

RESPONDENT: 2939043416 – Margaret Phillips
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

A census on Line is the way forward in this increasingly internet active environment. Once the public have completed one census it would surely not be too difficult to contact a percentage of individuals as required for sporadic updates. The present system allows for people to visit every dwelling in all areas to ensure that details are received from all of the population and give help to people who find the completion of forms difficult. Basing the census on administrative data may be flawed due to the fact that many people new to the country may not have registered or have registered incorrectly or duplicated. Surveys are often skewed and filled in unprofessionally by people in a rush who do not understand the importance of true figures. Some forms are completed in a way so that statistics look good for the person doing the job.

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.

The local councils and planning officers need these for the efficient use of budgets and bidding for services.

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?

High

If medium or high please give further information.

Current information is better than historical data for present and future planning.

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

Discovering the rightful owners of inheritances it is vital to have the census to verify relationships and unravel mysterious family connections.

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?

If the data did not identify individual households and addresses and give information such as age, marital status, professions, children etc it would not be helpful for people who would like to study their heritage.

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

The risk of people not completing forms or online can be monitored by feet on the ground or by checking electronically the completion rate. The risk of using administrative data is that they may not account for erroneous inputs and completion by people in stressful situations at work.

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

Perhaps the release of some not sensitive census information before the 100 years for historical research purposes??

