

Part 1: The 'Big Society'

Part one of this Directive is about the 'Big Society'. This term may be familiar because you've heard about it from the media, or you might never have heard of it before. Either way, we would like to know what, if anything, the 'Big Society' means to you.

Before you start...

Before you read on, please could you grab a piece of paper and quickly jot down the immediate phrases or thoughts that come to mind when you think of the term, the 'Big Society'. Please start your Directive response with these thoughts. Remember, it doesn't matter if you don't know what the 'Big Society' is. We are interested in your immediate reaction to the term.

Some general questions about the 'Big Society'

Before this Directive, had you ever heard of the term 'Big Society'?

If you have heard of the 'Big Society' can you remember when you first heard of it? What was your reaction to the term?

Does this feel like a new idea to you? If so, what is new about it? If it doesn't seem like a new idea, please say why.

Where do you get your information about the 'Big Society' from (for example, newspapers, television, radio, the internet, Twitter, Facebook)? Please give details.

Voluntary work

Do you do any voluntary work? Or perhaps you help someone out in an informal way? Please describe the work that you do. How did you find out about this opportunity? How long have you been doing it? How is the voluntary work you do arranged (e.g. through a formal organisation, or is it done informally through groups of friends and neighbours)? Why do you do it? How does volunteering make you feel?

Do you feel that you could do more voluntary work? Or do you think that you are doing the maximum that you can?

What about our society? Do we do enough/too much voluntary work?

Are there certain jobs that should only be carried out by the State or some other body? If so, what jobs are these? If these are not carried out by the State, who should carry them out? Who should fund these jobs?

Please start each part of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is probably best to use initials instead of real names.

Are there certain tasks that are best left to voluntary organisations rather than the State or the market? Why do you think this is so?

You and your local area

Can you describe the area that you live in?

Do you think of it as a 'poor' or 'rich' area? Or is it a mixture of both?

What sorts of communities live/belong in your area? How well do you know the people who live around you?

Is there a sense of 'community spirit'? If so, please describe what this is like.

What kinds of things do you think your local area might need in the future? The government is in the process of reducing the amount of money it is making available to local councils. If there is no money available, how will your local area meet those needs?

Do you think local people will work together to make something happen? Will this be achieved by people volunteering? Or do you think your local area will need to raise money to buy in a service to meet its needs?

Do you think that your local area has got the resources – in terms of people, skills, or finances - to meet its own needs? Perhaps your community might set up a charity as part of this process?

What will happen to your local area if it does not have the resources? Perhaps you have already witnessed changes in your local area since the Big Society was launched in 2010? If so, please give details and share any comments about the impacts of these changes.

If relevant, it would be useful if you could give any details about any national organisations or larger communities that you belong to and think, might be affected by similar issues.

The 'Big Society' and community

Do communities have enough power to manage their own needs?

Who should be responsible for the needs of communities? The communities themselves, or is it the responsibility of central government and local authorities? Do you think the 'Big Society' is going to change our society? If so, will it be for the better, or for the worse?

Have you heard of the Localism Act which was passed by the coalition government in late 2011? Please share any thoughts about this act.

Part 2: Photos, music and memory

Please start part 2 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

In the second part of the Directive we would like you to write about any photographs or music that has special significance for you. We are particularly interested to hear why they are important to you, and how they are associated with any memories. Please note that we are not asking for you to send in any images or music. Instead, we would prefer you to describe them. However, do please include them if it helps you to respond (please be careful not to send in any images that identify you or anyone else).

Early experiences of listening to music

Before you start this section of the Directive please note down the year you were born, and where you grew up.

Is there a particular song that reminds you of your childhood? This could be a song a family member/carer sang to you, or a song that was often played in the place that you grew up in.

Can you remember the first piece of recorded music you brought for yourself? What was it? Do you still listen to this song? If you do, please describe any memories listening to this piece of music brings back to you.

Special occasions

Do you have any special associations with any music or any image? For example, a song or a photograph that reminds you of an important event, a film or TV show you like, or a person you care about.

Have you ever played a piece of music at a special occasion/event, such as a wedding, christening, anniversary, or funeral? If so, please write about what piece of music you selected and why you chose it.

What about photographs? Do you regularly take photographs at events? If so, which events do you record? Do you spend much time looking at these photographs after the event?

Are there any particular photographs or pieces of music that remind you of a sad event? Please give details.

Photographs with a personal significance

Please describe any photographs that have any personal significance to you. Where did these photographs come from? Where are they now? Do you display them (maybe in a frame in your home, or computer or mobile phone screensaver)?

Sharing music and photographs

Do you ever share any important music or photographs with other people? If so, who (for example, friends or relatives)? How do you share these items? This could be in person with the physical item, using your mobile phone, email, or by any other method you can think of.

Special task: Your Mass Observation tropical island tracks and photographs!

In this section of the Directive we would like you to imagine that you are stranded on a tropical island with a record player and a small photograph album.

What four pieces of recorded music would you take with you? Please give the reasons behind your choices and say what each piece of music means to you.

What about the photograph album? What four photographs (real or imaginary) would you take to the island with you? Please describe these photographs in as much detail as possible. Why have you chosen these images? What do they mean to you?

Part 3: Dream Diary

Please start Part 3 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

If you can, we would like you to keep a record of any dreams that you have over the course of one week. Please describe your dreams in as much detail as possible. You may wish to record:

- A description of the setting of the dream. Was it familiar to you?
- Any details about who was in the dream. Did you recognise them?
- What happened during the dream?
- Was the dream pleasant or unpleasant? How did you feel during the dream?
- What did you make of the dream after you woke up? Please record any interpretations you might have about the dream.

It would be helpful if you could record the dates of your dream diary.

Please state, in your directive response, if you don't dream or can't remember your dreams. If you don't ever dream it would be useful if you could share your feelings about this. Would you like to dream?

Please post your response to: **The Mass Observation Archive, FREEPOST BR 2112, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 1ZX** Or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk
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