

RESPONDENT: 2939146089 - Shirley
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

Genealogists & academic researchers need detail, so a 10 yearly census or a census using administrative data & surveys would be inadequate. Furthermore, whilst administrative data exists it is seldom made public (DVLA, wills etc) or in limited form only (Land Registry) and commercialy collected data remains private (ie insurance). Other commercial information will be destroyed or is irrelevant for genealogical & academic purposes.

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?

High

If medium or high, please give further information.

Genealogists would not pay for data lacking detail.

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.

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

The GRO has staunchly resisted online provision of birth marriage & death certificates, so the willinness to recognise the importance of making data available on the web is evident. The GRO cannot be relied upon to recognise commercial oportunities or reflect on existing practice.

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.

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

Whilst increasing numbers of households having web access there is a real attraction in filling in forms online, rather than posting material & of course the economic benefits of electronic collection are surely compelling.

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

Security of data provided electronically.