



Department of  
**Finance and  
Personnel**

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During Oral Questions on Monday 14 June, I mentioned that the total cost of the Census was estimated at £13.3 million. The purpose of writing is to clarify that the figure quoted relates to the total estimated costs in the current CSR period (2008/9 – 2010/11). Further funding will be required for the next CSR period to cover, amongst other things, the final stages of the field work, the capture, coding and processing of the data and the production and dissemination of the outputs. While this additional funding will be subject to the normal Departmental bidding process, it will be viewed as a high priority.

You indicated concern that the census should be as inclusive as possible (in particular involving those from hard-to-reach groups, people with disabilities and others who are on the margins of society). I fully recognise the importance of making the Census accessible to everyone, irrespective of their circumstances. Census Office plan to build on the positive steps taken in the last Census to reach such groups, for example, through targeted community liaison and tailored publicity initiatives. These initiatives are currently getting underway.

I trust that this clarifies the position. This letter has been placed in the Assembly library and copied to the Speaker and all other MLAs.

Yours sincerely

**SAMMY WILSON MP MLA**