

The Mass Observation Project

The Spring 2017 Directive

Part 1: Your bedroom

This Directive is about the most personal room in the home – the bedroom. We want you to write about where you sleep, how the room is decorated, and how the room is used.

Where do you sleep?

Please start your Directive by describing the room you sleep in. Include details of decoration, furniture, technology (radio, TV, iPads), pictures and objects – send a photo or drawing if you can.

Do you share this room with anybody?

Furniture and decoration

- How would you describe the decoration of the room?
- Is the style and decoration important to you?
- When did you last decorate the room?
- Who makes the decisions about how this room is decorated?

Sleep

- What do you sleep on at night (bed, futon, camp bed etc)?
- Are there any noises, lights or smells that affect your sleeping?
- Have you brought any special objects to aid your sleep?

Use of the room

Apart from sleep, what other activities do you use your bedroom for? This might include reading, studying, sex, TV/iPad, dressing or other personal grooming tasks. Please list them.

Your ideal bedroom

Do you have a favourite bedroom from a past home? Please share memories.

What would your ideal fantasy bedroom look like? Please describe how you would furnish it. We welcome any pictures, magazine clippings, fabric swatches that match your ideal bedroom.

Special task

Do you have a bedside table? Please list the objects you keep on this table. Which of these objects are important for you to have near you while you sleep.

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 best to use initials instead of real names.

Part 2: World Events

2017 started with the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States. A number of you have sent us a Special Report to capture this historic world event. One of the aims of Mass Observation is to capture the contemporary, so we would like to invite you to write about current world events.

We will be asking you about Brexit as one of the next Directive themes, so please hold your thoughts and opinions on this.

Some ideas of subjects you might wish to write about:

- The terrorist attack in Westminster
- Donald Trump; the travel ban and recent undoing of climate change policies
- Threat of starvation and famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria
- Recent by-elections
- The 'crisis' in the NHS
- Train strikes (particularly on the Southern rail network)
- French presidential election
- Claims of Russia's involvement in the US election
- 'Fake news'.

Please take some time to comment on any of these subjects, or on any other items from the news, which you feel we should be covering at this time.

We want to hear your opinions, along with details about conversations you have had, or stories and experiences and reactions to reports in the press.

Please post your response to: **Freepost: RTGU-AYJE-YSSC, The Mass Observation Archive, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP** or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk
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