

RESPONDENT: 2953333717 – June Staughton
SECTOR: N/A (Individual)

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

I think the difference between the original census returns and the data collection method is obvious, researchers would not be able to access data information as they do the census returns. This would be a great loss to Historical and Social researchers and no doubt have a knock on effect on how they view what happens. These are the people who do fill in their census returns and no doubt judging by how genealogy has taken off, from quite a large majority who would be understandably upset. The method of using data collection also seems to be more intensive and involve privacy issues which the public are becoming much more sensitive about, in view of how often privacy issues seem to be flouted. I think as more and more people use the internet an online census return would be a good idea as long as care was taken to make sure that non users would have an alternative way of answering the questions that were asked. I think as the census gives much more detailed information that data collection and probably more correct information as the data from areas such as tax and benefit/government agencies are not always reliable due to honest mistakes or downright dishonesty.

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

Apart from historical research or genealogy, census returns can help trace family members and relatives that may have been lost through population movement, marriage, etc. How the ethnicity of the country is changing. Integration of diverse population

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.

All the people of this island are important and if a census is worth doing it should include all population groups and geographic areas

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?

Low

If medium or high please give further information.

Most local authorities and electoral wards seem already to know when changes occur in their area, eg: population increases, lack of school places, etc, etc, it is lack of funding not information which is the problem.

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

We are talking seven years here so although the world will change I don't imagine it will be unimaginably different, people will be the same. The risks of change that I can imagine are that people will become very concerned about privacy in this almost big brother electronic age and this may have a detrimental effect on data information.

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?

It is incredibly hard to access archive information from lots of different sources, this will maybe not impact on professional researchers but on quite a large section of the population this could make a huge difference.

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

There are no risks to leaving the original census as it is apart from the failure of some to complete the returns. The more personal they get the less people will fill them in, the answer is to only ask question that are not too personal, most people draw the line when it gets earning, sexual orientation (they won't tell the truth) .

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

Public opinion