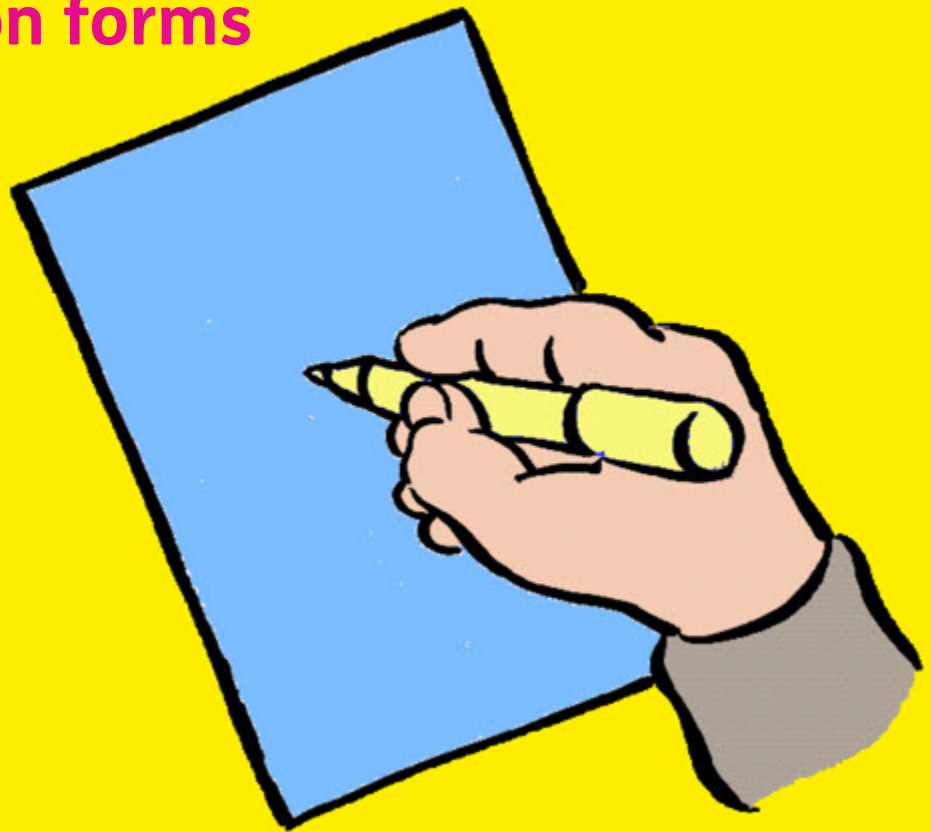




**Stonewall**

# ‘What’s it got to do with you?’

**10 reasons to answer the questions about you on forms**



**This is an Easy Read version of Stonewall’s leaflet ‘What’s it got to do with you?’**



**ISLINGTON**

# 1

## Questions, questions



**Wherever you go, people want to know personal things about you.**



This booklet tells you:

- why they ask you these things, and



- what they do with the details you give them.

# 2

## 'They' are not watching you!



The personal details you give are not used to spy on you!



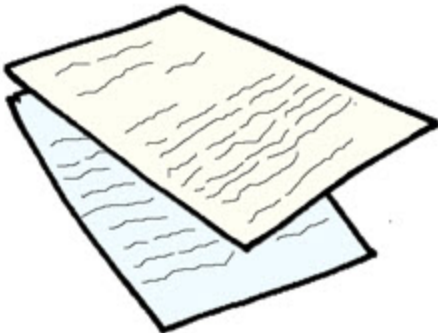
Organisations use what they find out to help make their services better.

# 3

## It is not about you



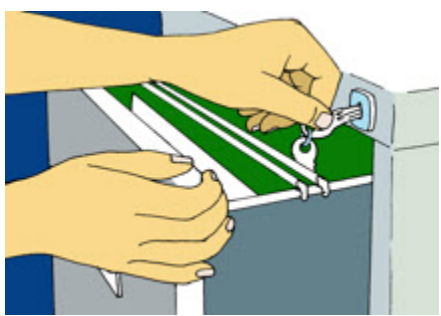
Sometimes you fill in a form with your name and address. But the part with your personal details is nearly always on its own.



People looking at your answers will not know it is you, they just want the figures.

# 4

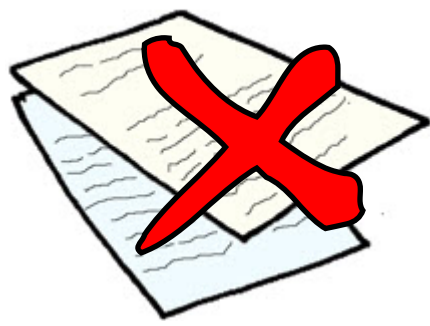
## Keeping your personal details safe



The personal details you give are always kept private.



There are rules to make sure your details are kept safe.



You do not have to give any details you do not want to - no one can make you.



# What do they want to ask?



Organisations will ask about things like your:

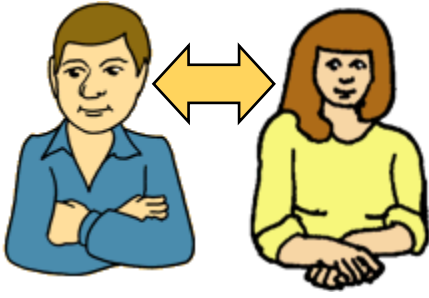
- age



- race or background



- gender – male or female



- gender identity. If you are transgender you are someone born as a man but living as a woman, or born as a woman but living as a man



- religion or belief



- **sexuality** – this means if you are:

**heterosexual or straight** – a person attracted to people of the opposite sex



**lesbian** - a woman who is attracted to other women



**gay** - a man who is attracted to other men



**bisexual** - a person who is attracted to men or women



- if you are disabled.



Sometimes you might be asked extra things like:

- are you homeless?



- how much do you earn?



- do you get any benefits?

# 6

## Why do they need to know to know this stuff?

Organisations need to know to help them give the right services.

For example:



- if there are a lot of older people in an area, they may need more Dial-a-Ride services



- breast cancer among lesbians is high, so health services need to know how many lesbians live in the area



- if English is not your main language, you may want library books in your own language.

# 7

## Who is asking?



Organisations like:

- local councils



- the police



- hospitals



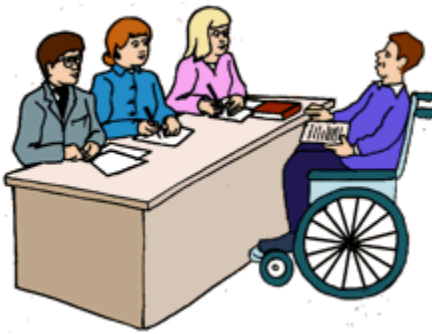
- other services.



They are not being nosy, they only ask questions that help them with their work.



# Bosses need to know too



Private companies need to ask questions about you too.

It could be when you are trying to get a job with them.



They ask because they want to make sure they are being fair.



They want to make sure they have people from different backgrounds working for them.

# 9

## You want to know my what?!!



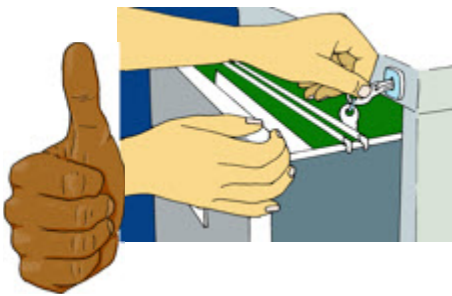
Sometimes a person might ask you these questions, but it is just the same as you filling in a form.



If you would rather fill in a form – just tell them.

# 10

## Stand up and be counted!



It is sensible to keep your information safe.

But, if organisations do not know who is out there, how can they get their services right?



If you do not tell them, how will they find out about your needs?



**If you do not help them - you cannot really complain if you do not get the services you need!**



## Credits

This leaflet has been designed and produced for Stonewall by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL391/10. April 2011.



This leaflet has been checked for accessibility by the Making It Easier Group of adults with learning disabilities.



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