

RESPONDENT: 2883072585 – Julia Sandison
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

Good thought appears to have gone into the document and the various aspects give the public the opportunity to weigh up the options.

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

None that I can think of - think the document probably covers it all.

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

None I can think of.

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.

The censuses of previous generations have proved invaluable to those of us engaged in historical research - either family or wider social issues. Although they are not available for 100 years, they provide one of the best methods of finding out historical information on the general population. 20th century wars have destroyed much historical archive and in the 21st century we are no longer keeping written records in the time-honoured tradition. The loss, for instance, of family correspondence due to email and texting is significant.

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?

Medium

If medium or high please give further information.

ALL population statistics have great value, particularly those from rural areas where change may not be so fast or noticeable but have in fact been adversely affected by population drift to the large urban areas.

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

If the ten-yearly census is to be significantly lower in population information, then use of the National Archives to provide what is dropped should be seriously considered.

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?

I don't know enough about the methods used but feel that everything that CAN be done, SHOULD be done in order that we know as much as possible about our country's population, whether it be British or foreign.

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

Everything should be done to minimise any risks and in the 21st century it should not be beyond the wit of man to manage this!

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

Mankind loses our past at peril to our future. Already our educational methods mean that younger people no longer have any in-depth knowledge of their own country and how it fits in to the rest of the world. History is now taught in a few bite-sized chunks as opposed to a logical time-line, and thus the younger members of our population have no real feel for why this country or its language are as they are. Please therefore make sure that as much information as possible will be requested in any censuses that are taken, be they annual, ten-yearly, paper or on-line. Our history and knowledge of it make us what we are, and this is never more true than for a relatively small island like Britain.