

RESPONDENT: 2939344338 – Jan Roberts
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

A traditional census requires new data. A census based on existing data will propagate errors in that data, and will therefore be less reliable.

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?

If medium or high, please give further information.

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.

A traditional census provides a valuable cross-check to identify errors in the administrative data.

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 risk of using existing administrative data is obvious. How accurate is it really? How do you know? Small errors can quickly become magnified and lead to erroneous decisions. It seems perfectly obvious to me that the relatively small cost of a traditional census is invaluable in providing a cross-check against administrative data which may be full of holes. I repeat, how do you know? How can you justify taking that risk?

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