

**Information for
Legal Service Division, Legislative Council Secretariat
on Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order (L.N. 208 of 2015)**

The definition of “occupant” to mean, among other things, “a person who has reached 15 years of age at the census reference moment” was added during the preparation of the Order for the 2011 Population Census. Since the data collection lasted for a fairly long period (34 days), the use of a cut-off point would address the operational concern that respondents might query with respect to when a person should be considered as aged 15 years or above. No operational difficulties were encountered in employing this definition in the 2011 Population Census. The same definition is used in the Order for the 2016 Population Census.

According to section 3 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1), “years of age” and words of like meaning, when used in reference to the age of any person, means years of age calculated from the date of birth. From this perspective, when a person is asked whether he/she is aged 15 years or above at the census reference moment, the age is simply to be calculated using the method of section 3 of Cap. 1, that is from the date of birth, and not the specific hours or minutes of birth.

In any case, based on the operational experience of the 2016 Population Census, we will review the application of “census reference moment” to the definition of “occupant” in the next Census exercise.

Census and Statistics Department
29 October 2015