

**Subcommittee on Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order**

**Supplementary information regarding the  
statistical information on sexual minorities  
for the 2016 Population By-census (16BC)**

**Background**

A paper titled “Plan for the 2016 Population By-census” was discussed in the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs held on 2 December 2013. The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) mentioned that it was considering collecting information on transgender and transsexual persons, and same-sex co-habitation relationship in the 16BC in light of feedback from consultations conducted earlier, and would conduct further studies on the feasibility of collecting such information. In the meeting, a Panel member requested C&SD to include a data topic on sexual orientation in the 16BC and C&SD indicated that it had no plan to do so.

**Results**

2. After further research, C&SD decided that information on sexual minorities would not be included in the 16BC. First, C&SD has the responsibility to provide reliable statistics. It is anticipated that figures on sexual minorities would be grossly under-estimated. C&SD would not release statistics with uncertain margin of errors, or else the credibility of C&SD in compiling social and economic statistics (such as unemployment rate, GDP, CPI and retail sales statistics) would be undermined. Second, the 16BC is a mandatory large-scale survey requiring respondents to provide truthful information. However, it is envisaged that the mandatory requirement will cause difficulties to a considerable number of respondents who are unwilling to answer or provide true responses on related questions and hence may attract legal liability.

**Census and Statistics Department  
6 November 2015**