

RESPONDENT: 2943842502 – Ian Stephenson
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

I can't help but think that the proposed census based on administrative data would be fundamentally flawed, in comparison to an online census. Too many people would be missing from any given data set and the cost of adding them would negate any envisaged savings.

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

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Q3 - Please specify any significant additional benefits of population and housing statistics that we have not already identified.

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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.

Don't know.

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.

As a historian and a statistician, I'm particularly interested in identifying trends across a range of topic areas. The more information available, the better! I really believe that a switch to an administrative data census would result in an inability to accurately identify such trends.

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 whatsoever.

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

The risk of moving to a online census-taking is inadequate verification of data collected. The alternate approach appear to be even more flawed.

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

No.