**4) Why do Census Workers need to come to houses for interviews, why not do the interviews on-line or mail the questionnaire?**

Household interviews are not new to Cayman. ESO has been conducting household interviews for the Labour Force Surveys annually (and in some years, twice a year). As noted above, the response rates are relatively high.

The ESO conducted a survey in October – November 2008 as to the preferred method for household surveys or censuses. Majority (65%) preferred face-to-face interviews.

Most importantly, the United Nations recommends the face-to-face interview as the best method for censuses and surveys to ensure high coverage and good quality.

An on-line census system is technically complicated and costly with most countries not adopting this method. For example in the Caribbean no country has used this method and the recent 2010 US Census also did not use this option.

An online system also requires money and time to develop and test.  While the ESO initially considered this way back in 2008, it was not pursued for a variety of logistical and financial reasons, some of which are mentioned above.  A key reason is that the census field work requires 3 simultaneous activities: canvassing and listing of dwelling units, and interview of households. Canvassing means going through an enumeration area to identify all buildings or structures that are used as dwelling units. Identified dwelling units should correspond to household interviews. The matching of canvassing/listing activities with an on-line interview (and subsequent verification) would make this process complicated and costly.

Conducting the Census by mail requires that all respondents themselves are trained on the Census concepts and definitions, or at least read the Census manual for themselves. This option requires more hours from the respondents than the average 20 minutes required in face-to-face interviews (for a household of 2-3 members). Plus, it is very typical that posting would eventually require follow-up face-to-face interviews for those with incomplete or poor-quality returns. This turned out to be the case in the 1999 Census.

[**5) How can we be assured that Census workers will keep our data confidentially?**](file:///\\svrst01\eudata\WEB%20SITE\Left%20Side\Other%20Resources\FAQ's\Census%20Q5.docx)