

**RESPONDENT:** 2847970694 – Trevor William Rix  
**SECTOR:** Unknown - Individual

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

The census once a decade has already been substantially downgraded in terms of usefulness for family history and local history purposes. The 1851-1911 census all asked for each individuals place of birth, typically parish and county. This question was absent from the 2011 census. The 1851-1911 census all provided lots of information much of which is vital for historical research, a hobby that has been booming for at least 50 years and is still growing, providing countless hours of pleasure and peace of mind that cannot be measured in financial terms or by the questions in this survey. Please restore the questions asked in the 1851-2011 census in future decennial census. How else will future family historians be able to establish the place of birth for the thousands of people in their study? For this reason alone I am not in favour of a census based on administrative data and large annual compulsory surveys.

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

How can family historians in the future discover information about individual people? For example ... Address Forenames and surname Position in the household Sex Age (that allows a year of birth to be computed) Marital status Years married Number of children born, living and died Occupation Place of birth I don't think much of this information can be gleaned from other government sources.

**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.**

Even lower recognition of the needs of people living in rural areas.

**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.**

More frequent, more up to date information.

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

How can family historians in the future discover information about individual people? For example ... Address Forenames and surname Position in the household Sex Age (that allows a year of birth to be computed) Marital status Years married Number of children born, living and died Occupation

Place of birth I don't think much of this information can be gleaned from other government and administrative sources, nor in such a compact format as the census. The activities of family historians worldwide has a major positive impact on British finances, as well as providing much respect, comfort and well being that cannot be measured financially.

**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 more frequent but limited information.

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

Not having a decennial census almost certainly will result in the loss of huge quantities of information through data not being gathered systematically. No other method has come close to being proven to be a substitute. The non-census approach risks changing individual sources and databases invalidating comparisons through non-standard data. Not a like for like situation.

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