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30 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 24 November 2015**

Thank you for your email dated 25 November 2015 on the subject. Our response in response to the follow-up items is provided as follows.

Practices of the European Union (“EU”) countries in collecting statistical information on sexual minorities

According to the regulation promulgated by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, sexual orientation is not to be included in topics covered in population censuses. For the topic “sex”, two answer options “male” and “female” are to be provided. As regards “marital status”, it is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of an individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of his/her country. Member States of the EU shall report data on registered partnerships if they have a legal framework regulating partnerships.

Answer options available for questions in the 2016 Population By-census (“16BC”)

The feasibility of including an answer option “Rebahus” for the data topics regarding mode of transport to place of study / work will be considered.

As regards the data topic of nationality, the suggestion of providing finer classification for countries in the Middle East will be duly considered in consultation with the Security Bureau or relevant parties.

Personal data privacy and data security

We will consult the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on the privacy concerns related to the use of e-questionnaire and mobile tablets for collecting data from respondents in 16BC.

We will also alert respondents about the risks of data breach and the need to protect privacy of their personal data through various means, such as the 16BC website, the media, the guidance notes on using e-questionnaire and the terms of using the e-Questionnaire system.

Disposal of the mobile tablets after the completion of 16BC

We will provide an information paper to relevant Panel(s) of the Legislative Council to report the disposal arrangement for some 6 500 mobile tablets purchased for 16BC the soonest possible after completion of the project.

Enquiries

Should you have further questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



(Leo YU)

for Commissioner for Census and Statistics