

RESPONDENT: 2823912178 – Michael Stanford
SECTOR: Unknown- Individual

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

I feel that the survey carried out every ten years would provide more information and be less of an inconvenience to households and individuals. Further I am uncomfortable with the proposals of legislation to provide increased access to data held by government. This need to have a change in legislation will also take valuable time from more important legislative issues.

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

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?

High

If medium or high, please give further information.

I beleive that it is equally important to have more detailed information from small geographical areas and small population groups. This information must continue to be collected so as to provide a true and accurate picture in the changes to these groups for both statistical and historical purposes.

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.

I agree that annual statistics if collected and collated would provide more pinpoint data in comparason to information gathered every ten years plus would allow for better medical, educational, and other services planning but the manner in which the information will be gathered would not provide uniform concise information. I beleive though that the ONS's proposals for infomation gathering is insufficient for the long term and further would require additional information gathering so there s the liklihood of error and unknown additional costs.

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

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?

There is evidence that the compulsion to complete the census forms every ten years is not enough to persuade every household to complete the form. This may increase with the compulsion to complete these forms online. There are most likely multiple reasons for non compliance but I still feel that this is the more logical process. The likelihood of technical issues marring the census could also be an issue. One only need to look at recent instances of the Olympic Games and the fiasco over their online ticket systems, spiraling costs of government IT restructuring etc to predict there will be some sort of glitch in a fully online census. I believe that there may be a backlash against the proposals to access peoples data held by different government departments. That also with most likely additional administrative costs that would be incurred not by the ONS but by the actual departments in adhering with whichever legislation that was passed (not to mention the cost of processing said legislation in parliament).

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

You have not truly taken into account the IT skills of individuals or their willingness to divulge information online. The information held by government departments may be insufficient and incorrect ie people may not have changed their address etc on their driving licence, medical records, local government records may not be correct so reliance on the accuracy of information from government departments may be a red herring.