



2011 Census
Office for National Statistics
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
Hants, PO15 5RR

3 May 2011

Thank you for all the help and support that you, and your network, have given the 2011 Census already. Could I ask you for a little more?

Your support – and help from similar groups – has undoubtedly had a very positive effect on the 2011 Census, creating awareness and understanding of its purpose and explaining the strict security and confidentiality around all personal information.

We are now entering the last phases of the census operation. Most of the households in the country have sent their questionnaires back, and our field staff have been knocking on doors, offering assistance and collecting questionnaires from those who have fallen behind.

Please will you help with one final task? While we have the vast majority of questionnaires back with us, please can you let your networks know that 6 May is the deadline? If we don't have people's questionnaires back by then, householders' details will be passed to our non-compliance team to investigate, who may instigate prosecution proceedings.

There is still a small window of opportunity to remind people that there is a legal obligation to complete a census questionnaire and if they refuse, they may face prosecution, a criminal record and a fine of up to £1,000.

Obviously we do not want this to happen to anyone and, in these last cases, it's mainly because householders have either misplaced their questionnaire, haven't realised all the support which is available to them, or don't understand their legal obligation.

If someone needs a replacement questionnaire, they need to order one from www.census.gov.uk, or call the census helpline on 0300 0201 101 (England) or 0300 0201 130 (Wales) When it arrives, the quickest way to get a census back is online, using the internet access code on the front of the paper copy. It's quick and straightforward, or householders can post the paper questionnaire back in the prepaid envelope. If someone has not completed and returned a questionnaire, it's vital that they do it now.

I know how powerful your support has already been, and I am immensely grateful for that. The results of all our work will be seen mid-2012 when the census statistics – which are vital to our future – begin to be released.

Thank you in advance for letting people know about 6 May.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Watson'.

Glen Watson
2011 Census Director, Office for National Statistics