

The Director
Office of National Statistics
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
Fareham
Hants, PO15 5RR

Dear Sir

2011 Census of England and Wales

As a long term university lecturer in the social sciences I am very well aware of the value of the census information to the government. But also as a long term pacifist I am well 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) to be crass in the least, and certainly a very thoughtless move in terms of guaranteeing maximum compliance with the census.

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

- I never knowingly have dealings with an unethical company. You will be aware that, for instance, the Cooperative Bank does not deal with weapons manufacturers, and I have always banked with this company. I think it insensitive in the extreme that it is compulsory for me 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. And now Lockheed Martin is aggressively moving into the 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 aided 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 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.

- Another incredible 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 Iraq, and who controlled interrogators at Guantanamo Bay. At the same time the census for Scotland is 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?

- Maybe one answer to the above question 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 an influence on LM getting the census!

- I 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 my 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 claims that our census data is perfectly safe, and that the parent company will not be able to get hold of it. A perusal of 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 sensitive/private data.

- I am 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. In this regard we have seen recently how the US government has ordered the American Twitter company to provide all the information it holds on Julian Assange (Wikileaks). 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 own rules. We saw this happen with regard to the BAE Systems weapons deal with Saudi Arabia.

- If a UK company (UK Data Capture) has been contracted to receive, scan and process the 2011 census information, then it is inconceivable to me 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 done this. Indeed what is it that Lockheed Martin are doing that UK Data Capture cannot be doing?

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. We 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. It is interesting to speculate on the reaction of American citizens were they to be told that BAE Systems was about to undertake their census. I simply refuse to have any part in supporting the Lockheed Martin company.

Yours very sincerely