

RESPONDENT: 2938542881 – Nigel Nicholls
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

Only the current household style census can give a true snapshot of how, who and where our society is evolving from or too, simple administrative data can never do this. Increasingly people are getting on-line and used to computer usage for shopping and social networking, it would be a logical step to utilise this growth to incorporate all census needs into a much cheaper on-line household census that will not only help statisticians and politicians by social and personal historians alike.

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

Social, economic and population migration.

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.

How else could these be obtained? It would be a great loss to future generations.

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?

Low

If medium or high please give further information.

Annual statistics could be too volatile to be reliable.

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

Individual identification. Employment. Age.

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?

None, this would be trend based information with no individual breakdown possible.

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

Costing is obviously important but should not be paramount, much current research has been based on existing census data which would be made impossible by significant change of the existing system.

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

Individual family historical research.