

RESPONDENT: 2939043966 – **Geoffrey Palmer**
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

The second option will not provide any resources for future research by family and social history researchers be they professional academics or amateurs. The internet has made local and family history very popular over the last decade. Though it is difficult to predict how this research will be conducted in the twenty-second century. It would be disastrous if there were not the sources of censuses.

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?

If medium or high, please give further information.

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?

If medium or high please give further information.

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

The census returns I and my parents have completed in my lifetime will give very comprehensive snapshots of my life to future historians because they gave detailed information on education, employment, beliefs and other aspects of personal lives. It is a fascinating aspect of family and local history to be able to see how a family or location has changed or remained decade after decade. This will be lost if the last census will be 2011.

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?

I cannot see how these sources will be personal or individual.

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

I think that the administrative data approach may prove more costly and cumbersome than thought. Collecting data from communal establishments annually would put a burden on those establishments and may not be accurate. There are many who are not on an electoral roll, have not registered with a doctor and avoid HMRC.

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

The ten yearly census should be more technologically based. The option to use smart phones/tablets could be explored, perhaps just answering one question at a time and sending it like a text message. The census could be taken over a period of weeks this way. Perhaps using an incentive like a prize draw would encourage respondents.