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23 November 2015

Ms Connie SZETO  
Subcommittee on Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms SZETO,

**Subcommittee on  
Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order  
Follow-up to meeting on 17 November 2015**

Thank you for your email dated 18 November 2015 on the subject. Information requested by Members of the Subcommittee at the meeting on 17 November 2015 is provided as follows.

Options available under the data topics “marital status” and “relationship to household head”

For the data topic of “marital status”, respondents will be required to report their status as regarded by themselves among the answer options “never married”, “now married”, “widowed”, “divorced” and “separated”. We will include an explanation in the reporting guidelines that for the purposes of the 2016 Population By-census (16BC), “married” refers to persons married to the opposite sex. Respondents who have registered their same sex marriage in jurisdictions outside Hong Kong may then answer by choosing the option “never married”. If the respondents provide answers that they believe to be true, they will not be regarded as having contravened section 16 of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Cap. 316).

On the basis of the meaning of “married” for the purpose of the 16BC, the answer option “spouse” under the data topic of “relationship to household head” would also refer to the opposite sex marriage relationship. Respondents whose same sex marriage is registered in other jurisdictions may report their relationship as “others (please specify)” and provide specifications as appropriate. If the respondents provide answers that they believe to be true, they will not be regarded as having contravened section 16 of Cap. 316.

Options available under the data topic “sex”

For the question on “sex”, respondents are required to provide, based on self-identification, the answer option that is deemed most suitable by themselves. If the respondents provide the answer that they believe to be true, they will not be regarded as having any legal liability.

Enquiries

Should you have further questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



(Marion CHAN)  
for Commissioner for Census and Statistics