

RESPONDENT: 2836332036 – Lesley Potter
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

Q1 - What are your views of the different census approaches described in the consultation document?

The decennial census is truly vital as it is the only source that provides information at small-area level, or for sub-populations. The administrative data option is attractive in terms of providing more up-to-date information and could augment a census. However, I think that if we lose the census we will regret it.

Q2 - Please specify any significant uses of population and housing statistics that we have not already identified.

Q3 - Please specify any significant additional benefits of population and housing statistics that we have not already identified.

Q4 - What would the impact be if the most detailed statistics for very small geographic areas and small population groups were no longer available? High, medium, low or no impact?

High

If medium or high, please give further information.

Writing from my previous role as a local authority demographer, I think we would lose vital information and opportunities to ensure individuals don't 'fall through the cracks' in provision.

Q5 - What would the additional benefit be if more frequent (i.e. annual) statistics about population characteristics were available for areas like local authorities and electoral wards? High, medium, low or no additional benefit?

Medium

If medium or high please give further information.

This would be a benefit to local authorities and health services - if they have the budget to employ people to analyse them, and then to act.

Q6 - Please specify any significant uses of census information for historical research that we have not already identified.

Q7 - What advantages or disadvantages for genealogical or historical research can you see from a move to a solution based on archiving administrative data sources?

Q8 - What are your views of the risks of each census approach and how they might be managed?

Both methods have risks. A primarily on-line census risks missing the digitally excluded, including the traditional 'hard to reach' groups such as the homeless, disabled etc. Using administrative data also

risks missing people who are invisible from services, such as illegal migrants and the homeless. It is harder to identify the number of people missed. A key risk is that laws may not be enacted in time, and new systems will take too long to put into place. Running dual systems would help with the discontinuity.

Q9 - Are there any other issues that you believe we should be taking into account?