

IF YOU'RE NOT RELIGIOUS, FOR GOD'S SAKE SAY SO!

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

A census is a count of the population. It helps census users decide how best to plan, fund and deliver services— like housing, education, healthcare and transport. The next Census is on 27th March 2011.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The figures on religion produced by the 2001 census gave a wholly misleading picture of the religiosity of the UK. The distorted figures approximately cut the number of non-religious people in half.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

If you're not religious we recommend ticking 'No religion' for the Census 2011 question on religion.

Ticking 'No religion' is better than leaving the question unanswered because this way you count. And it's better than answering with the religion you were brought up in if you don't believe in it anymore and don't think organised religion speaks for you.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

After the 2001 Census, the figures collected were used to justify the following policies:

- Increase in the number of faith schools
- The continuation of collective worship in schools
- The public funding of faith-based organisations
- Suggestions of an increase in the role of faith 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
- High number of hours of religious broadcasting
- Specific consultation with 'faith communities'
- Continued privileges for religious groups in equality law and other legislation

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