

My name is Jean and I was a collector at the last census and also an interviewer for people that didn't complete their forms.

I applied online after I was told by my daughter that they were looking for people. You just have to answer quite a lot of questions, tick boxes mostly, and I find it quite an easy way to apply for something that's very important. I felt I could contribute to it because of my experience in the NHS, working with people, trying to solve problems and just felt like I could do good there. We were given a list of the houses that we had to try to collect the forms from. We did a tick box, checked it through that it had been completed and signed. If they weren't in, we had to make a note of that so that we could call back.

Every area within Portsmouth, it's different, it's very diversified, in Portsmouth. One of the things that cropped up with a language barrier and we found that the children were very good at the English, but the adults, they weren't. So we sort of got together and did it through the children as long as the parent signed the form, and that worked very well.

I got a lot of satisfaction because I felt I was helping people. It kept me busy, which was good for me too. But generally it was because I felt I was helping somebody, you know? You never knew when you knocked the door what, who was going to come to the door, basic? Some of them who disagreed with the census, so you try and talk nicely to them and explain that it's the law, you know? But it was very satisfying to get a result that you got there form from them through just talking to them.

I would recommend it for the very reasons that I got out of it, but also you need to think about the time. You have to be very flexible because of not everybody's in at 9:00 in the morning and you have to do some evening work as well. It can be flexible to suit yourself, but you have to be aware that there is a time that you have to do things, you know?