

**RESPONDENT:** 2847829208 – Donald Roberts  
**SECTOR:** Unknown - Individual

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

The traditional 10 year census has proved useful up until now and can give a more accurate picture of what the situation is at that time. To improve responses, could not completing the returns be made compulsory? It works with elections in Australia. Using existing statistics on an annual basis may cause some offence, especially if National Health records are used. How will such matters as motoring experiences be covered - the DVLA records may include the annual mileage covered by a vehicle, but not who drove the car in that time. I own a car, but one of my sons drives something like twelve times my mileage each year. In terms of social history, job descriptions given in the ten yearly census give a much wider range of answers compared with what might result from other statistics. The cost difference between the two models is quite modest and the census costs might be reduced if it is conducted largely on line. The younger generation will not be capable of writing in a few years time, as they are so immersed in computer gadgetry.

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

Building Society/Bank records may show how many mortgages they have granted or have been paid off, but how will other records (such as Housing and Local Authority) show who is a property owner or a tenant? I am not asked as to my status when a Council Tax demand is issued. Electoral Rolls do not indicate the relationships between various members of a household. My granddaughter says she is in a relationship, but she does not live with her partner. In a census, she will be entered as "single". Will ONS have free access to "Facebook"? This gives away quite a lot of personal information.

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

Difficult to answer as I do not know what official statistics will be available for use.

**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.**

Apart from Electoral Rolls, which do not include children, how would the ethnical make up of an area be identified?

**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.**

**Q6 - Please specify any significant uses of census information for historical research**

**that we have not already identified.**

As previously stated, many types of employment exist today that were unheard of even 30 years ago. I am not asked on my income tax return what I do for a living and I do not know where occupations are recorded elsewhere.

**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?**

Very few.

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

The alternative proposals to 10 yearly census returns are only likely to be available in a piecemeal fashion. They may be useful to a particular Government Department, but how are they likely to be published 100 years from now? Traditional census would appear to carry far fewer risks, even though I have found they can contain quite a lot of false information.

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

The government seems to have little idea as to how many people reach their place of work or how far they have to travel to carry out their job. The construction industry is a case in point. At one time, one of my sons could be travelling 200 miles each day to and from the site where he was working. Another son currently motors almost 1,000 miles a week, as he is responsible for a fleet of vehicles scattered over the whole of the U.K. He rarely travels by train but sometimes flies and hires a car at his destination. Most building operatives need a van to carry their tools to and from their place of work. When I was working, I rarely travelled by public transport, for most of my journeys were cross country, so I used a car. My productivity would be negligible if I tried to reach my destination by public transport and I would have needed to hire a taxi for the final part of my journey. I have a few acquaintances who commute to London, but there are several who journey 20 or 30 miles across country to their work, especially if they work unsocial hours. Do we know how many people work largely at home? Research in this area is essential to establish whether HS2 would help efficiency. It could well be far better to spend the budget allocation on road improvements.