

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2016

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the 2021 Census.

You may be interested to know that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published their current view on the topics proposed for inclusion in the Census, including a report on requirements for information on armed forces. The current position of the ONS follows a public consultation seeking evidence on the information needs for the Census, which generated nearly 1,100 responses.

I am pleased that the ONS recognises that there is a clear need for information on the armed forces. It believes, however, that the issue is how that information should be produced. In this case, there might be administrative data sources, such as service and pension records collected by the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), which could be used to identify former service men and women.

As a result, the ONS believes that it would be better to make use of this administrative data, rather than ask a question of all 26 million households in England and Wales. I know that the ONS will be working with the MoD and other relevant agencies across government to consider a range of options to best meet the need. I hope that this is of some reassurance to you.

Once again, thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY