

RESPONDENT: 2974849991 – Philip Newton Webb
SECTOR: Unknown

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

Over the long term a series of snapshots at single fixed times provides more useful data for governments than a series of partial/moving images. Obviously family historians would like more data, more often, more quickly but once a decade seems to provide a good compromise as it is of the whole population at that point in time. Despite some fears about privacy the census questionnaire can be regarded as more informal in some ways than other official forms so might actually give more accurate data

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

Little mention has been made of what might loosely be termed "visitors" who would be recorded in a census but maybe not elsewhere. This includes both visitors who are UK residents but happen to be in a different place on census night and also visitors from abroad who are on a short term visit. These could be either ex-pats returning home for a holiday/visit or non-residents visiting family members living in the UK. All types of visitor might have some impact on resources that should usefully be recorded by the statistics

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.

As has been proved beyond question the existence of individually named census entries from 1841-1911 (the latest publicly available) has added more to the study of trends, internal migration, family relationships than "just" numbers as were collected in 1801-1831. It would be a great shame to deprive future generations of this wealth of material.

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.

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?

Only of improved use if ALL individuals are recorded - i.e. not just heads of households or adults. Once released for public viewing they must be accessible, comparable and informative in a consolidated fashion. It would be difficult to check many different archives if each only dealt with one subject matter

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

Refusal to participate reduces the value. Some incentive or penalty should be enforced

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

The needs of future generations - however unpredictable they may seem.

