Why should all this information be collected?

Census figures are widely used for planning decisions. Here are a few examples.

- **People**

  The numbers and age of people affect the amount of money allocated for a range of services including education and social security benefits. The information will be used to help plan for schools and the needs of the elderly.

- **Housing**

  Questions about your home will help in assessing current and future demand for housing and the housing needs of particular groups such as families with young children and the elderly. Measures of inadequate housing and overcrowding will also assist in planning for the future.

- **Employment**

  Knowing how many people work in different jobs and industries in particular areas means that skill shortages and training needs can be identified and jobs for the future planned.

- **Health and Caring**

  Getting a picture of people's health helps in planning the right services for the country at regional level.