

The Director  
Office of National Statistics  
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Dear Sir

### **2011 Census of England and Wales**

This letter is in response to the census forms which are not being completed by either myself or my partner. As a long term university lecturer in the social sciences I am well aware of the value of the census information to the government. But also as a long term pacifist we are aware of the need to act with honesty towards one's conscience when it comes to making ethical choices. I find that the decision to award the data processing aspects of the census to an armaments manufacturer (Lockheed Martin UK) to be crass in the extreme, and certainly a thoughtless move on behalf of the government in terms of guaranteeing maximum compliance with the census.

By way of substantiating the above we would like to make the following points:

- We never knowingly have dealings with unethical companies. You will be aware that, for instance, the Cooperative Bank does not deal with weapons manufacturers, and I have always banked with this company. Most mainstream churches in Britain also do not support companies that are considered as unethical. We find it insensitive in the extreme that it is compulsory for us to help contribute to the business and profits of a company that manufactures cluster bombs, Trident nuclear warheads, and which controls a third of the Aldermaston nuclear weapons factory. We find it regrettable that ONS fails to appreciate this insensitivity. And now Lockheed Martin is moving into the rather sinister world of surveillance and intelligence, with their US Vice President (Lorraine Martin) being on record as saying "We want to know what's going on anytime, any place on the planet".
- The ONS states that the census is being supported by Lockheed Martin (UK) and that this company is somehow completely separate from the US parent company. However, a perusal of the Lockheed Martin (UK) web site confirms that they too deal in the same military and surveillance areas as their US parent company. If they are totally separate companies as ONS suggests, then it seems an incredible coincidence that a company called Lockheed Martin should be carrying out both the USA and UK census processing! It is mere tautology to say that they are separate companies.
- Another depressing coincidence seems to be the fact that the census for England and Wales is being partly carried out by a subsidiary of a US company (Lockheed Martin) who themselves are involved in surveillance and intelligence and who were heavily implicated in some of the scandalous activities in Afghanistan, and who controlled interrogators at Guantanamo Bay. At the same time the censuses for both Scotland and the Irish Republic are being partly carried out by the subsidiary of a US company (CACI International) who are also involved in surveillance and intelligence and who were also implicated in some of the scandalous Abu Ghraib prison activities in Iraq. Perhaps ONS can explain how this coincidence came about? These seem strange credentials for companies who are gathering 32 pages of data on all the citizens of the British Isles!

- Maybe one answer to the above facts lies in the fact that Sir David Manning was appointed to be one of Tony Blair's top foreign policy advisors in 2001. He was British Ambassador to Israel from 1995 to 1998 and Mr Blair appointed him to be the UK ambassador in Washington from 2003 to 2007. Wikipedia notes "His close relationship with the Prime Minister suggests he has been a key figure in driving British foreign policy in respect of the [United States](#), particularly in the [aftermath](#) of the [September 11, 2001 attacks](#) and the decision to [invade Iraq](#). In 2008 he became a non-executive director of [Lockheed Martin](#), the multinational arms manufacturer that made millions supplying military hardware for the war, and he joined the advisory board of [Hakluyt & Company](#), an intelligence company partly staffed by former [MI6](#) officers." One seriously questions whether Sir David might have had a major influence on LM getting the census work!
- We hope that the ONS are aware of the fact that the Lockheed Martin US parent company is listed at No 1 on [the USA Federal Contractor Misconduct database](#) (run by the Project on Government Oversight), with 57 alleged cases of corruption, fraud, bribery, environmental damage and discrimination. We must remember that with respect to most of these cases, private companies in the US have government contractor immunity from prosecution. It is also relevant to note that a *New York Times* profile of the company in 2004 opened with the sentence: "Lockheed Martin doesn't run the United States. But it does help run a breathtakingly big part of it", and further "Giving one company this much power in matters of war and peace is as dangerous as it is undemocratic," says Bill Hartung, senior fellow at the World Policy Institute in New York. "Lockheed Martin is now positioned to profit from every level of the war on terror from targeting to intervention, and from occupation to interrogation." With the help of Lockheed Martin, it is our opinion that the national census has moved from a legitimate socio-economic activity to an activity that is part of the sinister security world of intelligence and surveillance.
- The ONS may not be aware that the Lockheed Martin Corporation is the lead company behind the current United States government Next Generation Identification (NGI) initiative in which \$1.6 billion is being spent on biometric developments that will allow many aspects of an individual's private characteristics to be gathered and stored in a vast digital warehousing system. For those who champion individual rights, this represents yet another step in the erosion of natural rights and individual liberties, and is a move towards a more robust and authoritarian police state. We would remind the ONS that when communist governments were gathering data (spying?) on their citizens during the Cold-War then we severely criticised this. But now we do this ourselves in a much more detailed and comprehensive manner.
- The ONS claims that our census data is perfectly safe, and that the parent Lockheed Martin company will not be able to obtain it. A perusal of [www.lockheedmartin.co.uk/buying-solutions/](http://www.lockheedmartin.co.uk/buying-solutions/) states "We feel that the census work is particularly relevant in demonstrating our **end-to-end** (my emphasis) capability ensuring cost effective and time critical delivery of benefits". This seems to imply that the company are doing all of the data processing work, and that therefore they might have easy access to private data.
- We are afraid that there has been too much evidence that our government is not to be trusted when there is a matter of looking after digital data. We have seen lost information, shared information, stolen information and we have seen how hackers can penetrate even the most secure data holding facilities. Of course ONS will claim data security but that is very different from upholding this claim. I simply do not believe that your offices can keep the census data from getting to the USA parent company, or that you can provide a rigid guarantee that it is safe from the US Patriot

Act whereby the data can be passed onto the American government when demanded, i.e. this matter has yet to be tested in the UK courts. We also have to consider that when it suits them, our government can claim that a circumstance is an issue of national security, and then any data promises can simply be ignored, and the Prime Minister of the day can simply make his/her own rules. We saw this with regard to the BAE Systems weapons deal with Saudi Arabia, and where this company (the world's number one weapons manufacturer) has since been given immunity from further prosecution in respect to paying bribes.

- Since a UK company (UK Data Capture) has apparently been contracted to receive, scan and process the 2011 census information, then it is inconceivable to us that a non-contentious UK company cannot perform all of the census processing work, i.e. as was done prior to 2001. It would be interesting to know why UK Data Capture could not have been doing this work. Indeed what is it that Lockheed Martin are doing that UK Data Capture cannot be doing? Or maybe in practice they are the same company?

Over the past few weeks we have seen how the UK government seems to place huge importance on selling weapons abroad, much to the detriment of many citizens in the Middle East and north Africa. Our successive governments (of any party) clearly care little about who the weapons are sold to, but we know for certain that Lockheed Martin was the company supplying most of the cluster bombs (and other weapons) that have killed 10,000s of innocent civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan. And it is interesting to speculate on the reaction of American citizens were they to be told, for instance, that BAE Systems was about to undertake their census.

One would have to be extremely naive to believe that there was nothing rather sinister in awarding the census contract to the Lockheed Martin company. We simply refuse to have any part in supporting this company, and we wonder whether senior personnel in ONS privately regret the decision to award the contract to this company?

Yours very sincerely