

RESPONDENT: 2828322616 – Nick Simonds
SECTOR: Unknown - Individual

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

I'm sure that I am not alone when I say that the thought of potentially jeopardising the census, a process that has taken place for the last 200 years, and the information that is gleaned through the process is a scary one. That said, with the pace of change that is being experienced at present I do feel that there is a need for change. Planners and policy makers can no longer base key decisions regarding public policy on out-dated statistical information with any level of confidence. From a purely personal perspective, defending local government policies on housing numbers in appeal situations that are based on out of date information or estimates is almost impossible and can ultimately lead to an undermining of local government policies and decisions. I would also add that for policy makers, the majority of detailed statistics are not needed/required in order to base policy decisions. More often than not policy decisions are made on more simple statistics such as household size, population figures, travel to work information etc..... The additional information that is gained through conduction the 10 year census is only ever used by a small number of professionals for a very specific purpose and is not used by the general populous. With that in mind I would move to opt for a census based on administrative data and large annual compulsory surveys.

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

Local Authority Core Strategy including: - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments - Strategic Housing Market Assessments - Containment studies and employment numbers based on housing requirements Public resources provision using populations staistics from public libraries and open spaces within new developments to schoos and hospital provision as part of S106 agreements. Transport trends using population figures and the tie in with containment studies to prevent excess travel through private car. Transport infrastructure as a whole as well.

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?

Low

If medium or high, please give further information.

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.

Decision makes could base their decisions on more relevant and up to date information. Also any monitoring of policies could potntially pick up any trends, eith good or bad, quicker as opposed ot having to wait 10 years.

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

none

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?

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