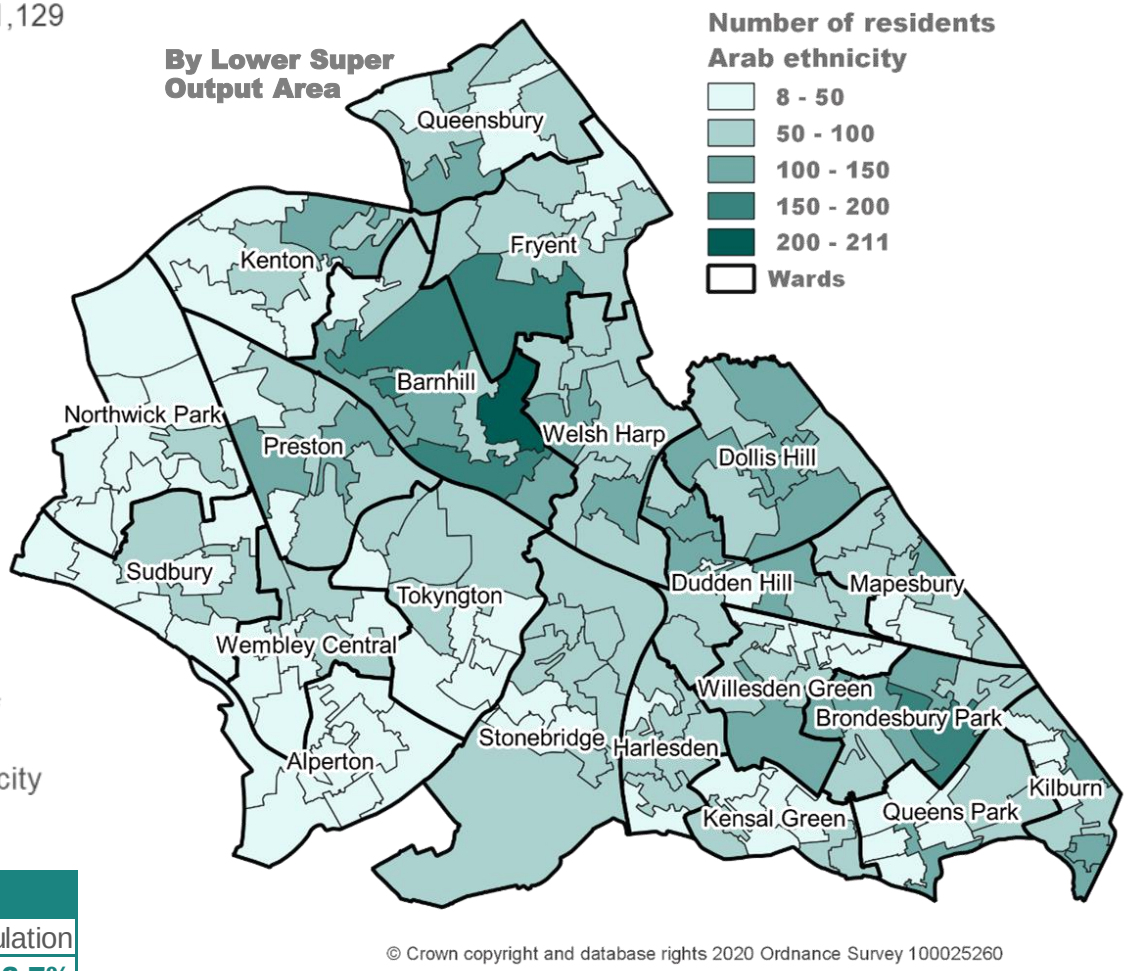
Brent totals: Black Caribbean population		
	Population	% of population
2011 Census	**23,723**	**7.6%**
2020 Projection (GLA)	**20,800**	**6.0%**

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).

The Arab population

Number of residents: Arab ethnicity, Brent, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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Brent totals: Arab population		
	Population	% of population
2011 Census	**11,430**	**3.7%**
2020 Projection (GLA)	**16,000**	**4.7%**

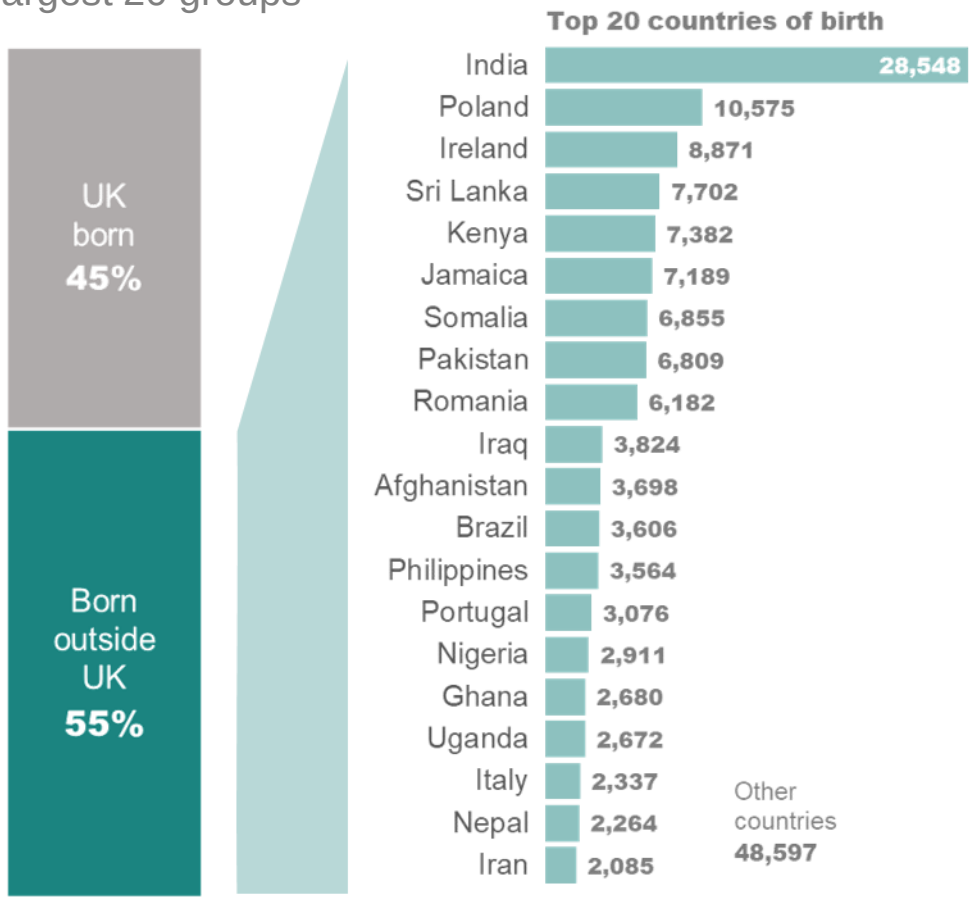
Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table QS211EW); GLA Ethnic group projections (2016-based housing-led scenario).

2011 Census data on country of birth

- Data about country of birth can help profile communities in more detail, particularly those groups not separately identified by Census ethnicity data (e.g. the Somali population).
- In 2011, 55% of the Brent population were born outside the UK – the highest percentage in England and Wales.
- Brent attracts residents from all over the world: the Census data identified residents born in 215 different countries. The top countries of origin included: India, Poland, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Jamaica, Somali, Pakistan, Romania and Iraq.
- In 2011, Brent was ranked highest in London for the number of residents born in: India, Ireland, Somalia, Romania and Brazil.

Population by country of birth, Brent, 2011

Largest 20 groups



More information: The Greater London Authority has developed an interactive mapping tool to explore different populations by ward for all boroughs in London. This can be accessed on GLA datastore.

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table CT0048)

The Somali population

- Somali was not classed as a separate ethnic group in the last Census so quantifying the ethnically Somali population is not straightforward. While some residents identified as Somali under the Black Other 'write in' group, others will have identified in other ethnic groups where they can't be separately identified (eg Black African). Country of birth data and pupil data by ethnicity provide alternative measures.
- **The 2011 Census identified 6,855 Brent residents born in Somalia (2.2% of the population) – the largest Somali-born population in London** (and the highest percentage nationally). By ward, the percentage of Somali-born residents ranged from 6.9% in Stonebridge down to 0.4% in Kenton.
- As these figures only capture first generation Somali residents, they will underestimate the size, and growth, of the Somali population, and will exclude many Somali children born in the UK. Indeed, the latest School Census identified **3,360 children with Somali ethnicity** – 8% of all Brent pupils (resident in Brent). At ward level, this ranged from 22% of pupils living in Stonebridge ward down to 2% in Kenton ward.

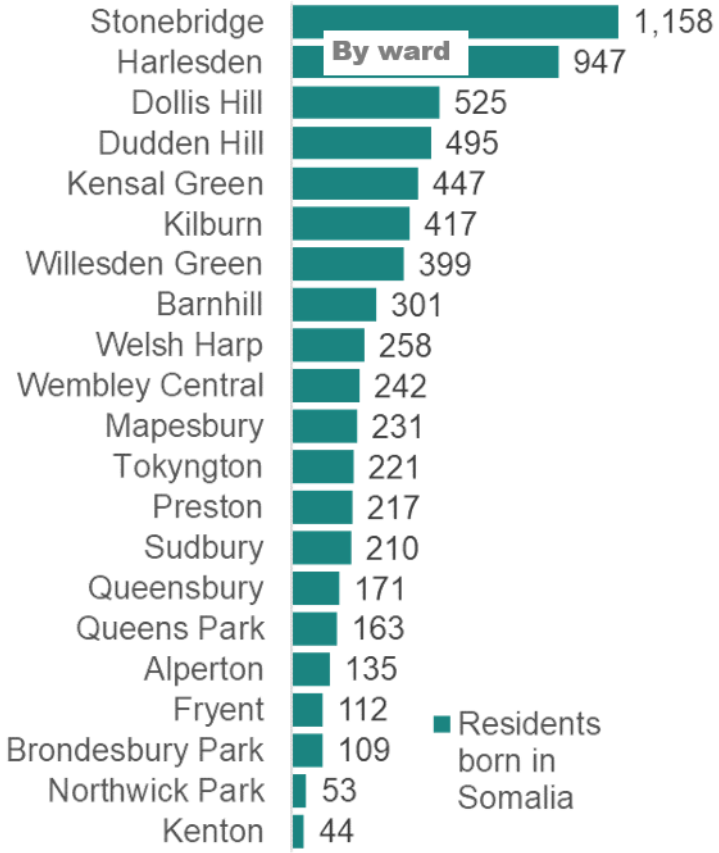
The Somali population - Indicators compared

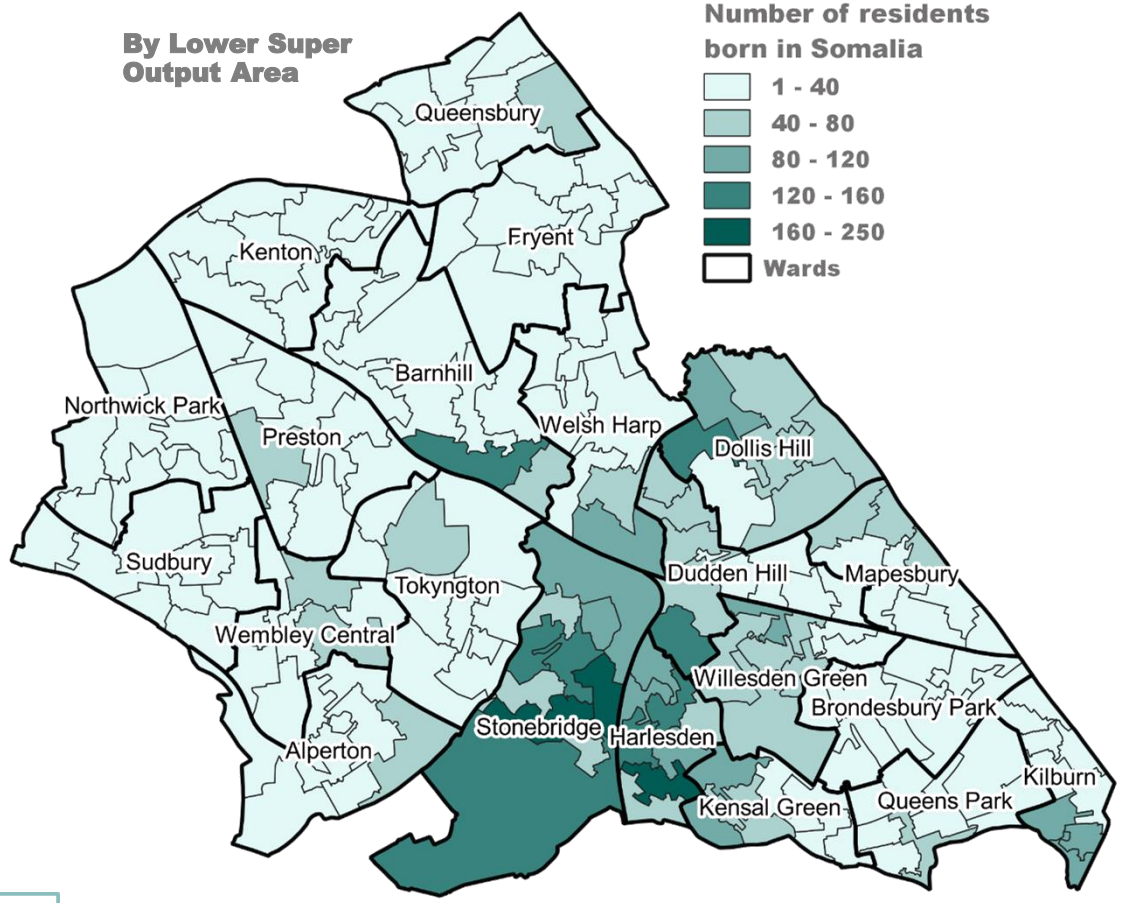
Measure	Estimate	% total	Source
Number of residents born in Somalia, 2011	6,855	2.2% of population	2011 Census
Number of residents with 'Black Other' ethnicity and who specified 'Somali' or 'Somali-lander' in write in field, 2011	2,997	1.0% of population	2011 Census
Brent school children with Somali as main language, 2020	2,759	7% of pupils	Pupil Census 2020
Brent school children with Somali ethnicity, 2020	3,360	8% of pupils	Pupil Census 2020

Source: ONS, 2011 Census; Pupil Census (January 2020) – figures relate to Brent pupils who were resident in Brent

Population born in Somalia - 2011

Number of residents born in Somalia, by ward and LSOA, 2011 Census





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Brent totals (2011)	6,855 residents	2.2% of population

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census (Table QS203EW).

The EU population in Brent

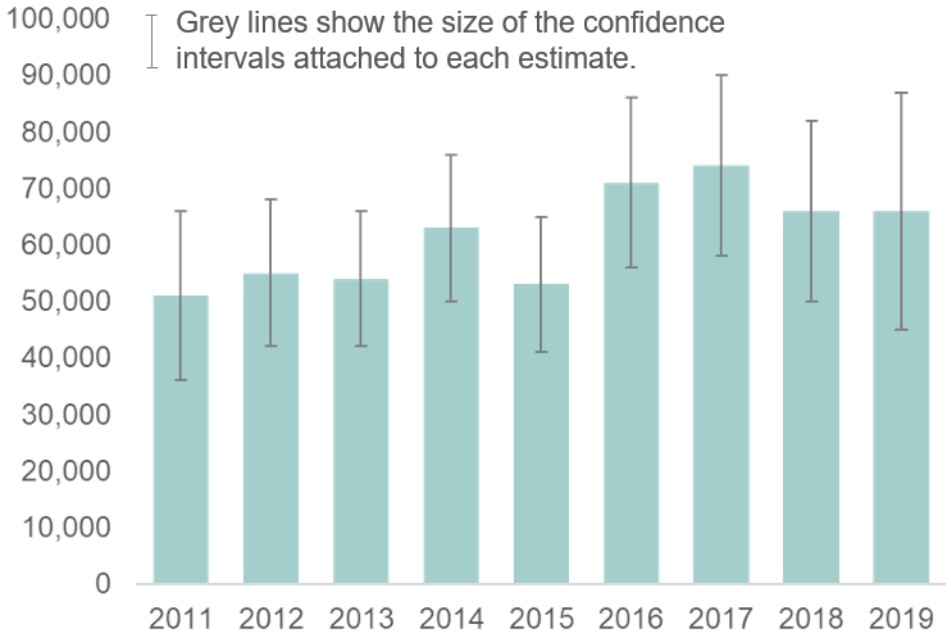
Note: The EU (European Union) is defined here as the current 27 EU members. These are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

EU national population: Change since 2011

- Brent has one of the largest European populations in the country and various indicators suggest the population has grown considerably since the last Census, reflecting significant in-migration flows from parts of the EU, especially from Romania, Portugal and Italy.
- Recent survey estimates for 2019 suggest that around one in five Brent residents have EU nationality (20%) – the highest rate in London (around 66,000 residents).
- Administrative data about the number of Brent residents who have applied for the EU Settlement Scheme (76,480 as at June 2020) suggests the figure could be even higher.
- The analysis that follows explores administrative data about nationality to provide a more detailed picture about different EU communities living in Brent.

Estimates of the number of EU nationals in Brent, 2011-2019 survey estimates

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey



EU national population in Brent – indicators compared	Estimate
2011 Census count (EU27 passport holders)	52,689
2019 APS survey estimate	66,000
2020 Applications to EU settlement scheme*	76,480

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (January-December 2019). * Applications from EU27 nationals.

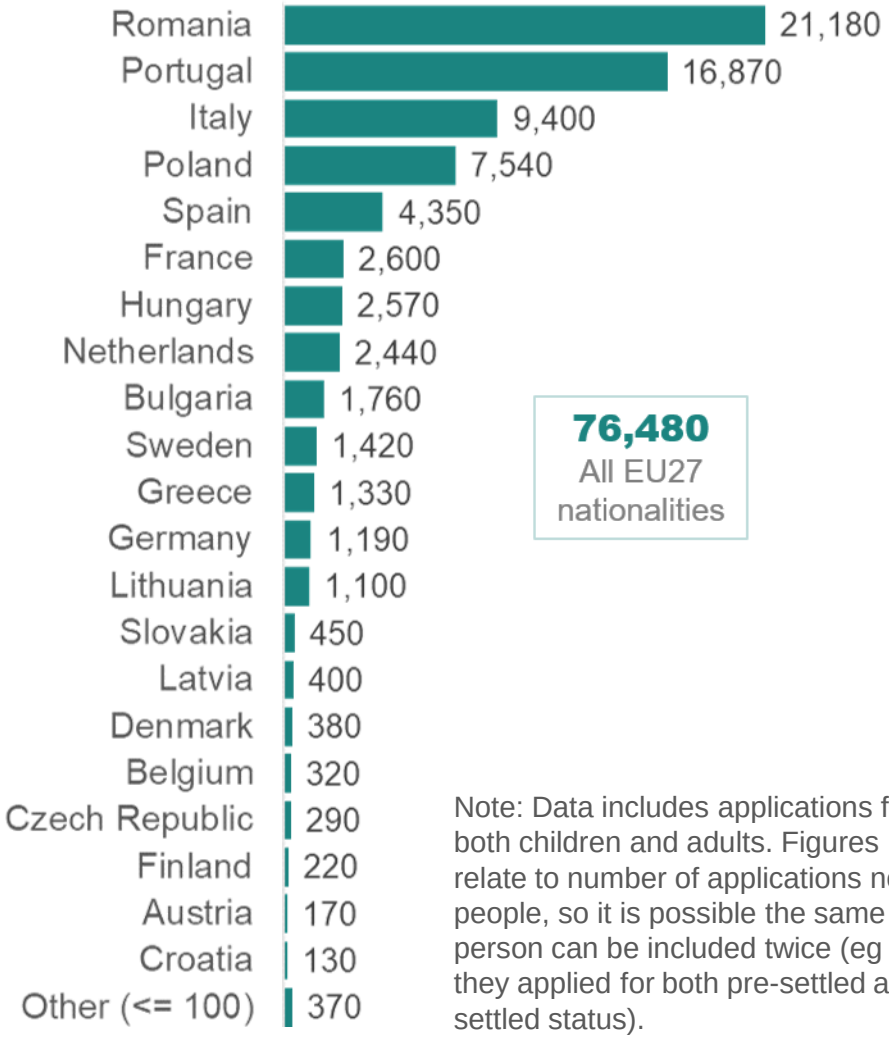
EU settlement scheme: Applications

- By June 2020, Brent residents with EU nationality had made 76,480 applications to the EU settlement scheme, the second highest number in the UK.
- The largest number of applications were from Romanian and Portuguese nationals – together, these two groups made up half of all applications from EU nationals.
- Brent had the 3rd highest number of applications from Romanian nationals in the UK (after Newham and Harrow), and was ranked 2nd highest nationally on the number of Portuguese applicants (after Leicester, making it the highest in London)

For more information about number of EUSS applications by London Borough – see our interactive maps.

Applications to the EUSS, Brent residents

EU27 nationals, August 2018 to June 2020



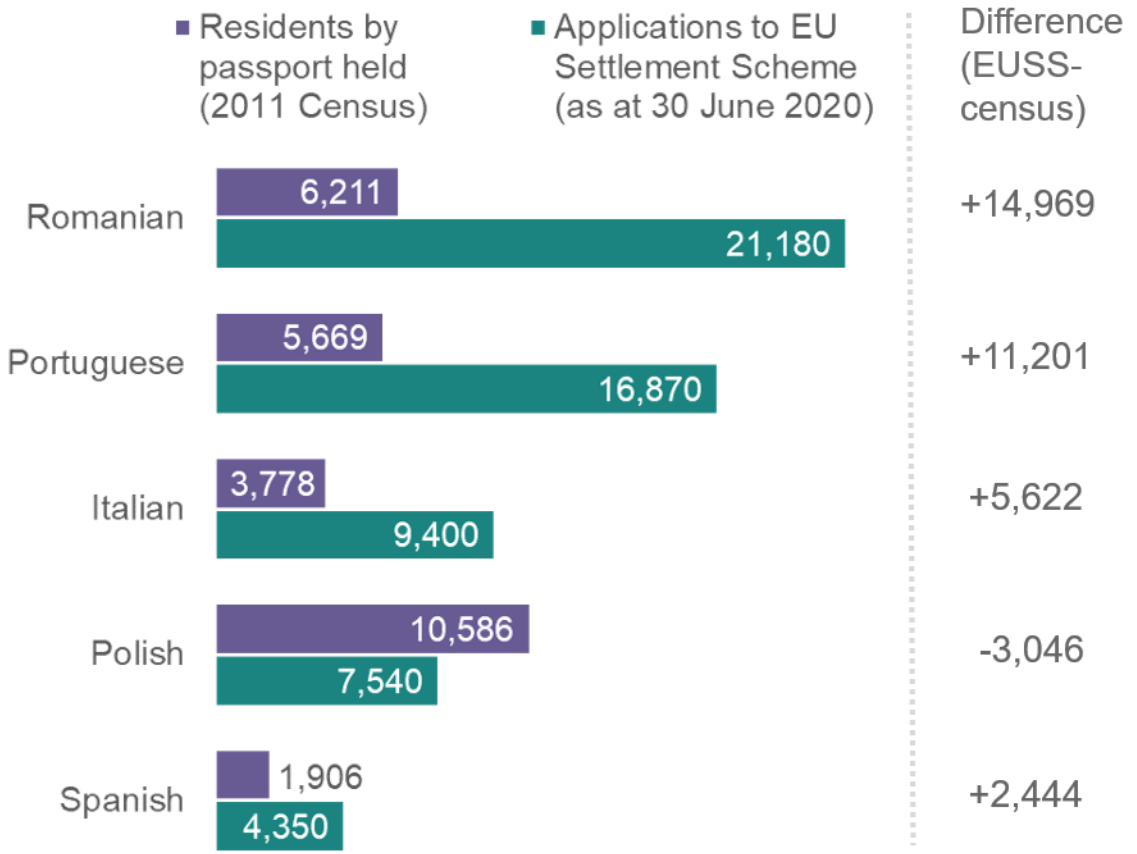
Note: Data includes applications for both children and adults. Figures relate to number of applications not people, so it is possible the same person can be included twice (eg if they applied for both pre-settled and settled status).

Source: Home Office (EU settlement scheme quarterly statistics). Notes: Data include applications from both children and adults. Figures rounded to nearest ten so may not sum exactly to the total shown.

Change since 2011: Top 5 EU nationalities

- Comparing EUSS applications with 2011 Census counts on nationality (i.e. passport held*) suggests very strong growth in Brent's Romanian, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish populations. Analysis of National Insurance number registrations (presented next), confirms similar patterns.
- Figures on Polish nationals suggest a smaller population now than in 2011 – but the figures need careful interpretation: while this could mean significant numbers of Polish nationals have left Brent since 2011, it could also mean some have since become UK nationals.

2011 Census and EUSS applications data compared (top five EUSS nationalities)



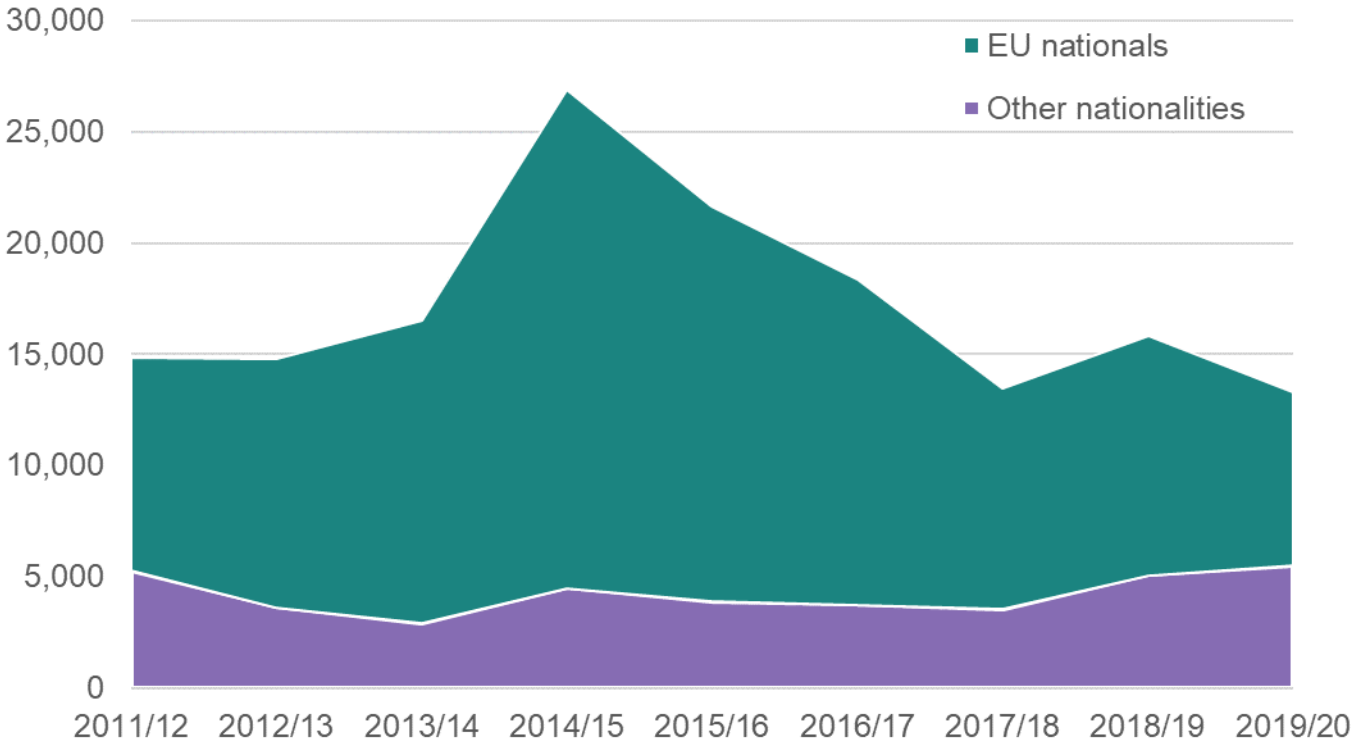
More information: For more detailed Census information about where different EU communities live in London - see the GLA's EU Passport held ward tool on GLA datastore.

Source: (i) 2011 Census (Commissioned table CT0060) (ii) Home Office (EU settlement scheme quarterly statistics). Notes: EUSS data rounded to nearest ten. (*) Census data on nationality is based on the type of passport(s) held by the respondent.

Economic migration: NINo registrations

New migrants arriving in the UK require a National Insurance number (NINo) to take up work. Statistics about NINo registrations provide useful data about inward migration flows by nationality. Over the period 2011/12 to 2019-20, a total of 155,640 overseas nationals registered for NINos in Brent, this was the 2nd highest number in the UK, after Newham. Of these, three quarters were EU nationals. The number of NINo registrations peaked in 2014/15 but has since halved (from 26,915 down to 13,266 in 2019/20). This decline has been driven by falls in the number of EU nationals registering for NINos.

Number of registrations for National Insurance numbers in Brent by overseas nationals, 2011/12-2019/20



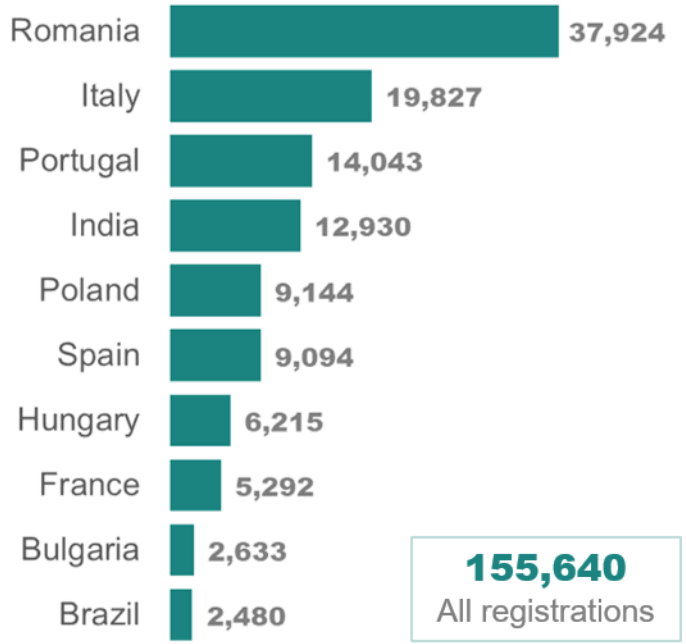
Note: figures only capture inflows of migrants, and relate to where someone was resident at the time of their application – there are no data about how many of those who registered have since left Brent.

Source: DWP (Stat-Xplore National Insurance Registration data). Time periods relate to financial year – April-March.

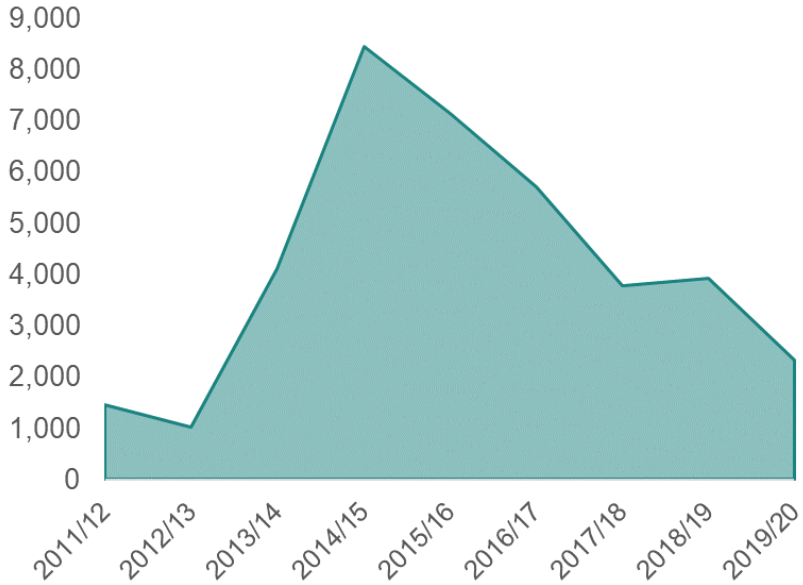
NINo registrations by nationality – top 10

- Over the period, 2011/12 to 2019/20, the most common EU nationalities included residents from Romania, Italy, Portugal, Poland and Spain. Outside the EU, registrations were highest from India and Brazil. The top ten nationalities shown below comprise 77% of all registrations.
- Registrations from Romanian nationals comprised one quarter (24%) of all registrations over the period – these peaked in 2014/15, following the lifting of EU transitional controls in 2014, which allowed Romanian nationals freedom to work in the UK.

Top ten countries of origin for NINo registrations in Brent
2011/12-2019/20



NINo Registrations – Romanian nationals, Brent
2011/12-2019/20

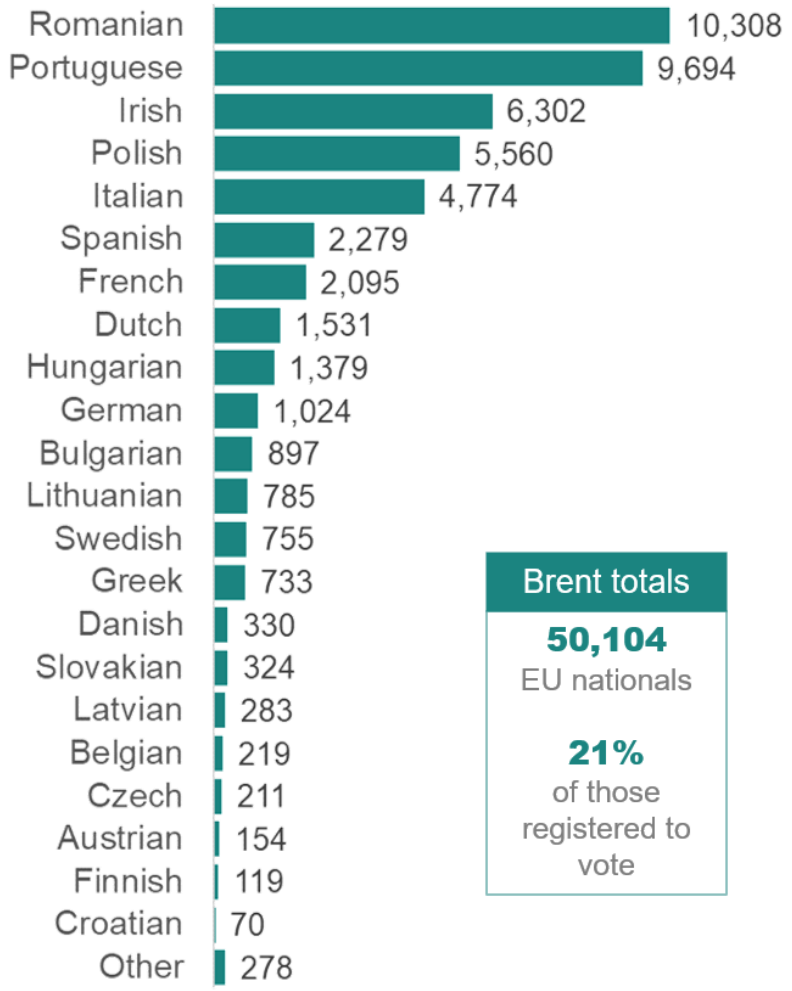


Source: DWP (Stat-Xplore National Insurance Registration data). Time periods relate to financial year – April-March.

EU nationals: voter data by nationality

- EU nationals can register to vote in the UK and the Council's electoral roll provides valuable insight about where EU voters live in Brent.
- The latest data for August 2020 show that 50,104 EU nationals were registered to vote in Brent – one in five (21%) of all registered voters. The largest groups were Romanian and Portuguese nationals, followed by Irish, Polish and Italian nationals.
- Electoral data only capture a subset of the EU national population, and will exclude children and those not registered to vote. However, while these data don't count everyone, they provide useful, and timely, data about where different communities live in Brent.
- The maps that follow profile some of the larger EU populations by polling district and ward.

No. of EU nationals registered to vote, Brent
August 2020

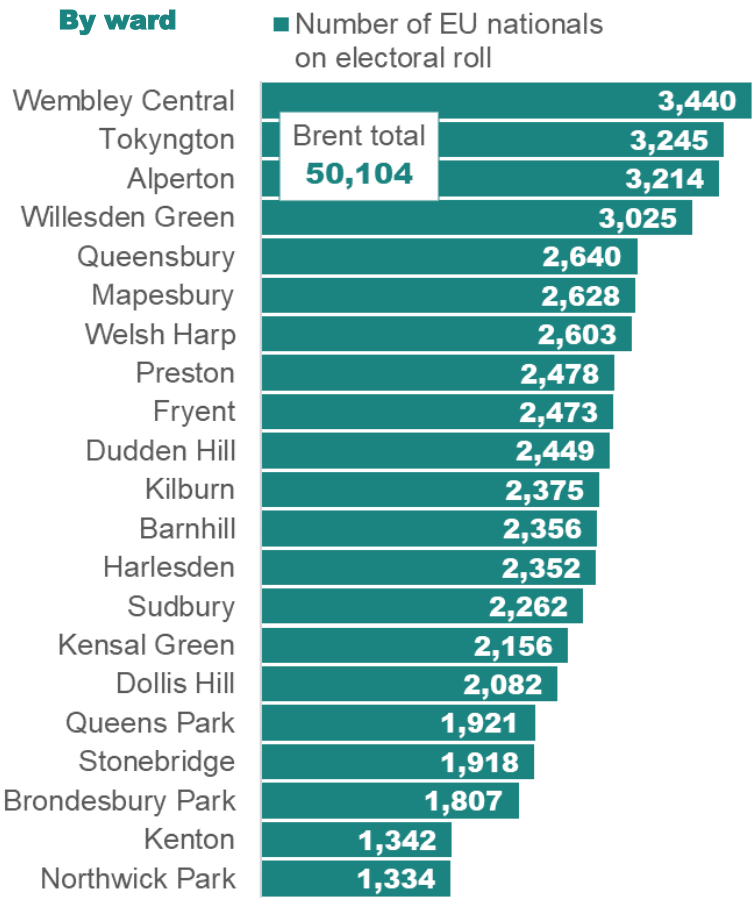


Source: Brent Council, Electoral roll data for 6th August 2020. Note: While electoral data provide lower counts than EUSS applications, patterns by nationality are highly correlated.

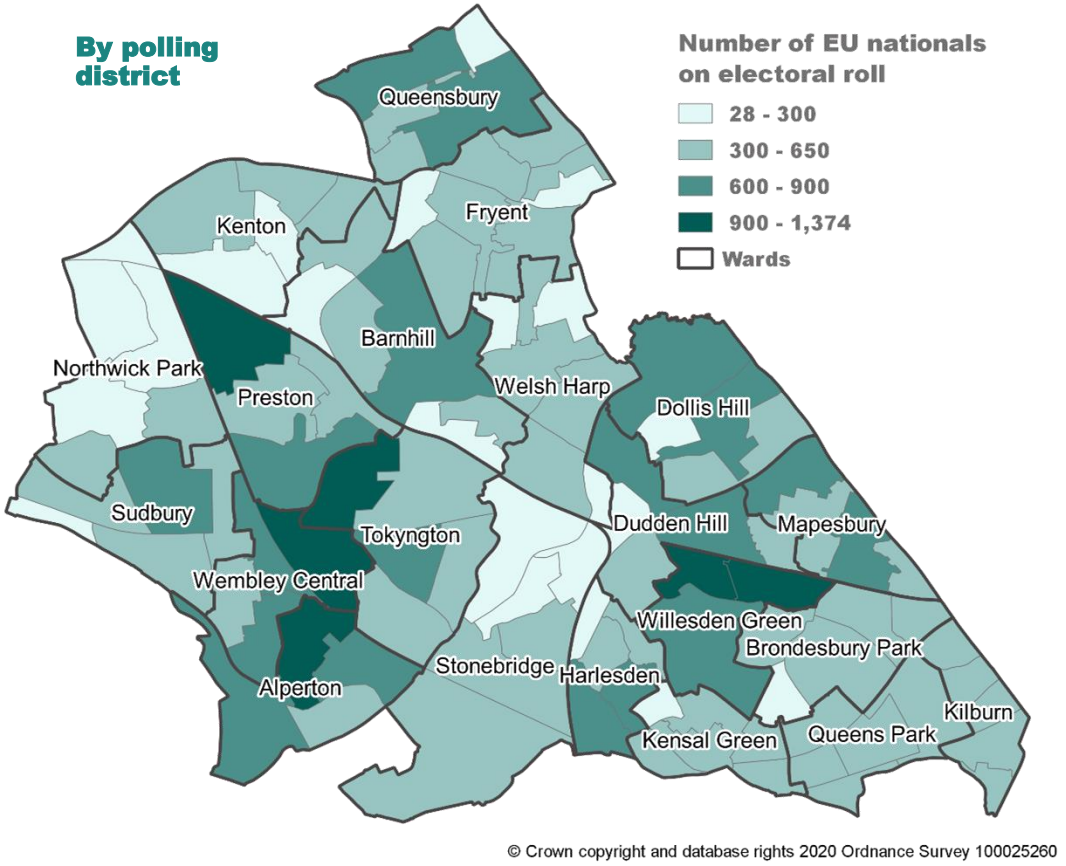
Electoral register: EU nationals (number)

Number of registered voters with EU27 nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district, August 2020

By ward



By polling district



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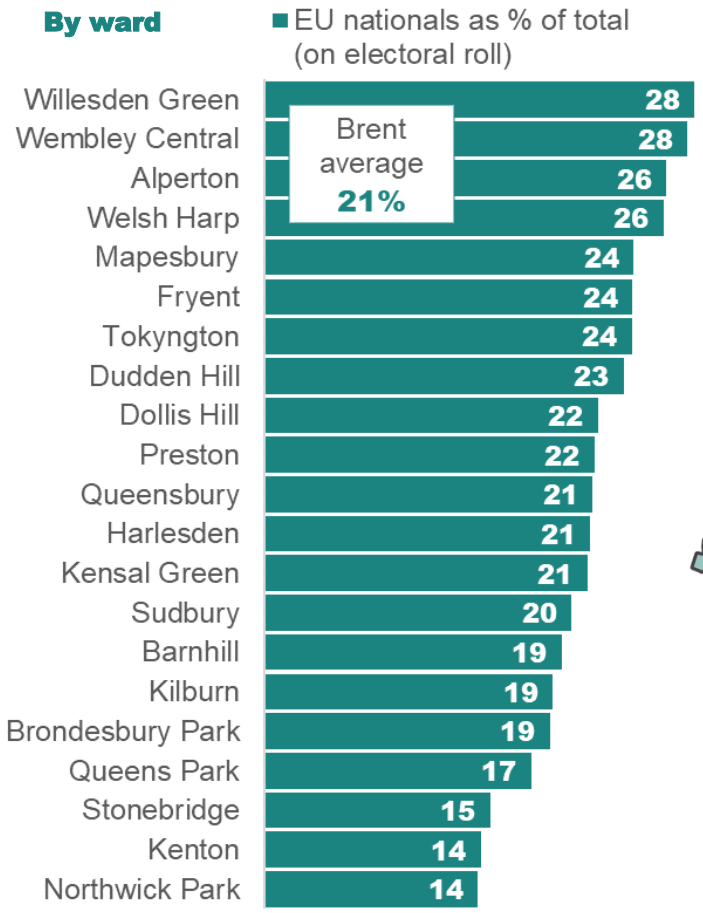
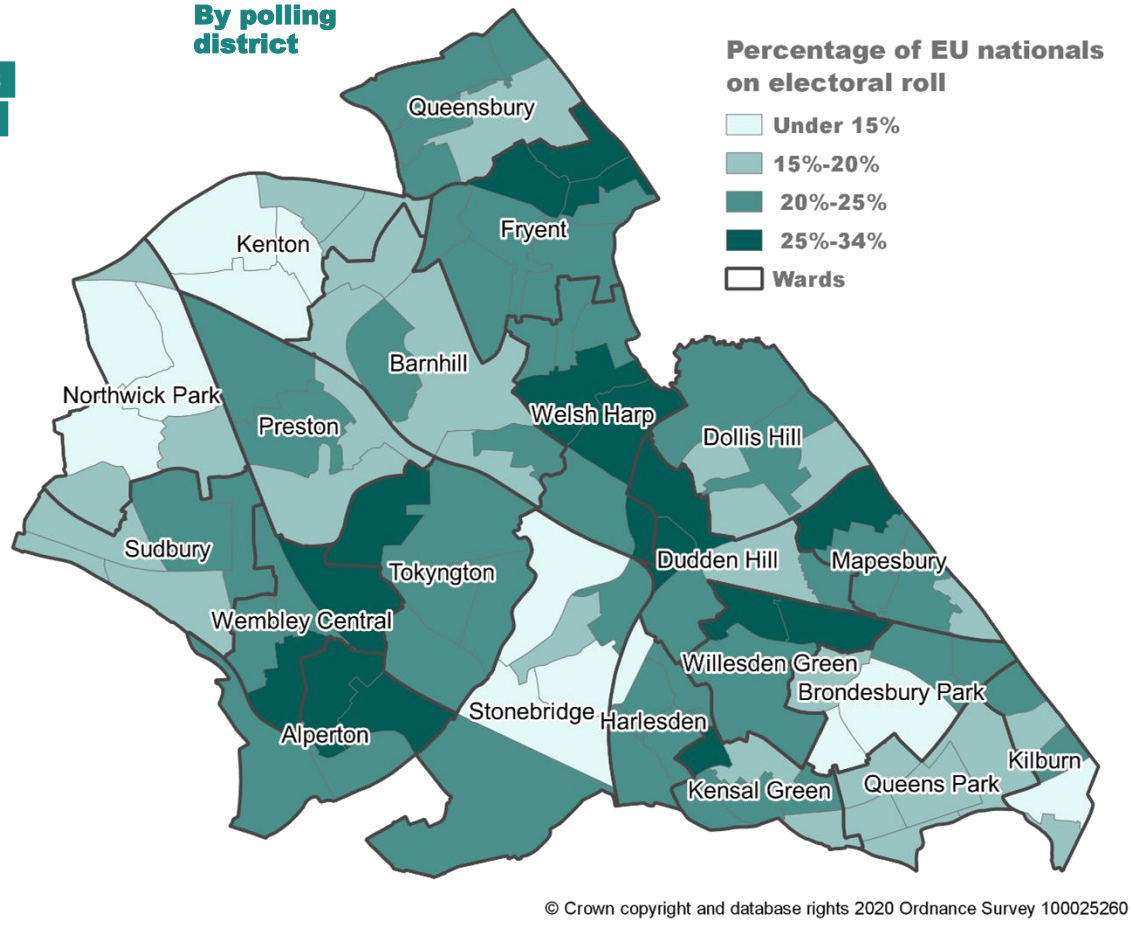
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: EU nationals (%)

Percentage of registered voters with EU27 nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district, August 2020





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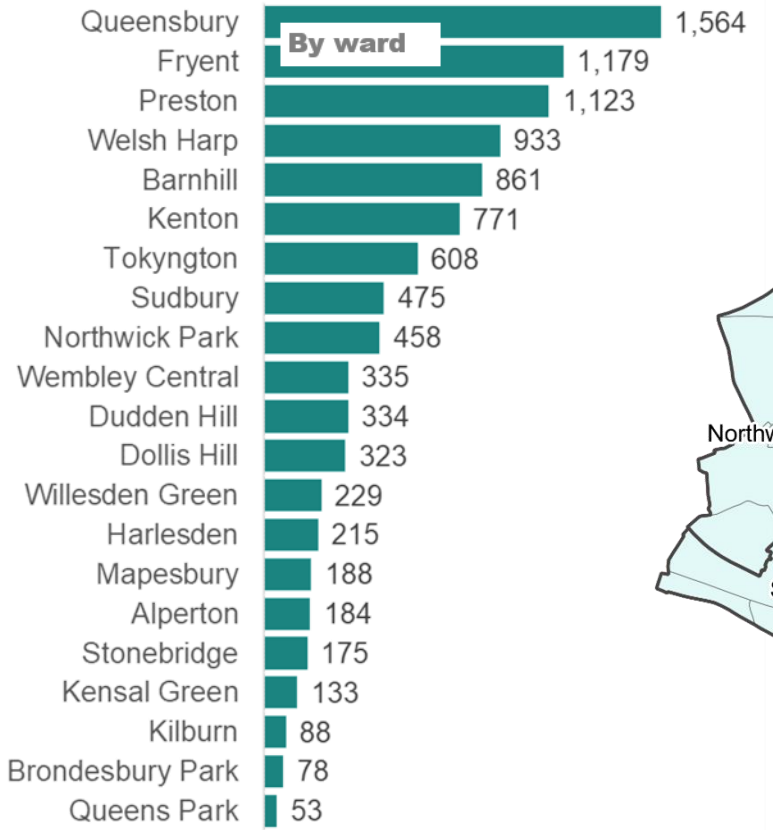
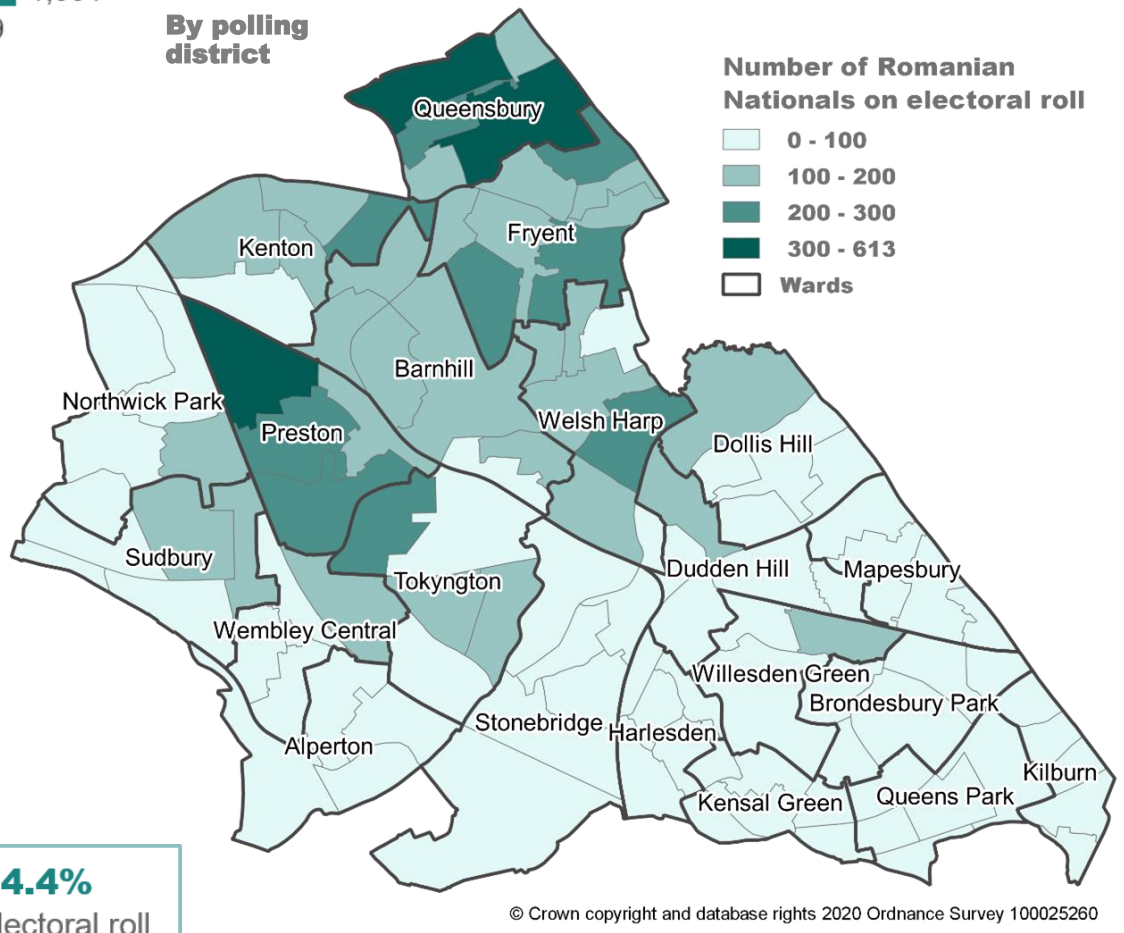
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: Romanian nationals

Number of registered voters with Romanian nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district, August 2020



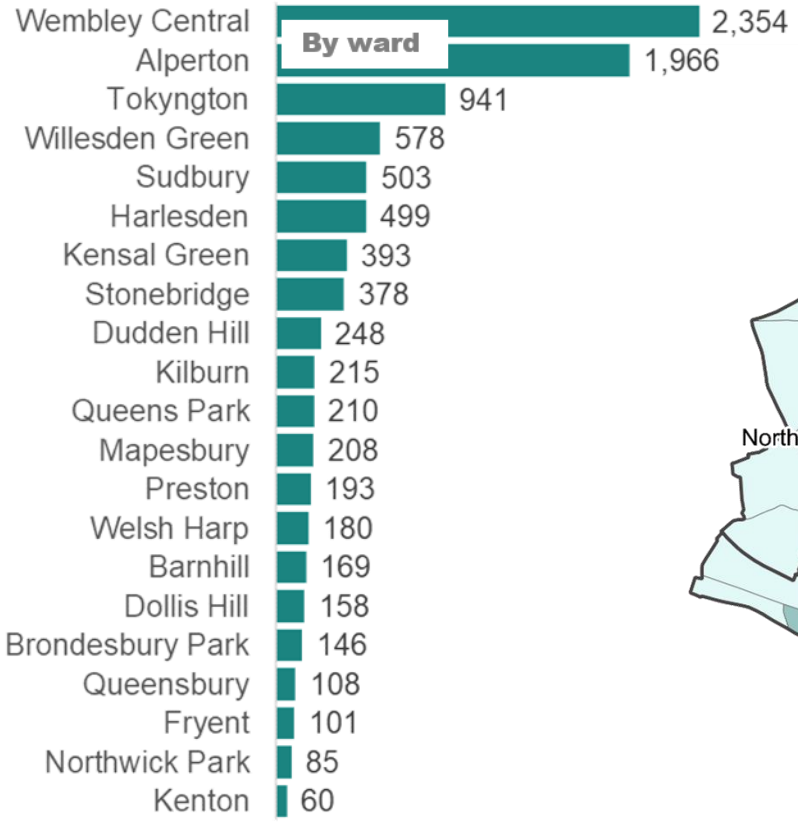


Brent totals	10,308 Romanian nationals	4.4% of electoral roll

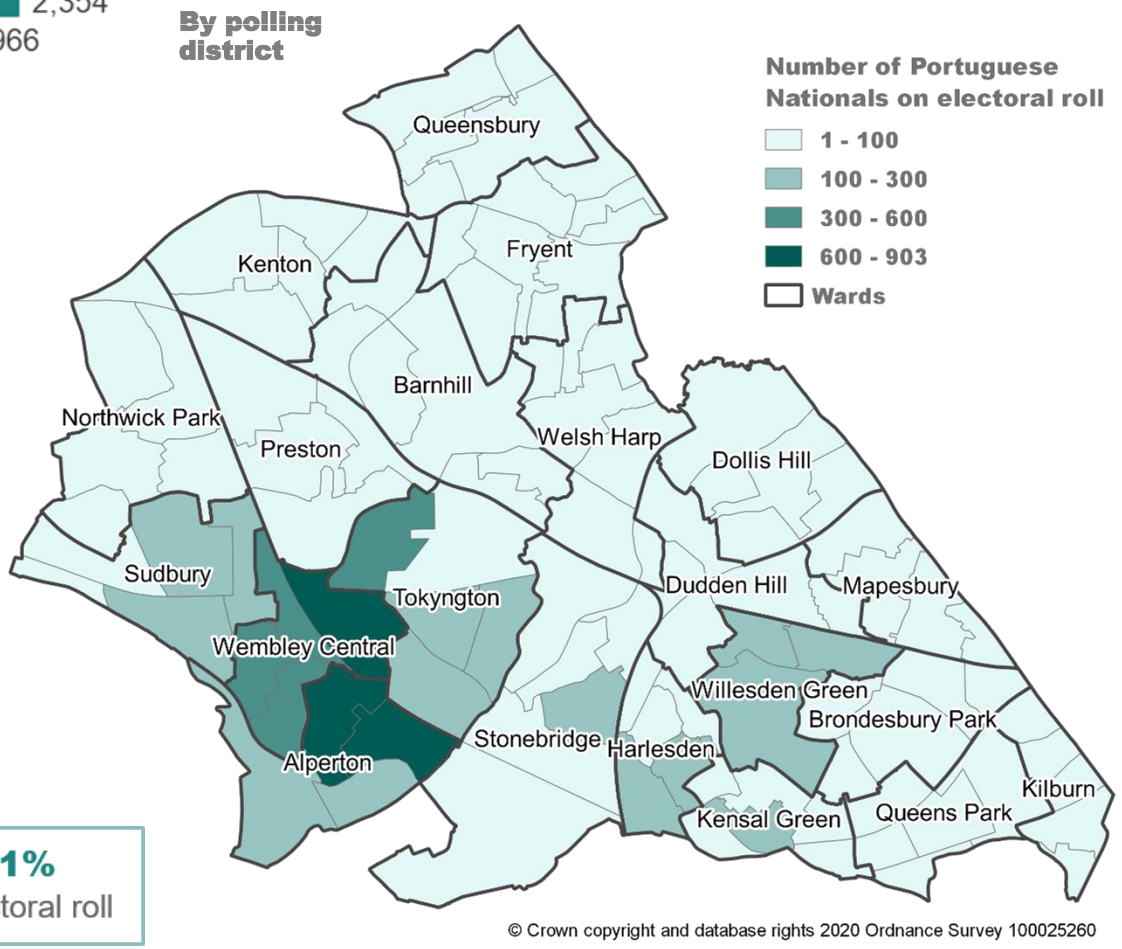
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: Portuguese nationals

Number of registered voters with Portuguese nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district
August 2020



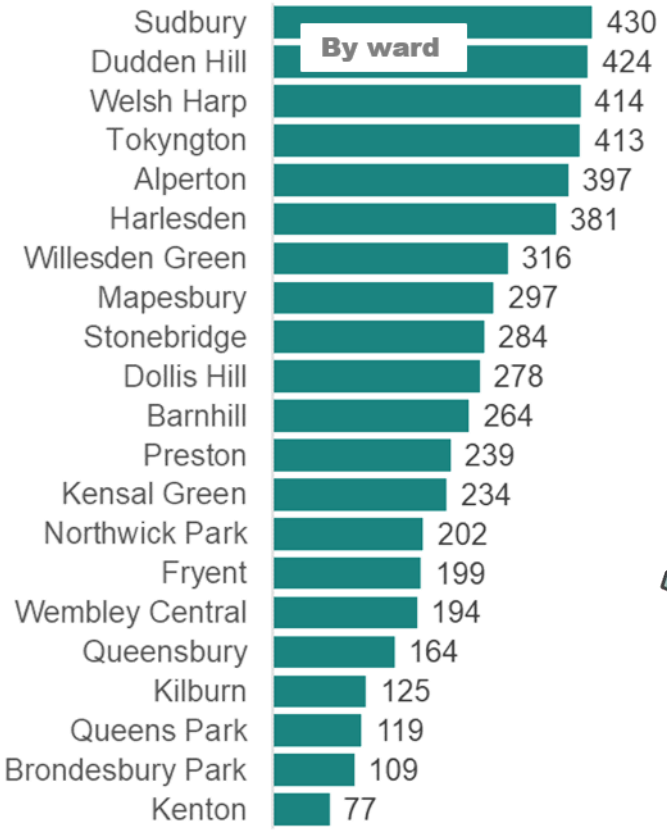
Brent totals	9,694 Portuguese nationals	4.1% of electoral roll



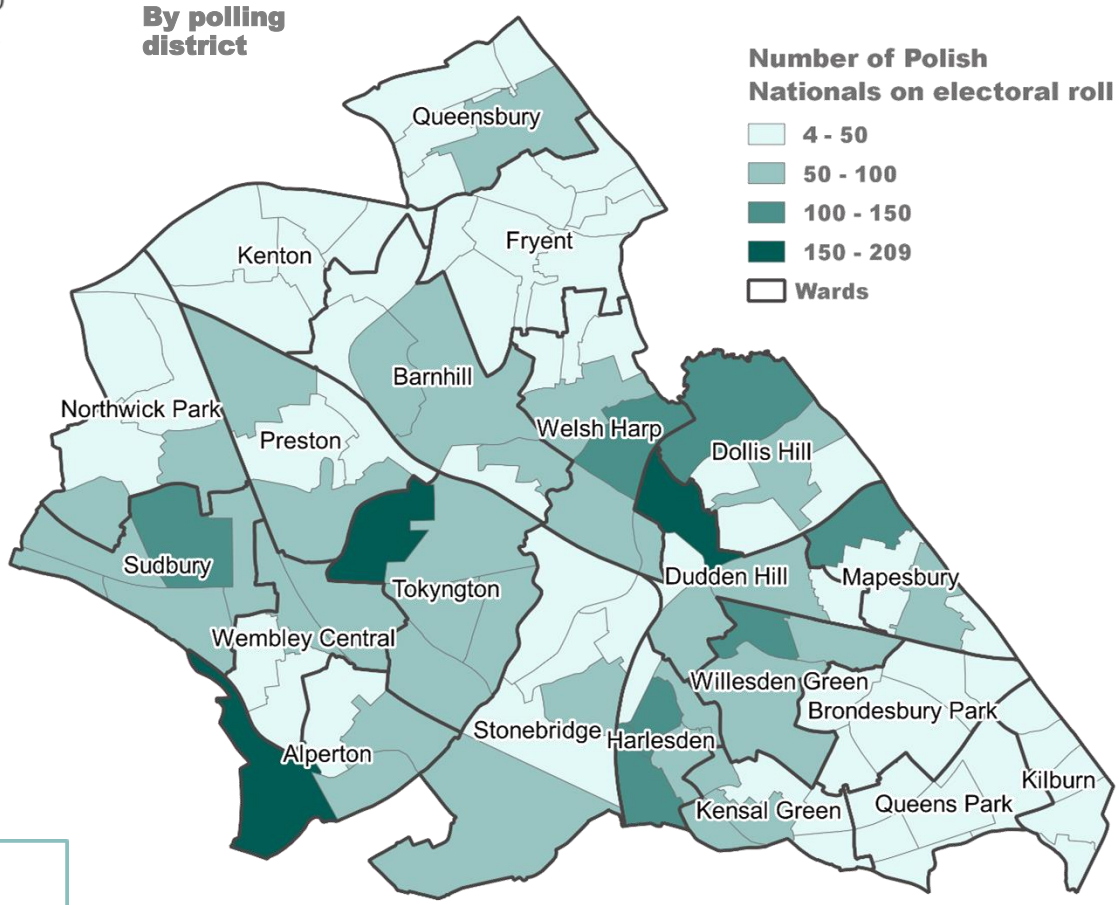
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: Polish nationals

Number of registered voters with Polish nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district
August 2020



Brent totals	5,560 Polish nationals	2.4% of electoral roll



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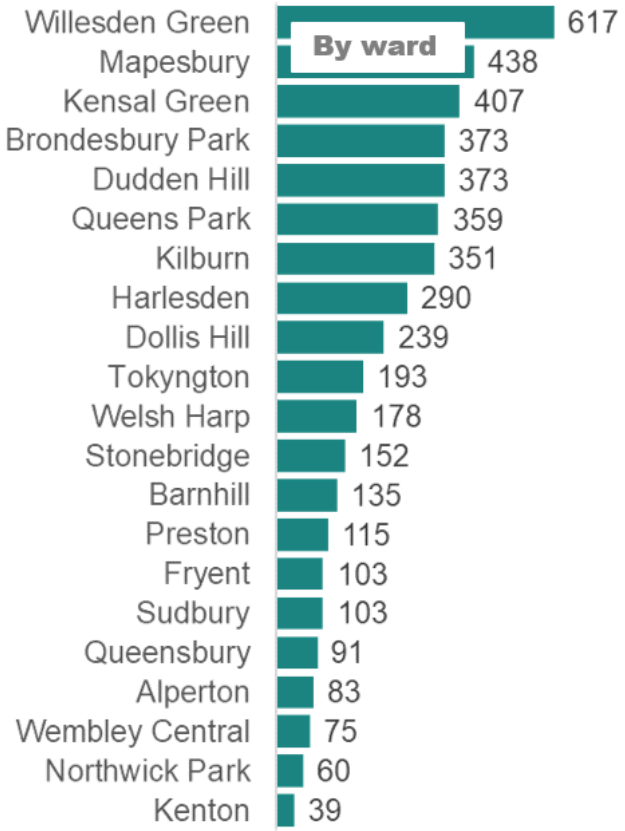
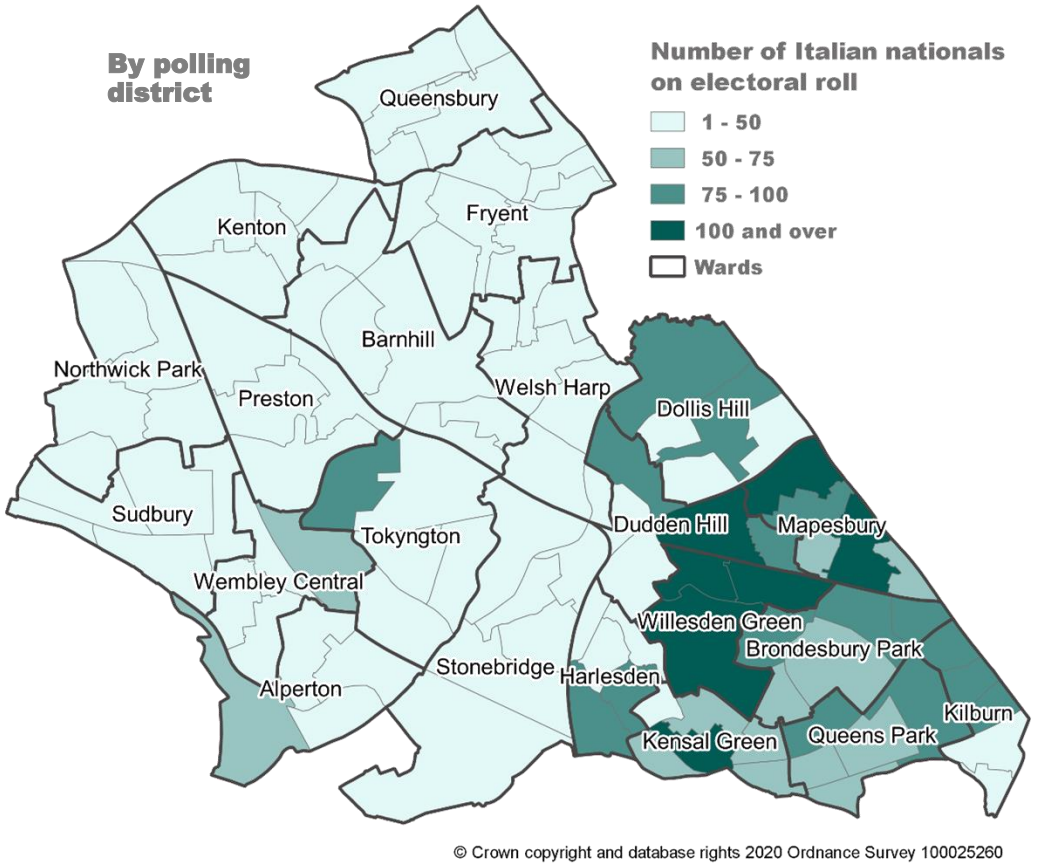
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: Italian nationals

Number of registered voters with Italian nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district
August 2020





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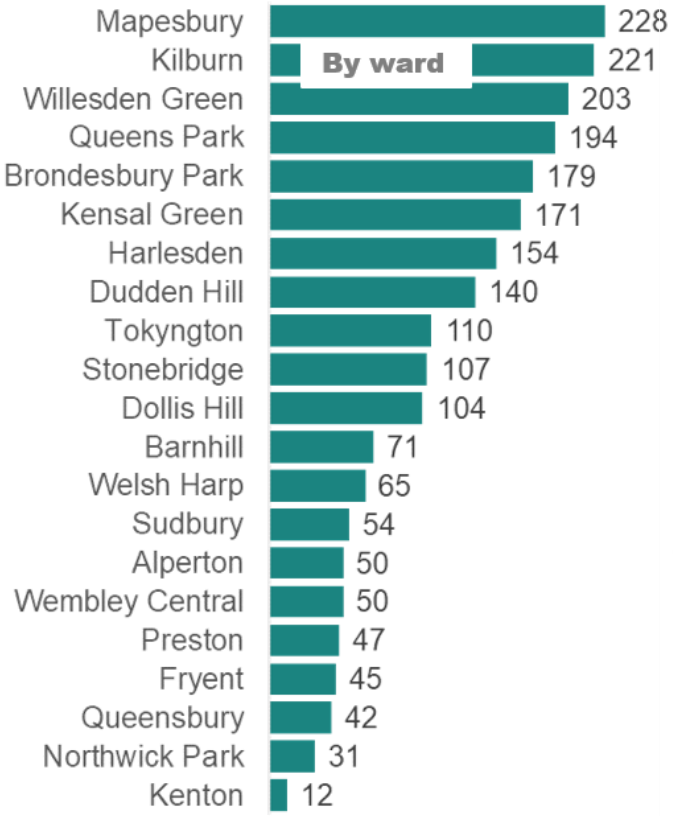
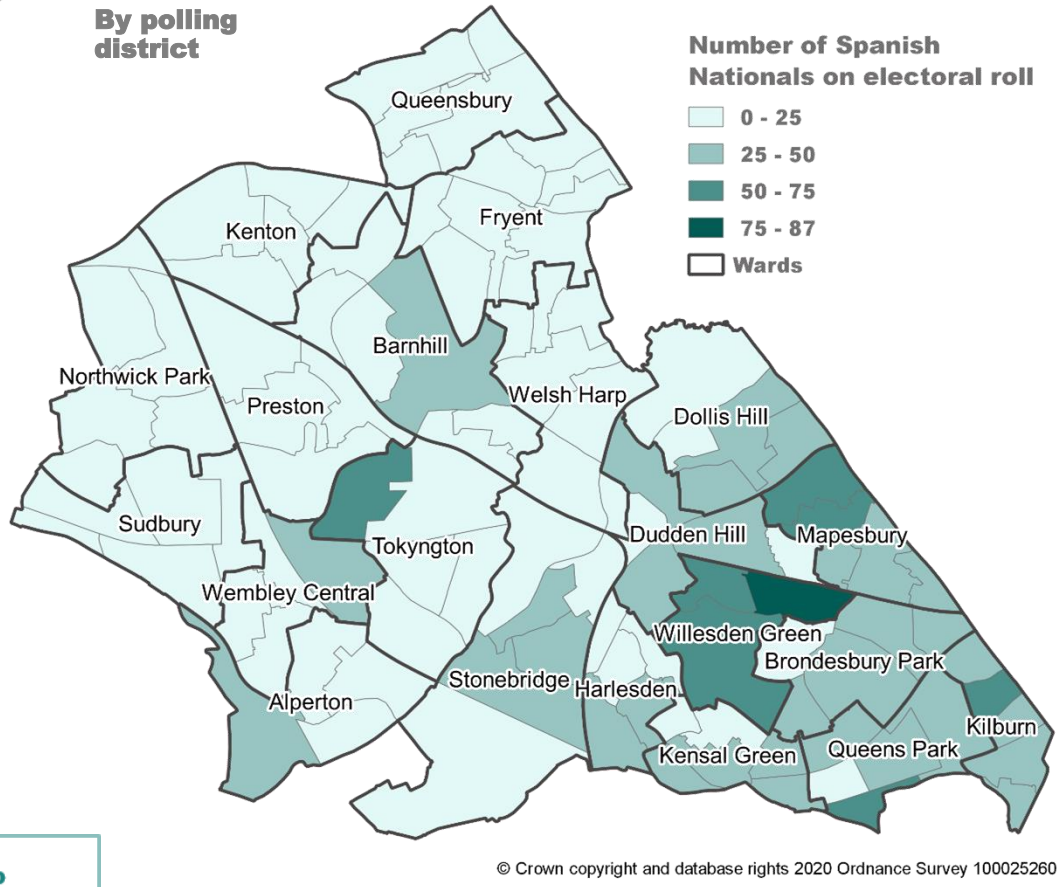
Brent totals	4,774 Italian nationals	2.0% of electoral roll

Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Electoral register: Spanish nationals

Number of registered voters with Spanish nationality in Brent, by ward and polling district
August 2020





Brent totals	2,279 Spanish nationals	1.0% of electoral roll

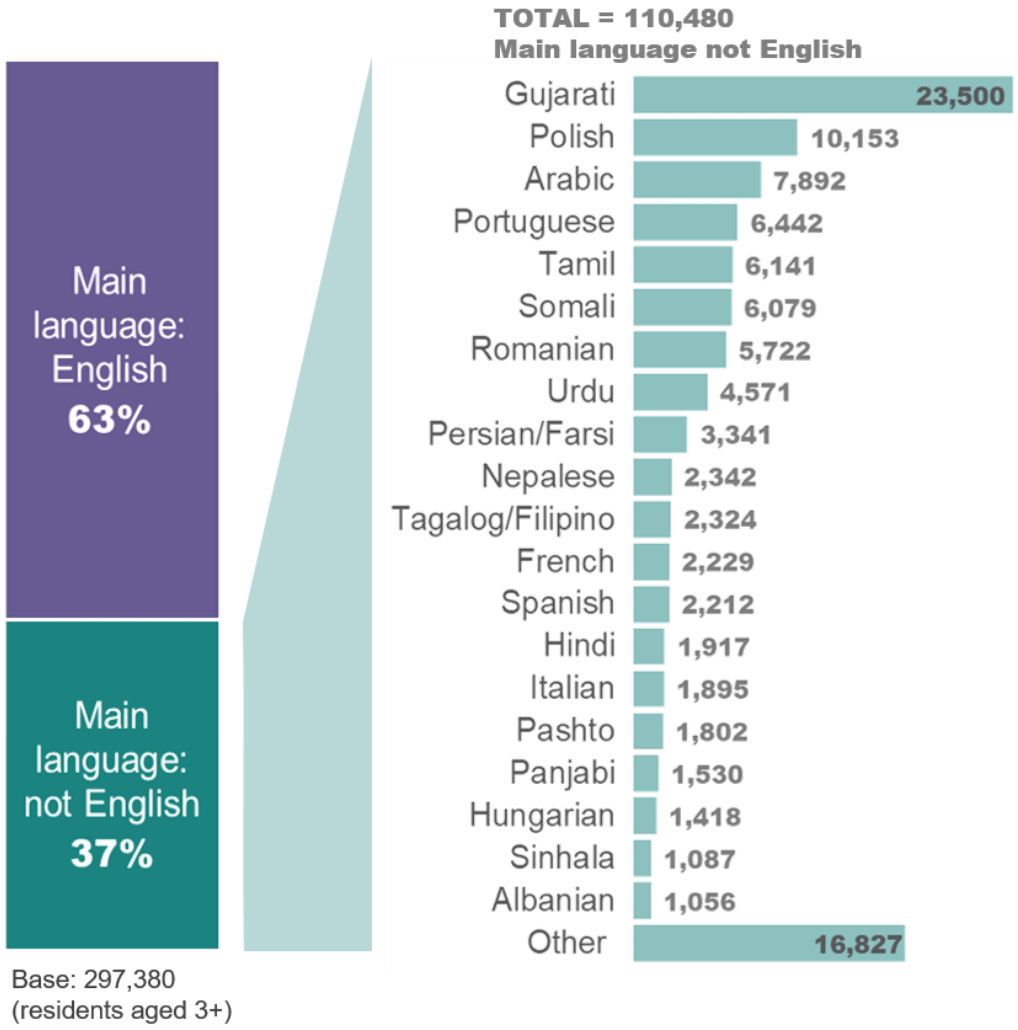
Source: Brent electoral register, August 2020. Brent total may include a small number not allocated to a ward.

Language and English proficiency

Main Language: 2011 Census

- Brent is one of the most linguistically diverse areas in the country – with around 150 different languages used*.
- In 2011, 37% of the Brent population used a main language other than English - second highest in England after Newham (41%).
- The largest groups were Gujarati and Polish speakers, who made up 7.9% and 3.4% of the Brent population in 2011. Considered together, residents from the ten largest groups made up over two thirds of all those with a main language other than English.
- **Sign language**: in total, 162 Brent residents used some form of sign language (108 used British Sign Language).

Residents by main language, Brent, 2011



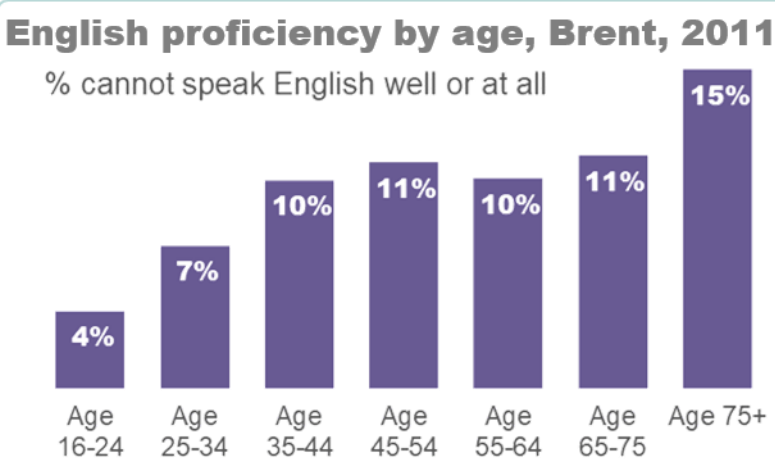
Source: 2011 Census (QS204EW) - figures relate to the population aged 3 and over.
* Estimate based on language data from the Jan 2020 Pupil Census for Brent (relates to pupils resident in Brent).

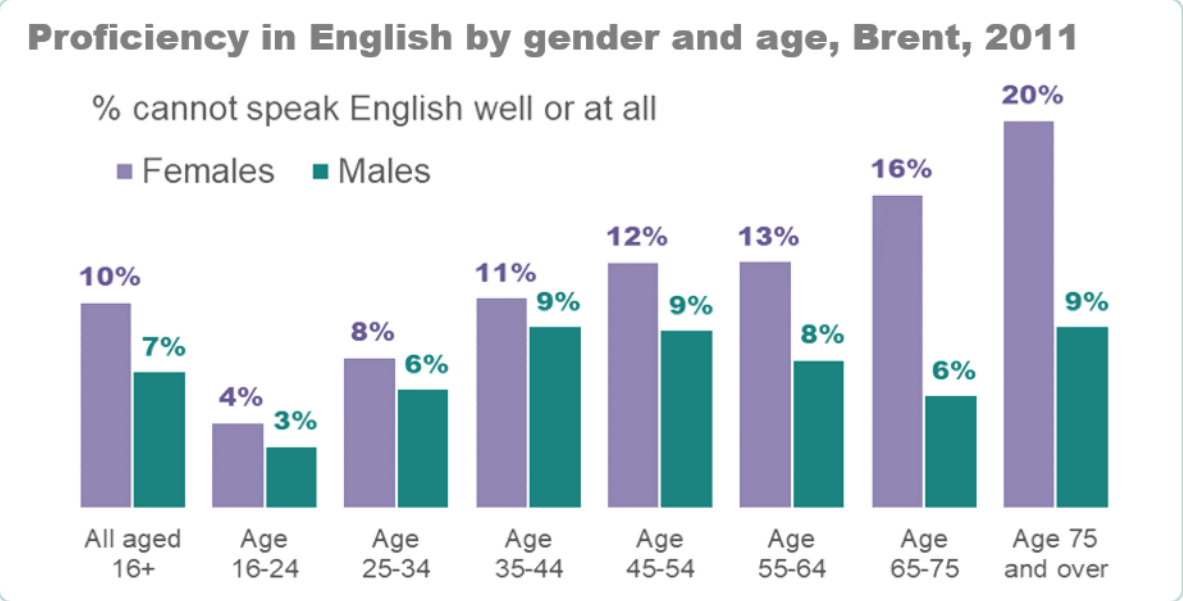
English proficiency by age – 2011 Census

- While the majority using other languages are also highly proficient in English, a significant minority are not. The Census found that 1 in 11 of the adult population in Brent (9%) could not speak English well, or at all. This group numbered 21,600 at the time of the Census and represented 22% of those who used a main language other than English.
- Proficiency in English was related to both age and gender: older women typically had poorer levels of proficiency in English.

9%

of adults could not speak English well (or at all) in Brent



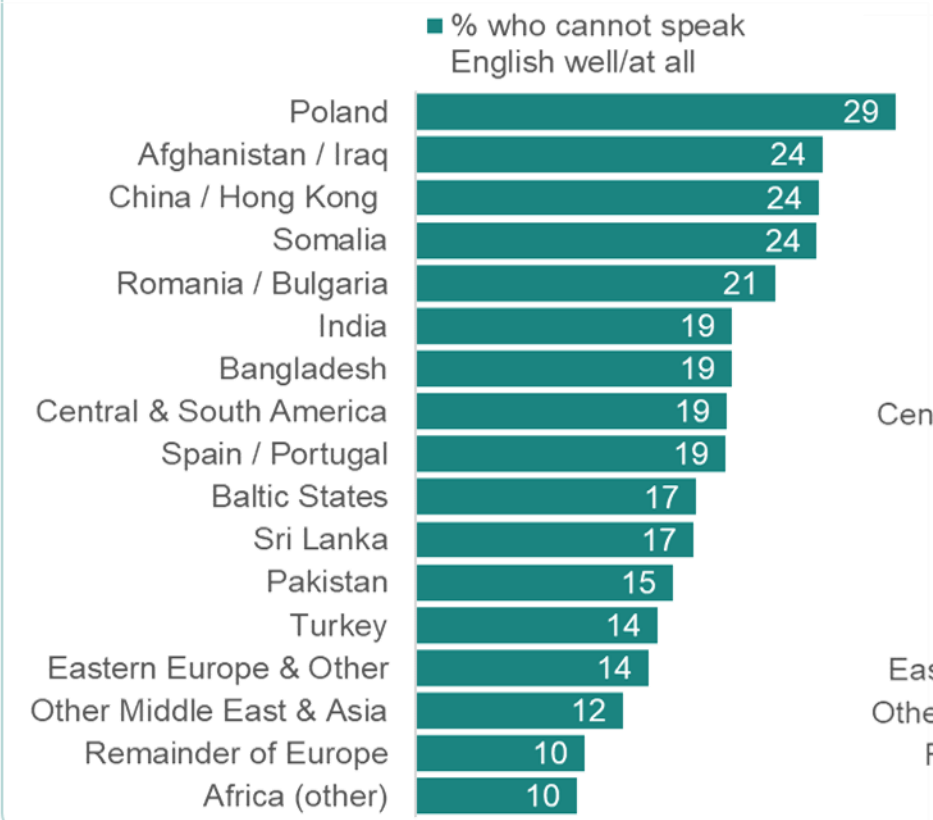


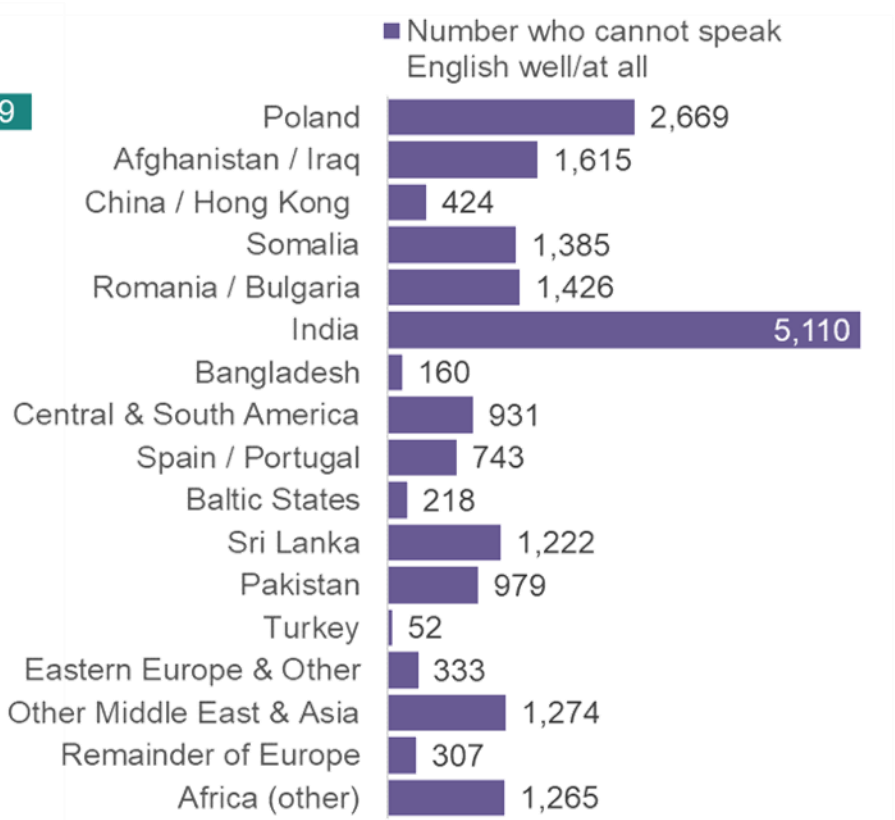
Source: 2011 Census (DC2105EW)

English proficiency by country of birth

Proficiency varies significantly by country of birth. Those most likely to have poor proficiency were from: Poland, Afghanistan/Iraq, China/Hong Kong, Somalia, Romania/Bulgaria: between 21-29% of residents born in these countries had little, or no, proficiency in English. In terms of numbers, residents born in India and Poland comprised the largest groups with poor proficiency (numbering 5,110 and 2,669).

Proficiency in English by country of birth (persons aged 16 and over)



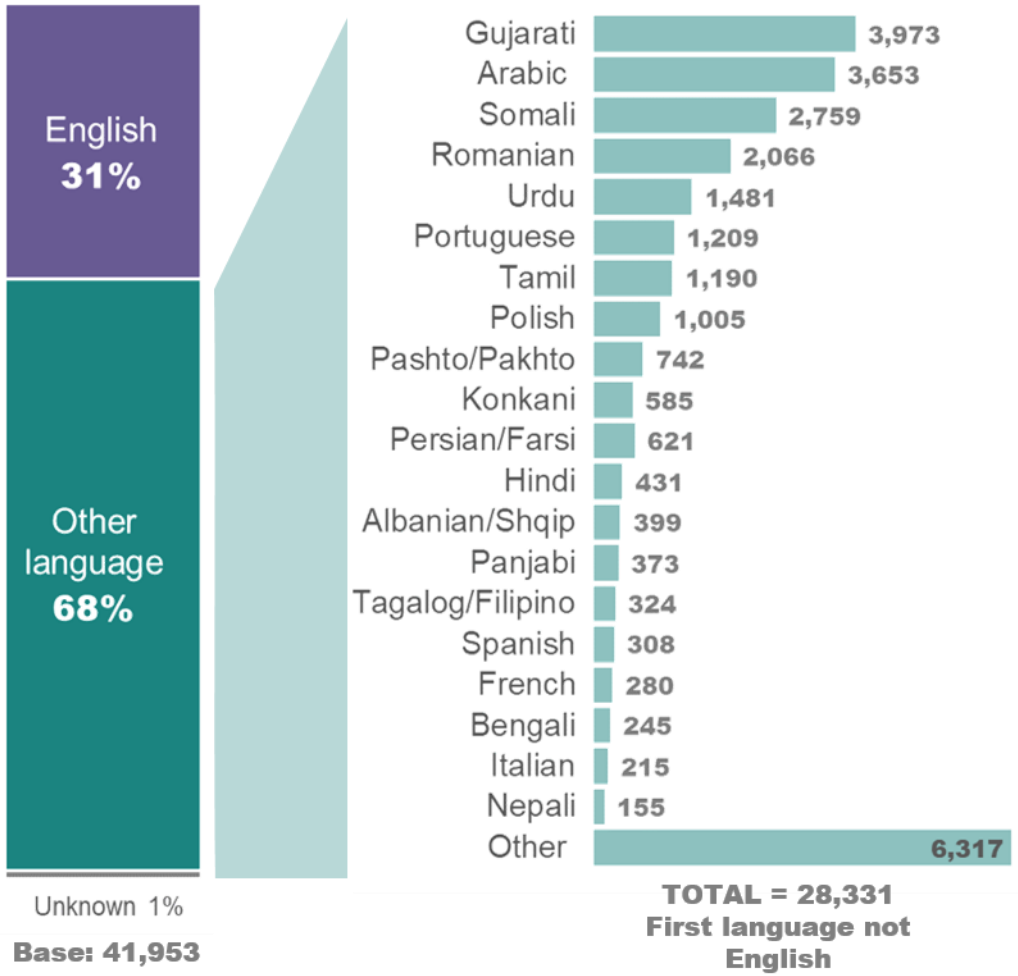


Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table CT0633). Notes: Baltic States = Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia; Eastern Europe & other includes = Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia & Malta. *Countries listed are those where more than 10% of the population could not speak English well, or at all.

Main Language: Pupil Census 2020

- Pupil data provides timely data about languages used by school children in Brent. Figures relate to ‘first’ language*.
- In January 2020, over two thirds of Brent pupils had a first language other than English. The analysis identified around 150 different languages used by pupils. The largest 20 are shown on the chart – these account for 78% of all pupils using a first language other than English.
- While the pupil data only captures the language profile of the child population, most of the languages that appear in the top 20 here also appear in the top 20 languages identified by the 2011 Census.

Pupils by first language, Brent, 2020

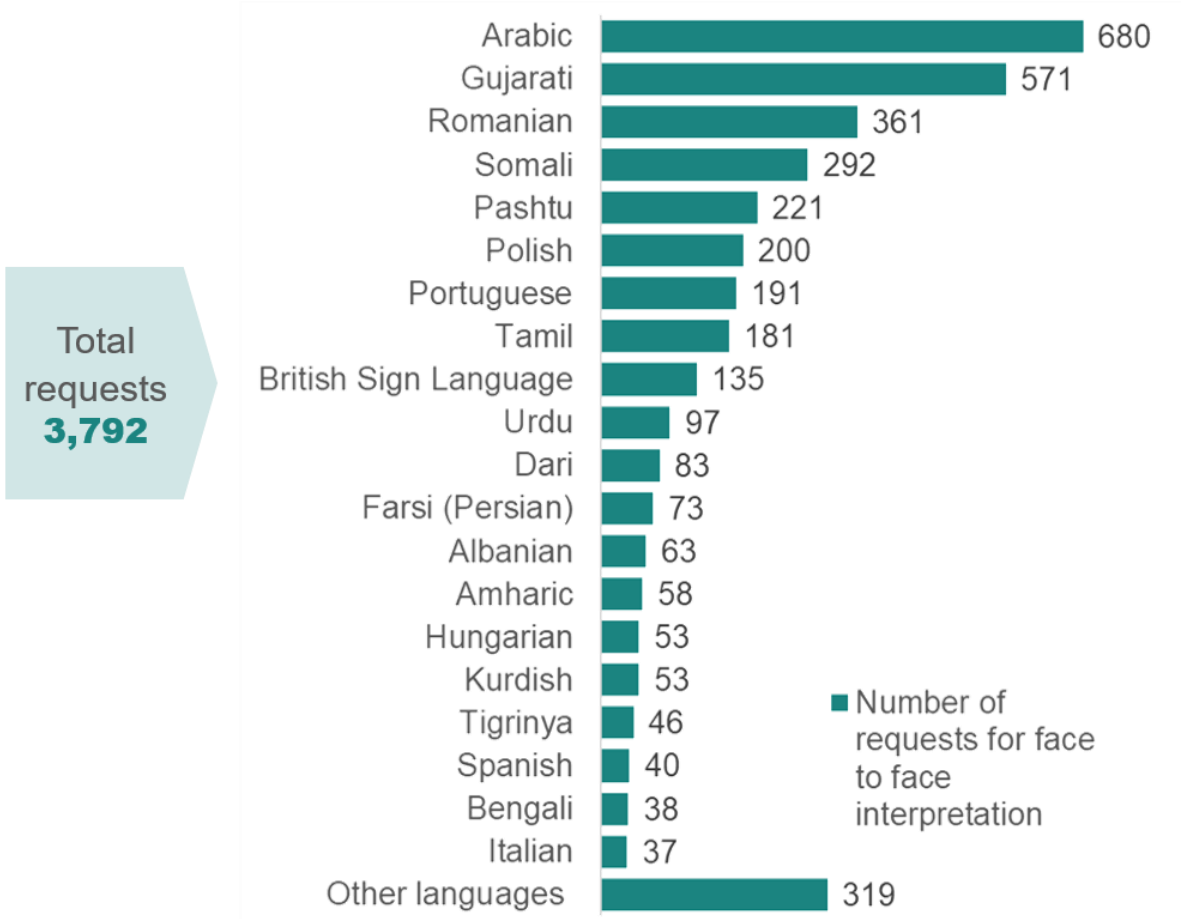


Source: Pupil Census, Brent, January 2020 (figures relates to Brent pupils who are resident in Brent). (*) First Language is defined as the language to which a child was initially exposed during early development and continues to be exposed in the home/community.

Interpretation and translation statistics (1)

- The Council organises translation and interpretation services, where required, to help residents access services. Statistics about requests provide insight into which language groups require support.
- Over the last year, a total of 3,792 requests were made for FTF interpretation. The top 4 languages were: Arabic, Gujarati, Romanian, Somali – together these accounted for 50% of all requests.
- British Sign language accounted for 135 requests (4% of the total)

Requests for face to face interpretation by language
Brent Council, August 2019-August 2020

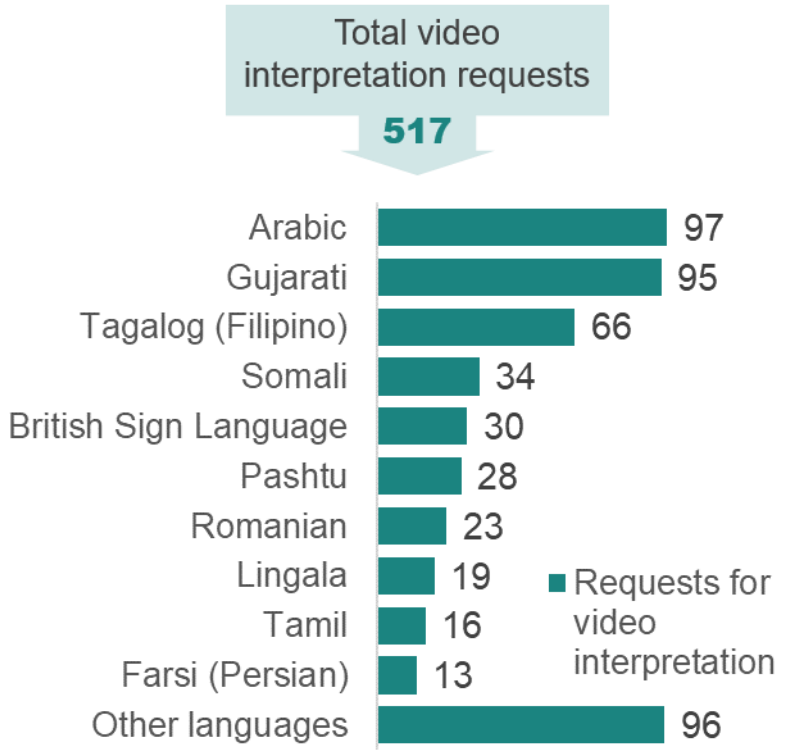


Source: DA Languages

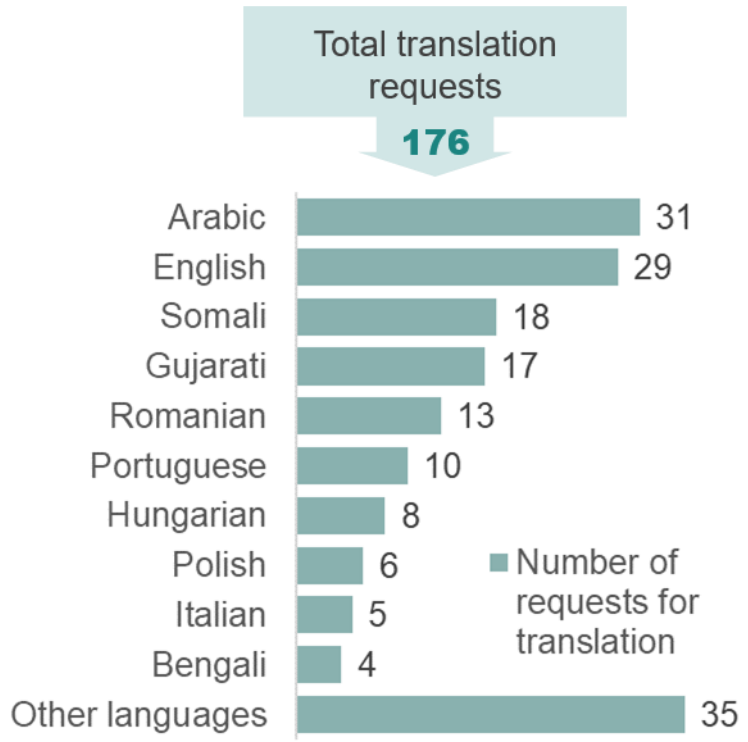
Interpretation and translation statistics (2)

- In addition, a total of 517 requests were made for video interpretation. The top 3 languages accounted for 50% of all requests and these were Arabic, Gujarati and Talalog (Filipino). There were 176 requests for written translation, including requests back into English.

Video interpretation requests by language
Brent Council, August 2019-August 2020



Document translation requests by language
Brent Council, August 2019-August 2020



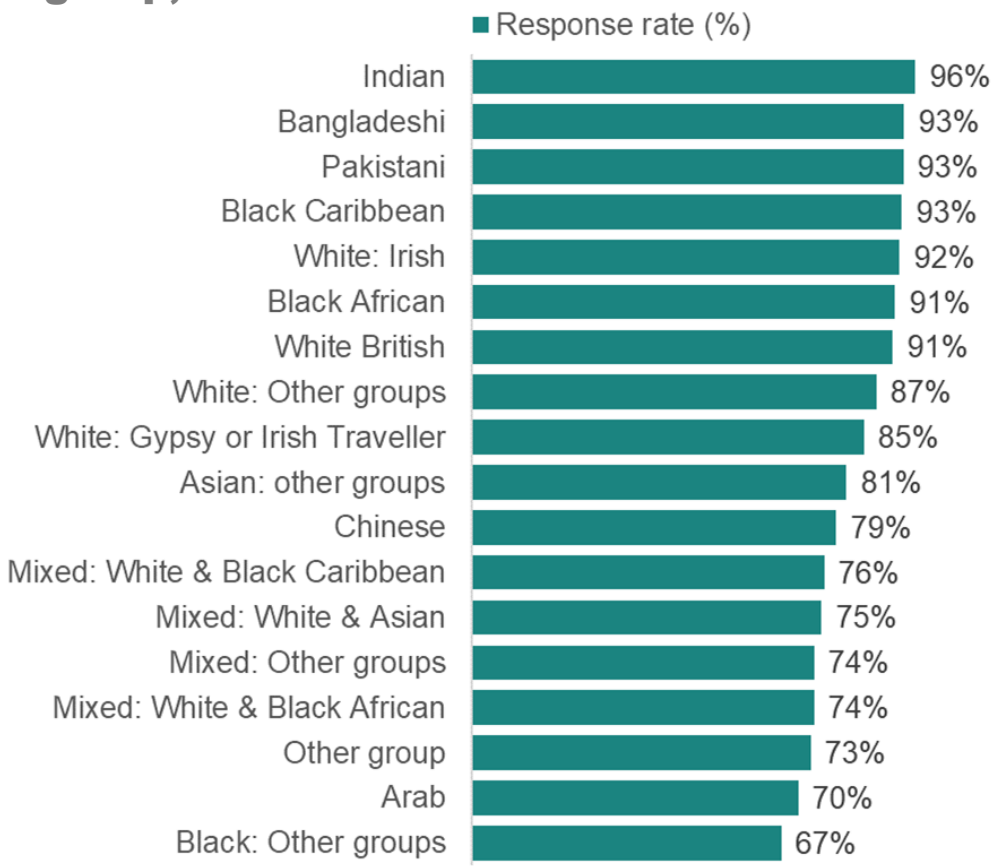
Source: DA languages

Appendix

Appendix 1: Census response rates by ethnicity

- In 2011, the census response rate in Brent was 88% – lower than the rate nationally (England & Wales, 94%) and the lowest rate across the Outer London boroughs, where the rate averaged 92%.
- By ethnicity, response rates were highest among Indian residents (96%) and lowest for residents from the Black Other ethnic group. Rates were also low for those from mixed ethnic groups, and the Arab group.
- Census response rates were typically lower for younger residents, particularly young men. Rates were also low for students, those living in privately rented accommodation and short-term residents.
- The response rates by ethnicity may, in part, reflect the characteristics of different populations – the ethnic groups with the lowest response rates had relatively young populations.

2011 Census - response rates by ethnic group, Brent



Note: Figures are person level response rates which are: the number of usual residents for whom individual details were provided on a returned questionnaire, divided by the estimated usually resident population.

Source: ONS, 2011 Census: Local authority response, return and coverage rates (December 2012).

Appendix 2: Useful data tools

EU nationals by borough (EUSS data - 2020) – interactive map

Application to the EU settlement scheme by London Borough – interactive maps showing where applicants from different nationalities are concentrated.

2011 Census tools on ethnicity, nationality and country of birth

The GLA has produced a number of tools to explore data on country of birth and ethnicity for boroughs and wards in London. These can be accessed on GLA datastore and include:

- **EU nationality – ward mapping tool**: For 2011 Census information about where different EU communities live in London - see the GLA's EU Passport held ward tool.

- **Ethnicity ward mapping tool**: For 2011 Census information about where different ethnic group populations live in London - see the GLA's ward ethnicity mapping tool.

- **Country of birth ward mapping tool:** For 2011 Census information about where different migrant populations in London live – see the GLA's country of birth mapping tool.