

# WHAT IS THE CENSUS USED FOR?

The Census is the official statistical map of the UK population. It is used by public authorities such as the government, local authorities, police forces and health services to legitimise policy decisions and resource allocation.

The inaccurate data on belief from the 2001 Census has led to policy making which over emphasises the importance of religion in the UK. For example, since 2001 we have seen:

- Increase in the number of faith schools.
- The continuation of collective worship in schools.
- The public funding and support of 'interfaith' and faith-based organisations above the support offered to secular organisations.
- Suggestions of an increase in the role of faith in Britain under the coalition government.
- The appointments of government advisors on faith
- Contracting out public services to religious organisations.
- Keeping the 26 Bishops in the House of Lords as of right.
- Continued high number of hours dedicated to religious broadcasting.
- Specific consultation at government and local level with 'faith communities' over and above other groups within society.
- Continued privileges for religious groups in equality law and other legislation.



## THE CENSUS CAMPAIGN

### “NO RELIGION”

The Census Campaign wants non-religious people to tick "No religion" in the 2011 Census.

### A FLAWED QUESTION

We want people to know why the question on religion is flawed and why so many non-religious people didn't tick "None" in the 2001 Census.

### REAL DECISIONS

We want people to know that real decisions on resource allocation and policy are based on Census data and if it's wrong then we all stand to lose out.