

RESPONDENT: 2939138088 – Barbara Mehew Rodd
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

Using data from other sources could result in some spurious data entering the system. The data sets considered for use may contain false information in greater degrees and in more crucial aspects than the standard census form as it was in 2011. For example, whilst people may exaggerate their occupation somewhat or give a "interesting" answer the question of their religion, on the whole the information collected in the 2011 style census is correct and truthful. The data sets used by other departments could have incorrect data or people that do not appear on the system, this will devalue the statistical value of the census data set. Also the cost to individual departments who have to prepare their data for the census purposes will possibly negate any savings made by abandoning the present data collection style. The full census once a decade is useful for both national statistical and for academic analysis purposes. The advantage being that it is collected in family units and by address. As none of the other methods of collecting this data will collect in this manner the social history and genealogical context will be lost. The costs of collecting this data will be greatly reduced by the use of online collection for the vast majority of the population whilst maintaining the data integrity and value and may well be cheaper in the long run than using data from other departments.

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.

From a historical perspective the loss of this data is very high impact. It reduces the use of the data from an individual family, or community respect and would only be useful in a more general regional aspect. In the case of genealogy/family history use it is doubtful if the non specific data would be of any use at all. Unless you can study specific small groups, be they family group, by street or institution, or narrow local community group the data becomes meaningless for this type of study.

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?

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?

None unless it is in conjunction with the census data collected in detail as in 2011. Whilst the administrative data sources would be useful to genealogical & historical research it could not replace the value of the census data.

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

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