

RESPONDENT: 2938868572 – Keith Powell
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

I much prefer the first option because, if the need is to save money rather than improve the statistical basis of the data, it is more likely that people will be honest in their responses. In my use of current statistics produced, as posited in option two, I know when cross checking from other sources that there are frequently differences between what is published and what is fact. For example, when you get to the micro level to try and establish percentages of claimants on a variety of benefits, they cannot be found. This is evidenced by the fact that both DWP and HMRC spend considerable sums on investigation units. I accept that people may not be more likely to be accurate regarding their person situation when responding to a census questionnaire but if it avoided questions on benefits and taxation as at present there is a greater likelihood of accuracy.

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

Albeit that the census information has grown increasingly inaccurate over the last two that have been conducted because of the lack of response in certain areas, in the area that I work in, mainly Essex, it remains a preferred method for the demographics of the population when working on bids for grant assistance in improving employment by self-employment. The time lag is somewhat of a problem and perhaps on-line submission might improve the speed with which statistics can be made available.

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.

Because of the way I use these statistics to contrast various other small units, comparisons would be very difficult.

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.

As above.

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?

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

The first risks non-response but the greater risk of the second is a dilution of accuracy.

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