

My name is Janet. My role is a special enumerator. A special enumerator will go into establishments where they were not living in a two up, two down house. Part of my role in 2011 was to visit the halls of residents in Portsmouth, actually. My role was to get in touch with the managers of these establishments and build up a rapport and explain to him or her what was going to happen and why we were doing it. We set up stands where we had sort of leaflets and posters up, and people, students could stop and look at the leaflets and ask for information. We did that of our own accord, we decided that would be a good thing to do.

You're given quite a lot of responsibility really, which felt good, because you felt like you were in control of this situation. When you manage to accrue all these census forms back, it's a really good feeling. What attracted me to working on the census was the prestige of this study. I believe it started in 1801 and the only time it wasn't completed was during the war, the Second World War. Just an amazing feeling to be part of something so historical. When I was offered the job, I was asked to go along to a training course, and it was training all day, all day training in different scenarios, working in groups and looking at different situations that you might come across.

Yeah, I felt the training was excellent. It really prepared me for the role, absolutely 100%. I was very surprised at what was actually involved in the role. I guess I may have just thought, well, it's knocking on a few doors and picking up a few forms, but it was much, much more than that, and very fulfilling and rewarding. I would thoroughly recommend it. Apply for it, yeah. Go for it. It's a great job. It's really interesting, and you definitely wouldn't regret it.