

3 April 2018

Opal Symes

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Dear Ms Symes

### Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request received on 5 March 2018, regarding information relating to the routing for the question "How many babies have you given birth to?". The information below provides some hopefully useful background to the 'number of children born' question, and some context for the attached document in response to your request.

#### **Background on the 'number of children born' question**

The questions in your email references the gender identity concept. However, the number of children born question is informed by responses to the sex question in the 2018 Census and previous censuses. As such we have primarily addressed your request with reference to the sex concept.

The 2018 Census forms, and previous censuses, collect information on the sex of respondents, as defined by the statistical standard for sex (which can be found [here](#)). As indicated and discussed in the 2018 Census final report on content (which can be found [here](#)) the 2018 Census does not collect information on gender identity.

The subject population used for the 'number of children born' question for the 2018 Census is a continuation of the output format that has been used for this question in previous censuses. The attached document titled 'Number of children born – Variable specification –2018 Census' outlines the specifications made for this variable. Names of non-managerial staff have been removed under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.

The subject population for the 'number of children born' variable for the 2018 Census, as with previous censuses, is the female census usually resident population aged 15 years and over. This means that we will output information on responses received to this variable for all respondents who have indicated that they are:

- Aged 15 or over on March 6, 2018 – from the date of birth question (question 2)
- Female – from the sex question (question 3)
- Usually live within New Zealand – from the usual residence question (question 4)

The online form is coded to only ask the 'number of children born' question (question 28) of those who are within the subject population as identified above. This method of routing, to not collect information for questions for which respondents are outside of the subject population, is consistent for all questions on the online forms for the 2018 Census.

For information received via paper forms, the subject population from which the number of children born information is output is also the same as identified above.

The 2018 Census, and previous censuses, do not collect information on gender identity, and therefore are unable to identify transgender and non-binary respondents. Any responses received to the 'number of children born' question on paper forms, from those who indicated 'male' to the sex question have not previously, and will not in 2018, be included in the output population for this variable. In cases where a respondent has marked both 'male' and 'female' on a paper form, a sex of 'male' or 'female' will be imputed for the output dataset, and responses to the 'number of children born' question will be included if the imputed sex is female.

While there may be a number of transgender or non-binary respondents who have given birth and have not indicated 'female' to the sex question, Stats NZ is unable to determine whether this response was made by a transgender or non-binary respondent, or has been made in error, either by not following the routing instructions for the question, or a male wishing to indicate paternity.

***One document is attached, in response to your request***

Questions on gender identity were included in cognitive testing for the 2018 Census, but were not progressed beyond this. Therefore, there were no specific discussions or decisions made on how information collected on the gender identity concept might affect or be affected by the 'number of children born' question.

The variable specification document attached references the potential need to consider this further if a subject population specific to the gender identity concept was produced for the 2018 Census. The variable specification also outlines the decisions made for this question regarding routing for intersex respondents, when there was a third response category present for the 2017 Census Test.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to seek an investigation and review of this response to your request.

Stats NZ intends to publish its response to your request made under the Act on the Stats NZ website. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Consistent with the Act, publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and helps promote balanced public debate.

Yours sincerely,



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