

**Response of the Census and Statistics Department  
to the letter dated 27 October 2015  
from Legal Service Division, Legislative Council Secretariat  
(Ref.: LS/S/3/15-16)  
on Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order (L.N. 208 of 2015)**

The census reference moment, among other criteria, is required for classifying whether a person satisfies the statistical definition of Hong Kong Resident Population. The census reference moment is also required for defining a number of matters in the Schedule to the Order. For the purpose of the 2016 census, the Commissioner should obtain particulars of matters specified in the Schedule in respect of all persons occupying sampled premises including those aged below 15. However, owing to the ability of persons aged below 15 to provide reliable information by themselves, such required information will be collected from other occupants who are aged 15 or above in the light of operational feasibility. In determining the age of an occupant, the census reference moment is referred to with a view to providing a clear criterion to the respondents of the 2016 census who may respond to the questionnaire anytime during the data collection period lasting for 34 days.

However, it is not the intention of Census and Statistics Department to let an occupant attract liability if he/she who was born on 30 June but is not sure whether he/she has reached the age of 15 because the occupant cannot remember at what time he/she was born.

Census and Statistics Department  
28 October 2015