



Information paper

The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales

-NS-SEC and Labour Market

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1. Summary

In May 2005 ONS published a consultation document 'The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales'. Responses were received from nearly 500 users, presenting arguments for the inclusion of around 70 topics (over 2,000 'topic responses').

Each topic was evaluated using the criteria detailed in the consultation document and a scoring system based on the criteria was used to rank the topics according to the strength of user requirement.

This paper provides a summary of the user requirements, and the scores given, for the following topics:

- NS-SEC
- Occupation
- Industry
- Economic activity
- Hours worked
- Number of jobs
- Voluntary work

2. NS-SEC: Total score = 80

(Including self-employed or employee, whether or not a supervisor and number of employees at the workplace).

2.1 Introduction

Over 30 users commented on the requirement for NS-SEC data, or on the individual variables that are used to derive NS-SEC. Responses were received from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

There are three methods that Census are considering for deriving NS-SEC; the Full Method, the Reduced Method and the Simplified Method.

The variables required to derive NS-SEC using the Full Method of derivation include:

- Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) code (which requires job title and industry amongst other variables)
- economic activity status
- self-employed or employee
- size of organisation
- supervisory status

If the Reduced Method for deriving NS-SEC was to be used then information on size of organisation would not be required. If the Simplified Method of derivation was to be used then information on size of organisation, supervisory status and self-employed or employee would not be required.

Occupation, industry and economic activity status all have uses in their own right, and detail of these user requirements are provided in individual summary reports. However, the main user requirement for the other variables is in the derivation of NS-SEC. In cases where these variables do have an additional user requirements in their own right, details are provided.

2.2 User Need: Score= 9

A number of uses of NS-SEC data have been identified from across the user community.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) uses some of the NS-SEC classifications in grant allocation for police services and personal social services for younger adults. The use of the data for resource allocation purposes is also supported by a number of local authorities.

Carmarthenshire County Council comments that "*NS-SEC data is used to assist local to national labour market research, policy and monitoring on a consistent basis throughout the UK*". Other local government and other data users also mention the contribution of the data in policy development and monitoring, improved service provision and to inform various strategies such as economic development and community regeneration strategies. A few users mention that NS-SEC can be used as a measure of deprivation. Nottingham City Council comments that, "*the percentage of the population in routine and semi-routine occupations has been used as an indicator of lower skills and incomes*". Other uses of the data are for equality monitoring purposes. The South West Public Health Observatory comments that NS-SEC data is used to monitor the inequalities agenda.

Only a couple of users commented that the Reduced Method for deriving NS-SEC would be suitable if the Full Method of derivation could not be used.

Users also identified a major use of the variables, self-employed or employee, whether or not a supervisor and size of organisation as key inputs in the derivation of NS-SEC. However, self-employed or employee and size of organisation also had user requirements in their own right.

Self-employed or employee

Self-employed or employee data can be used to analyse local entrepreneurship and local labour markets. Other than its use in deriving NS-SEC, the main user requirement for this data is for policy development and monitoring and also some local government resource allocation.

The small business service (an agency for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) would use this variable cross tabulated with ethnicity to inform the DTI public service agreement target which aims to increase self-employment among under-represented groups. A number of local government users also have a policy need for this data. The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities states, "*areas that have high self-employment rates might be an indication of lack of job opportunities especially if employment is in low paid occupations. Thus, this would be evidence to support local authority policies allocating employment land in these areas*". A few users mention the use of the data in resource allocation. Hampshire County council comment, "*self-employment levels can be a key determinant in the allocation and targeting of economic and community development funding.*"

Number of employees

Other than its use in deriving NS-SEC, the main user requirement for this data is in local government policy development and monitoring. An indication of the size of workplaces can inform development of regional and local economic policy and is used in local development frameworks.

2.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 8

Respondents from across the user community require data for small geographies and small population groups to be able to target resources and service provision to areas of deprivation. Generally, users did not specify the level of geography at which the data is required but there is a clear requirement for NS-SEC data at a local level at to allow policy development and monitoring of impact at local areas.

2.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

The majority of users were unable to identify an alternative source for NS-SEC data for local areas.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is recognised as a potential alternative source. However, it is a sample survey and does not present information at the level of geographical detail required. For this reason it cannot fully meet the user requirements.

2.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 10

Users have a strong requirement for multivariate analysis of NS-SEC data with a range of variables, especially those users that require NS-SEC data for purposes of equality monitoring. Variables that are suggested for multivariate analyses include age, gender, ethnicity, household information, qualifications and health data.

Manchester City Council comments that, "*from an economic point of view, NS-SEC is an integral part of the Census, as no other datasets provide the NS-SEC breakdown cross-tabulated with many other variables*". This view is supported by other data users.

2.6 UK Comparability: Score = 10

Although the major uses of this data would be at a local level, the majority of users who responded to the consultation require data for the whole of the UK. Detailed information is required on a consistent basis from local to a national level to allow comparisons between different areas. Local authorities require data for the whole of the UK so that they can understand the context into which the local area fits.

2.7 Continuity: Score = 4

NS-SEC data was produced for the first time after the 2001 Census. Therefore, if the questions that are needed to derive NS-SEC by the Full Method are asked in 2011 then there will be continuity with the 2001 Census. However, if the Reduced Method for deriving NS-SEC is chosen then there would be a small drop in quality, which may be viewed as weakening continuity of the data.

2.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identify a requirement for the collection of all the variables that allow the Full method for deriving NS-SEC to be used. The main uses of NS-SEC data include central and local government resource allocation and policy development and monitoring. To be able to meet these needs, users require data for small geographies and small population groups. A clear case was made for multivariate analysis with NS-SEC data and the majority of users require UK wide data for consistency and comparability reasons. NS-SEC data was produced for the first time in 2001 and continuity will only be disrupted if either the Reduced or Simplified Method for deriving the classification is used instead of the Full Method as used in 2001.

The score that this topic receives currently places it in category 1 which means there is a clear case for inclusion of the variables that allow NS-SEC to be derived in the 2011 Census. However, whether the Full, Reduced or Simplified Method for deriving NS-SEC is used in 2011 will depend on the outcome of question testing and continuing research.

3. Occupation: Total score = 76

3.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of occupation was placed in category 1, meaning that ONS believed there was a clear case for including this topic in the 2011 Census.

Almost 40 responses were received commenting on the subject of occupation from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

3.2 User Need: Score = 8

A number of potential uses of information on occupation have been identified from across the user community.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) uses some of the categories from the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) and the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) in grant allocation. Local government users agree that collecting information on occupation is a critical input to SOC which allows NS-SEC to be derived. A number of local government authorities also use occupation data amongst other labour market information to assist in the allocation of resources such as economic and community development funding, funding bids for training and business support initiatives and other local initiatives such as communities first.

At a local level, occupation data is required to understand economic performance and analyse local labour markets. Local government and other data users require data on occupation to inform their local development frameworks and economic and community development strategies. They also use the data for housing, transport and land use planning.

Policy development and monitoring is a key local government use of the data. Occupation information feeds into government Public Service Agreement targets about regional competitiveness and can inform equality and diversity strategies and economic and community development policies. The data is also seen as a measure of deprivation and the data aids service provision, such as providing skills and training to areas of need.

3.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 7

Information on occupation is required at small areas to analyse local variations and allow targeted small scale initiatives. However, many respondents did not specify a level of geography. For example, Reading Borough Council state that, "*local authorities and other public and voluntary sector organisations have very limited and restricted budgets, to secure additional funding from external sources it is essential to have detailed evidence showing the areas of need in small population groups and small geographies*". The Department for Transport (DfT) state that, "*fine geographical detail is needed for transport modelling/planning*". Hampshire County Council state that, "*sub-regional analysis often relies on building up from small geographies to create areas that cross administrative boundaries*". There is an indication from users that data would be required below ward level.

3.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

A large proportion of users were unable to identify an alternative source of occupation data.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is recognised as a possible alternative source that produces data on occupation. However, it is a common feeling among respondents that this source would not fully meet user needs. The sample size is

too small and the survey cannot produce detailed information for small geographies.

Other potential sources users mentioned include the Annual Population Survey (APS), the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) and the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), although users had reservations about the data that could be obtained from these sources.

3.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 10

Information on occupation would be analysed with a full range of Census variables including basic demographics such as age, sex and ethnicity, transport to work, qualifications, and other labour market variables such as industry and hours worked.

3.6 UK Comparability: Score = 9

Almost all users who responded to the consultation require consistent and comparable data for the whole of the UK. UK wide data will assist national labour market research and allow policies to be developed on a consistent basis throughout the UK.

A couple of local government users are interested in UK level occupation data for international comparison.

3.7 Continuity: Score = 9

Data on occupation has been collected in the Census for many years so including a question on occupation in 2011 will ensure continuity with previous Censuses. However, the question that is asked may depend on changes to SOC.

3.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of occupation data from the Census, the strongest of these needs being for central and local government resource allocation. Data is required for small geographical areas and although alternative sources of occupation data are available, none of them can fully meet user requirements. There is a very clear case for multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. Occupation data has been collected on many previous Censuses.

The score that this topic receives currently keeps it in category 1 which means there is still a clear case for inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census.

4. Industry: Total score = 70

4.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of industry was placed in category 1, meaning that ONS believed there was a clear case for including this topic in the 2011 Census.

Over 30 responses were received commenting on the subject of industry from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

4.2 User Need: Score= 7

A number of uses of information on industry have been identified from across the user community.

Industry data is generally required at a local level to understand economic performance and analyse local labour markets. Local government and other data users require industry data for the purposes of policy development and monitoring. The information is used in monitoring regional spatial strategies and local strategies and plans such as local development frameworks and economic development strategies. It is also used when reporting on government Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets on regional competitiveness. There is a particular emphasis on monitoring areas of disadvantage and identifying concentrations of employees in low paid industries.

A number of local government users comment on the use of industry data for land use, transport and housing planning. The Association of Greater Manchester authorities states, "*knowledge of trends in employment by industry assists planners in developing or revising employment land policies*". The Department for Transport (DfT) are also interested in industry data for transport planning. They explain that the data will help to understand freight movements and business travel. At a local government level, industry data is a key determinant for the allocation and targeting of economic development funding for land use, housing and transport planning. It is also used to help determine funding bids for training and business support initiatives.

Industry data can also be used operationally to help with the coding of occupation data. In some cases, a job title is a single word, but in many cases, it is made specific by a qualifying term. An industry statement can be one of these qualifying terms. It is used to determine the most appropriate Standard Occupational Classification code in a list of indexing words that rely on additional information. A Standard Occupational classification code is required to derive the National Statistics Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC).

4.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 7

Information on industry is required at low geographical levels such as ward level and below in order to analyse local labour markets and allow targeted small scale initiatives. Hampshire County Council comment that, "*economic and community development policies and programmes are becoming increasingly targeted with greater socio-economic and geographical precision for greater effectiveness*". DfT comment that, "*fine geographical detail is needed for transport modelling/planning*". They require data at Output Area. Some sub-regions do not follow district/administrative boundaries so small area data is required to build these up from wards, Super Output Areas etc.

4.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

A large proportion of users were unable to identify an alternative source of industry data.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is an alternative source that produces data on employment by industrial sector. However, it is a common feeling among respondents that this source would not fully meet the user requirements because the sample size is small and the data cannot be produced for small geographies.

Other potential sources users mentioned include the Annual Population Survey (APS), the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR provides good quality information on industry but not at the level of geographical detail required.

4.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 9

Information on industry would be analysed with a full range of Census variables including basic demographics such as age, sex and ethnicity, transport to work, qualifications, and other labour market variables such as occupation and hours worked.

4.6 UK Comparability: Score =9

Almost all users who responded to the consultation require consistent and comparable data for the whole of the UK. UK wide data will assist national labour market research and allow policies to be developed on a consistent basis throughout the UK.

A number of local government users are interested in UK level industry data for international comparison.

4.7 Continuity: Score =9

A question on industry has appeared on the Census since 1911.

4.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of industry data from the Census, the strongest of these needs being for local government policy monitoring and resource allocation. Data is required for small geographical areas, and although alternative sources of industry data are available, none of them can fully meet the user requirements. There is a clear case for multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. Industry data has been collected on many previous Censuses.

The score that this topic receives currently moves it from category 1 to category 2. In its own right, there was not an overwhelming requirement for information on industry. However, the data can be used to help in the coding of some occupations and this is being taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to include this question in the 2011 Census.

5. Economic Activity: Total score = 83

5.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005 the topic of economic activity was placed in category 1, meaning that ONS believed there was a clear case for including this topic in the 2011 Census.

Over 40 responses were received commenting on the subject of economic activity status from a variety of central government, local authority and other data users.

5.2 User Need: Score = 9

A range of uses of information on economic activity status have been identified from across the user community.

There is a requirement from central and local government to use this information for the purposes of resource allocation. ODPM use employee status, particularly adults who have never worked or the long term unemployed to determine grant allocation. Local Government use the data as a determinant for the allocation of community and economic development funding, and allocation of neighbourhood renewal funds targeted at deprived areas. They also require the data for service provision such as social services and housing.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) require data on economic activity to inform their policies on recruitment of ethnic minority and disabled personnel. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) state that the data will inform work on policy development and monitoring to promote equality and support discrimination claims in terms of employment for equality groups. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and local Government users also require this data for the purposes of policy development and monitoring. Specific examples include policies that evaluate employment issues and local economic development strategies.

The data is required at a local level to understand labour markets in order to increase employment and economic activity rates and decrease unemployment rates. Local government and other data users comment that information on economic activity status is used as an indicator of deprivation and worklessness. Areas that have high economic inactivity are likely to be income deprived and are a focus for economic regeneration. Local housing, land use and transport planning also require economic activity status data. Alternatively, areas of high economic activity indicate the opportunity for inward investment for local areas.

Local government and other data users mention that this data provides the employment status outputs required for the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC).

A number of users comment that they would like economic activity data to be presented for the working age population and everyone over the age of sixteen. There were also many comments relating to the economic activity data of students. It is a common feeling that the way the data was presented in 2001 was unclear and could be improved. A number of users would also like to see data presented for full and part-time students separately.

5.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score =8

Information on economic activity would be required at Super Output Area and one user requires the data as low as Output Area. DWP state that, "*DWP effort is now much more targeted at small groups/areas and we need to monitor and evaluate effectiveness*". Small area data is required to pinpoint local variations in economic activity, to target resources effectively and to focus economic

development at a small area level. Small area data is also required to identify areas of high economic inactivity and index deprivation.

Data is also required for small population groups. It is recognised that economic activity rates vary considerably between small groups and communities. London Borough of Islington state that, "*sub-ward level data is especially important in inner city areas in identifying the information needs and provision for ethnic and religious groups*".

5.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

A number of users were unable to identify an alternative source of small area International Labour Organisation (ILO) defined employment data.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) was suggested as an alternative source that produces data on economic activity. However, users explain that the problem with this source is that the sample size is too small, cross tabulations are limited and it cannot produce detailed information for small geographies.

Other potential sources users mentioned include the Annual Population Survey (APS), the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR), although some users had reservations about whether these sources could meet the user requirements.

The Greater London Authority state that, "*the Census is the only resident based survey providing labour market data at small area level*". Other users support this view and feel that that the Census is the best source of data on economic activity as other sources do not fully meet user requirements.

5.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 10

Information on economic activity would be analysed with a full range of Census variables including most commonly, basic demographics such as age, sex and ethnicity, qualifications, health, religion, income and other labour market variables such as occupation, industry and hours worked.

5.6 UK Comparability: Score = 10

Almost all users who responded to the consultation require consistent and comparable data for the whole of the UK. UK wide data will assist local to national labour market research and allow policies to be developed on a consistent basis throughout the UK. London Borough of Newham state, "*Census data is used for comparing areas, and having a baseline for the UK is an essential comparator*".

A number of local government users are interested in UK level economic activity data for international comparison.

5.7 Continuity: Score = 9

A question on economic activity has appeared on the Census since 1851 so including a question in 2011 will ensure continuity with previous Censuses.

5.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of economic activity data from the Census, the strongest of these needs being for central and local resource allocation and policy planning and monitoring. Data is required to Super Output Area level to target resources to areas of deprivation requiring economic regeneration. Alternative sources of economic activity data are available but none of the sources can fully meet the user requirements. There is a very clear case for multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. Economic activity data has been collected on many previous Censuses.

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The score that this topic receives currently keeps it in category 1 which means there is still a clear case for inclusion of this topic in the 2011 Census.

6. Hours worked: Total score = 64

6.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of hours worked was placed in category 2 meaning that ONS believed further work was required before a decision could be made on whether to include this topic in the 2011 census.

Over 50 responses were received commenting on the subject of hours worked, predominantly from local authorities. However, there was also interest from central government and other data users.

6.2 User Need: Score = 7

A few local government users comment that data on hours worked can be used for the purposes of resource allocation. For example, Gateshead Council comment, "*to have a comprehensive view of the labour market more detailed information on residents working patterns is essential. This helps us analyse the untapped potential in the labour market correctly and therefore target resources to grow the economy.*"

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) consider data on hours worked as essential. They aim to use the data to improve the understanding of employment terms and conditions as applied in practice, particularly in relation to the children and young person's agenda.

Nottingham City Council comment that hours worked data is required, "*to be able to tell whether someone is in full-time or part-time employment, something which is useful in determining deprivation in the absence of any reliable income data*".

A number of other local authority users also comment that information on people working long hours is an indicator of deprivation and can inform neighbourhood renewal strategies.

Knowledge about peoples working patterns is important to the understanding of economic performance and appropriate policy response. It also provides evidence for the working time directive. The data will also feed in to council strategies such as community development strategies, land use and transport planning and local development frameworks.

6.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 7

Data on hours worked is required as low as Output Area but most agree that data to Super Output Area would be sufficient. A number of local authorities comment that the neighbourhood renewal strategy requires data at lower Super Output Area. Such small area data is required to pinpoint areas of deprivation and target resources and services accordingly.

A number of local authorities are interested in identifying differences in working patterns between different sub groups of people such as lone parents, ethnic groups, urban and rural differences.

6.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

A large proportion of users were unable to identify an alternative source of hours worked data for small areas or that allows cross tabulations with other variables.

A number of local authorities feel that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a potential alternative source as it provides information on full and part-time working. However, it does not provide the detailed area and population analysis required.

ODPM suggested that the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings may be a potential alternative and a number of local authorities share this view. However, it is recognised that data from this survey is not available below local authority level and the data is workers based rather than residents based, therefore it would not fully meet user requirements. Another survey that users mentioned is the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), but again users had reservations about the quality of data that could be obtained from this source.

6.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 5

Information on hours worked would be analysed with a range of Census variables including basic demographics such as age, sex and ethnicity, qualifications and other labour market variables such as occupation and industry. Other variables of interest include health and carer information.

A number of users also comment that they would be keen on analysing hours worked data with income data if it is collected. For example, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council comments that analysing hours worked data with income and number of jobs if would help to establish if there are local links between low pay, multiple jobs and long hours which would inform the social inclusion agenda.

6.6 UK Comparability: Score = 5

Many users mention the need for data that is consistent and comparable for the whole of the UK. Common reasons for this are so that local areas can be compared with other areas and with national averages. UK wide data will also assist national labour market research and allow policies to be developed on a consistent basis throughout the UK.

A number of local government users are interested in UK level hours worked data for international comparison.

6.7 Continuity: Score = 8

A question on hours worked has appeared on the Census since 1961, although there was no question in 1981.

6.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of hours worked data, mainly from local government users. The strongest of these needs was for local government resource allocation and policy development and monitoring. Data is required to Super Output Area and although alternative sources of data are available, none of them can fully meet the user requirements. There is some interest in multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. Hours worked data has been collected on more than the last two Censuses.

The score that this topic receives currently keeps it in category 2. This means that further work will be undertaken before a final decision is made as to whether to include this topic in the 2011 Census.

7. Number of jobs: Total score = 45

7.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of number of jobs was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify inclusion in the 2011 Census.

Over 25 responses were received commenting on the subject of number of jobs predominantly from local authorities. However, there were also responses from central government and other interest groups.

7.2 User Need: Score = 4

The main user need for data on number of jobs is for research purposes. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is interested in this data, "*to provide a greater understanding of the labour market and the changing patterns of work as lower paid workers are increasingly taking more jobs*". Local authorities share this interest and generally require a clearer picture of the number of people working in multiple jobs. A number of local government users also feel that data on number of jobs could help with interpreting income data if it is collected.

A few local government users are interested in data on number of jobs for the purposes of resource allocation. Monitoring local employment through an accurate count of the number of jobs in an area will allow resources to be targeted for economic development. Also, number of jobs can be used as an indicator of deprivation and the data can be used as evidence for neighbourhood renewal policies and for effective targeting of resources to areas of deprivation.

7.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 7

Data on number of jobs is required at Output Area or lower Super Output Area. Such small area data is required to understand the needs of different communities, for monitoring and implementing policies and targeting resources effectively.

There is an interest in the impact of multiple employment in different population sub-groups such as ethnic and religious groups and households with children.

7.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

The most commonly suggested alternative source was the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, many users acknowledge that this is a sample survey that cannot provide accurate data at the level of geographical data required. It also provides a count of the number for people with more than one job, but does not provide detail about actual numbers.

Other potential alternatives that are mentioned include the Annual Survey of Hours and earnings (ASHE), the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and PAYE/tax records. However some users had reservations about the data quality. There is also an issue with data access for the PAYE/tax records.

7.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score =5

There is a certain amount of interest in multivariate analysis of number of jobs data with other Census variables. The most interest is in analysis with hours worked as it is thought that working long hours and in multiple jobs can contribute to a low wage economy. There is also a significant amount of interest in analysis with, basic demographics, such as gender, age and ethnicity, other labour market variables, NS-SEC, tenure, religion, household composition and qualifications.

7.6 UK Comparability: Score = 5

There is a requirement for consistent and comparable data for the whole of the UK. The main reason for this is so that local areas can be compared with other areas and national averages. Changing patterns of employment are important for the country as whole as well as local areas.

7.7 Continuity: Score = 0

A question on number of jobs has not appeared in previous Censuses so there will not be continuity with previous Censuses.

7.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of data on number of jobs, mainly from local government users. The strongest of these needs was for local government policy monitoring and research purposes. Data is required at Super Output Area and although alternative sources of data are available, none of them can fully meet user requirements. There is some interest in multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. A question on number of jobs has never appeared on any previous Censuses.

Although there is a user requirement for this information to be collected, this requirement is limited. Therefore, the topic of number of jobs remains in category 3. This means that no question testing is being carried out for this topic and at this point in time, it is not being considered for inclusion in the 2011 Census.

8. Voluntary work: Total score =49

8.1 Introduction

In the ONS consultation document published in May 2005, the topic of voluntary work was placed in category 3, meaning that ONS believed that there was insufficient evidence of user demand to justify inclusion in the 2011 Census.

Over 20 responses were received commenting on the subject of voluntary work predominantly from local authorities. However, there were also responses from central government and other data users.

8.2 User Need: Score = 5

The main user need for data on voluntary work is for local level policy development and monitoring. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) comment, "*data on voluntary work would be useful to evaluate the extent to which young people as well as adults are involved in volunteering within communities which can help in monitoring local policies.*"

Local authorities recognise that there is an increasing reliance on voluntary workers for service delivery and involvement in projects and schemes. Having a measurement of the level of voluntary work can inform national and local strategies. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council state that there is a national floor target that aims to increase voluntary and community engagement, especially for those at risk of social exclusion. The data can also be used to help allocate resources to develop services supported by voluntary work.

8.3 Small Geographies and Populations: Score = 7

Data on voluntary work would be required as low as Output Area by one user but generally, data would be required at local authority or ward level and below. The Local Area Data Network state that such small area data is required because, "*the voluntary sector is frequently, by its nature, a highly localised activity targeted at specific groups within society*". Small area data would allow targeted action to increase the number of volunteers in local areas.

8.4 Alternative Sources: Score = 5

The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities states, "*involvement in voluntary work is increasingly promoted by the Home Office and Audit Commission as an indicator of quality of life, civil renewal etc but the availability of data is poor*". Other local authorities share this view.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) was suggested as an alternative source by a number of local government users but that data is not available at the level of geographical detail required.

There is also the potential to use data that volunteering organisations collect and data from local area partnerships. However, these sources do not allow for multivariate analysis or provide the level of detail required.

8.5 Multivariate Analysis: Score = 4

There is a certain amount of interest in multivariate analysis of voluntary work data with other Census variables. The most interest is in analysis with basic demographics, such as gender, age and ethnicity and economic activity status.

8.6 UK Comparability: Score = 5

There is a requirement for consistent and comparable data for the whole of the UK. The main reason for this is so that local areas can compare the number of people in voluntary work with other areas and the national average.

The Local Area Data Network comments that the voluntary sector is important to the economy at a UK level. They state that, *"all valid local labour market information should be available on a local to national basis to facilitate research and analysis on a consistent basis throughout the UK"*

8.7 Continuity: Score = 0

A question on voluntary work has not appeared in previous UK Census.

8.8 Conclusion

The consultation responses identified a number of uses of data on voluntary work, mainly from local government users. The strongest of these needs was for policy development and monitoring at a local government level. Data would be required at sub-ward level to meet the user needs. Alternative sources of data are available, but none of them can fully meet the user requirements. There is some interest in multivariate analysis and for data at UK level. A question on voluntary work has never appeared on any previous UK Census.

Although there is a user requirement for this information to be collected, this requirement is limited. Therefore, the topic of voluntary work remains in category 3. This means that no question testing is being carried out for this topic and at this point in time, it is not being considered for inclusion in the 2011 Census.