

**RESPONDENT:** 2874411512 – Professor Peter J Sloane  
**SECTOR:** Unknown - Individual

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

On balance I would prefer the second alternative given rapid population change as a result of labour migration, but there is a need to improve the accuracy of administrative data and annual surveys. This would result in additional benefits. Economists of which I am one, make more use of administrative data than censuses, which exclude information on earnings or income. It would be helpful, of course if Scotland and Northern Ireland fell in line.

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

Not aware of any.

**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?**

Low

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?**

High

If medium or high please give further information.

decennial censuses can easily become out of date in areas with rapid population change

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

Not aware of any.

**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 costs of loss of information at the local level need to be evaluated and compared with the benefits of more up to date information.

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

Comparability with other countries is important for benchmarking purposes.