

**REGIONAL LANGUAGE NETWORK:  
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER**

# **International Communities in Sheffield**

**RLN Data & Research Enquiry Report**

**Data Request:** Data on how many different international communities live in Sheffield and how many different languages are spoken.

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

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*Please quote this reference number if you contact us about this report.*

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## **Glossary/Acronyms**

APS	ANNUAL POPULATION SURVEY
DWP	DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS
GOR	GOVERNMENT OFFICE REGION
HEI/S	HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION/S
LFS	LABOUR FORCE SURVEY
NINO/s	NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER ALLOCATIONS TO OVERSEAS NATIONALS
RLN D&R	REGIONAL LANGUAGE NETWORK DATA AND RESEARCH
RLN	REGIONAL LANGUAGE NETWORK
UK	UNITED KINGDOM
YH	YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

## Summary

It is not possible to give an exact number of the languages spoken in Sheffield as statutory data on first language of the population is not currently available. However, the size of international communities in the city can be assessed using nationality data, which also provides a good indication of languages likely to be spoken in the area. It should be borne in mind that there are limitations to consider when interpreting the data presented in this report.

### Key Findings

- Latest population estimates indicate that the largest international communities in South Yorkshire are (in descending order):
  - Poland
  - Pakistan
  - Slovakia
  - China
  - India
  - Ireland
  - Zimbabwe
  - Turkey
  - Germany
  - Ghana
- In 2008, the non-UK nationalities with the highest number of national insurance number allocations to people living in Sheffield are:
  - Slovak Rep
  - India
  - Poland
  - Pakistan
  - China Peoples Rep
  - Malaysia
  - Nigeria
  - France
- Within the Sheffield higher education student population, the main non-UK nationalities are:
  - China
  - India
  - Malaysia
  - Nigeria
  - Ireland
  - Pakistan
  - Zimbabwe
  - Taiwan
  - Greece
  - Libya
  - Poland

In conclusion and based on the nationality data currently available, it appears that

the main international communities within Sheffield are

- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Polish

The languages likely to be spoken by these people are:

- Mandarin Chinese
- Hindi
- Urdu
- Sindi
- Polish
- English

# Introduction

## Aims

The aim of this report is to identify the international communities within Sheffield and the languages other than English spoken within these communities. Unfortunately, there is no statutory data available that identifies the languages spoken by all the United Kingdom (UK) population. Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain the exact number of language speakers in Sheffield. However, the Regional Language Network Data and Research service (RLN D&R) collates data which can help to estimate the size of local population in terms of languages other than English.

## Data

RLN D&R uses relevant data such as nationality, which has been identified as likely to indicate languages spoken in the local area. This report contains local population data on nationality from the Annual Population Survey (APS), National Insurance number allocations to overseas nationals (NINOs) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The data provided provides an assessment of the size and range of international communities and languages spoken in the area but the following should be borne in mind:

- There is no precise figure on the size of international communities in Sheffield as population data are estimates derived from sample surveys;
- There is no statutory data available that includes the required language variables;
- Nationality etc. provide good indications of first language but do not necessarily mean the person speaks the language of interest;

## Geography

The geographies used in this report are Sheffield City Council local authority (where available). In the absence of local data, figures are presented for South Yorkshire (SY) NUTS2 region and the Yorkshire and Humber (YH) Government Office Region (GOR).

More information on UK geography is available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/beginners\\_guide.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/beginners_guide.asp)

## Available Data

### Nationality of South Yorkshire Residents

The latest population estimates indicate that:

- The Yorkshire and Humber population stands at approximately 5,080,383 people;
- Of these, 4,888,310 are UK nationals (96%);
- Around 192,000 YH residents are non-UK nationals (4%);
- 1,275,782 people are estimated to be living in SY (25% of the total YH resident population);
- Of these, 49,638 people are non-UK nationals i.e. 4% of the SY population.

Table 1 shows the non-UK nationalities and number of residents of South Yorkshire (this data is not available for Sheffield due to small numbers).

The list includes all nationalities for which data is available; some data is suppressed due to small numbers, so the fact that a particular nationality does not appear in Table 1, does not necessarily mean there are no resident nationals in the area.

**Table 1: South Yorkshire Residents by Non-UK Nationality (2007)**

Country	Number of SY Resident Nationals	% of SY Resident Population
Poland	5350	0.42%
Pakistan	4974	0.39%
Slovakia	4903	0.38%
China	4221	0.33%
India	3722	0.29%
Ireland	3457	0.27%
Zimbabwe	2373	0.19%
Turkey	1650	0.13%
Germany	1464	0.11%
Ghana	971	0.08%

Source: Office for National Statistics (2008). Annual Population Survey January to December 2007.

Due to the small sample sizes, APS nationality and country of birth data are not available at local authority level. National insurance number allocations to overseas nationals (NINOs) in the area can give an idea of the number of nationals who moved into Sheffield in a given year but the data do not provide total numbers or the number of people who moved out of the area.

### **National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals (NINOs) in Sheffield**

In 2008, there were 5,410 NINOs allocated to non-UK nationals living in the Sheffield local authority area. Table 2 shows the nationalities for which over 100 NINO allocations were made during 2008.

**Table 2: NINOs in Sheffield (2008)**

Country of Nationality	Number of Sheffield NINO Allocations
Slovak Rep	970
India	750
Poland	630
Pakistan	340
China Peoples Rep	280
Malaysia	170
Nigeria	120
France	110

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2008.

Data rounded to nearest 10.

## The International Student Community in Sheffield

According to the latest Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data:

- The Sheffield<sup>1</sup> non-UK national university population in academic year 2007/08 was 13,820;
- Of these, the main non-UK student nationalities are Chinese (15% of Sheffield non-UK students), Indian (12.5%) and Malaysia (12%).

Table 3 presents the main non-UK student nationalities in Sheffield; it includes nationalities with 250 or more recorded students.

**Table 3: Sheffield Non-UK National Student Population**

Country of Nationality	Number of Sheffield Students
China	2075
India	1730
Malaysia	1660
Nigeria	485
Ireland	420
Pakistan	395
Zimbabwe	390
Taiwan	355
Greece	325
Libya	255
Poland	250

*Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2009. HESA Student Record 2007/08.  
Data rounded to nearest 10.*

## Conclusions

From the available data, it appears that the main international communities within Sheffield are Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and Polish; these nationalities appear in each of the datasets examined within this report.

The languages likely to be spoken by these residents are Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Sindi, Polish and English.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield.



## **Data Notes**

### *Office for National Statistics - APS*

APS estimates are based on small sample sizes and are subject to a margin of uncertainty. They should therefore be treated with caution, particularly cell counts less than 2000.

Data rounded to nearest 5.

Whilst nationality/country of birth can be good indicators of language/s spoken, it is not possible to verify whether or not the people identified by the above data actually speak the language of interest.

### *Department for Work and Pensions - NINOs*

Data is rounded to the nearest 5.

Data relate to calendar years 2008.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.

The data do not give any indication of the number of people moving out of the area.

## References

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Naqshbandi, M., 2006. *Islam and Muslims in Britain - A Guide for Non-Muslims*. City of London Police. Cited online: <http://guide.muslimsinbritain.org/guide1.html>

NINOs: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals 2008. 100% data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Office for National Statistics: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

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**[www.rln-research.com](http://www.rln-research.com)**