

RESPONDENT: 2946838596 – Janet Thorpe
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

Would prefer a census once a decade, rather than use of administrative data. There are many people like me who would 'slip through the net' from an administrative point of view - my only contact with my local authority is through the electoral roll. For several years I had no income to declare to the Inland Revenue, and I did not have any benefits or pension. When I did reach pensionable age all the address data held by both HMRC and the Pensions Service was incorrect - despite my having reported my changes of address on each occasion, and had been incorrect for more than 10 years.

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

N/a

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

n/a

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.

Family historians are looking for families and individuals - if these cannot be found research may be much more difficult

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.

Where new developments take place, local authorities would have a better idea of the demographics of people moving into the development and would have the information more quickly.

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

N/a

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 if there are too many administrative sources and if people can opt out of their data being made available, if the option extends beyond their death

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

The use of administrative sources from a number of authorities presupposes that the data security and integrity from each source is high enough to allow confidence in each source.

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

For many years there was an understanding that Census data was independent of all other sources and that the figures acted as a balance against any under- or over-reporting in other areas. This balance would be lost if the Census was no longer undertaken as a separate activity