

Cutting the census has almost nothing to do with saving money

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University of Oxford – talk at the RGS,
October 21st

Examples from health -
which ranges from healthy
transport, to hospitals

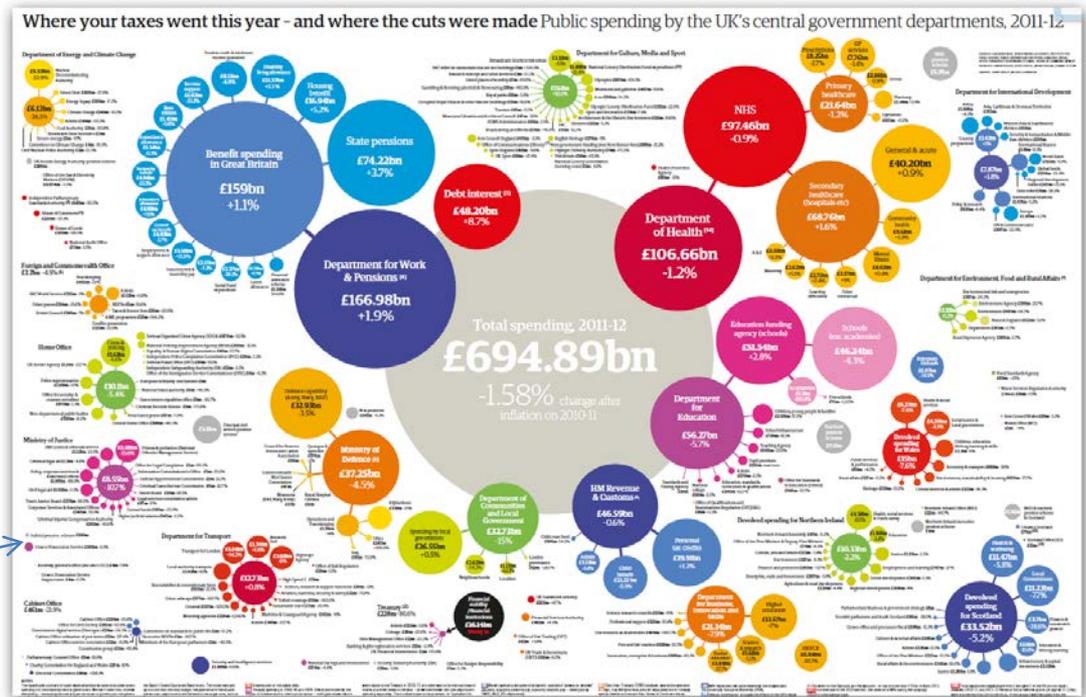


2011 UK government expenditure

Spending was £695 billion.

The census costs a fraction of that: 0.069%

Total census cost is smaller than this dot. Spread over ten years it is tiny: £48 million a year, or less than 80p each.



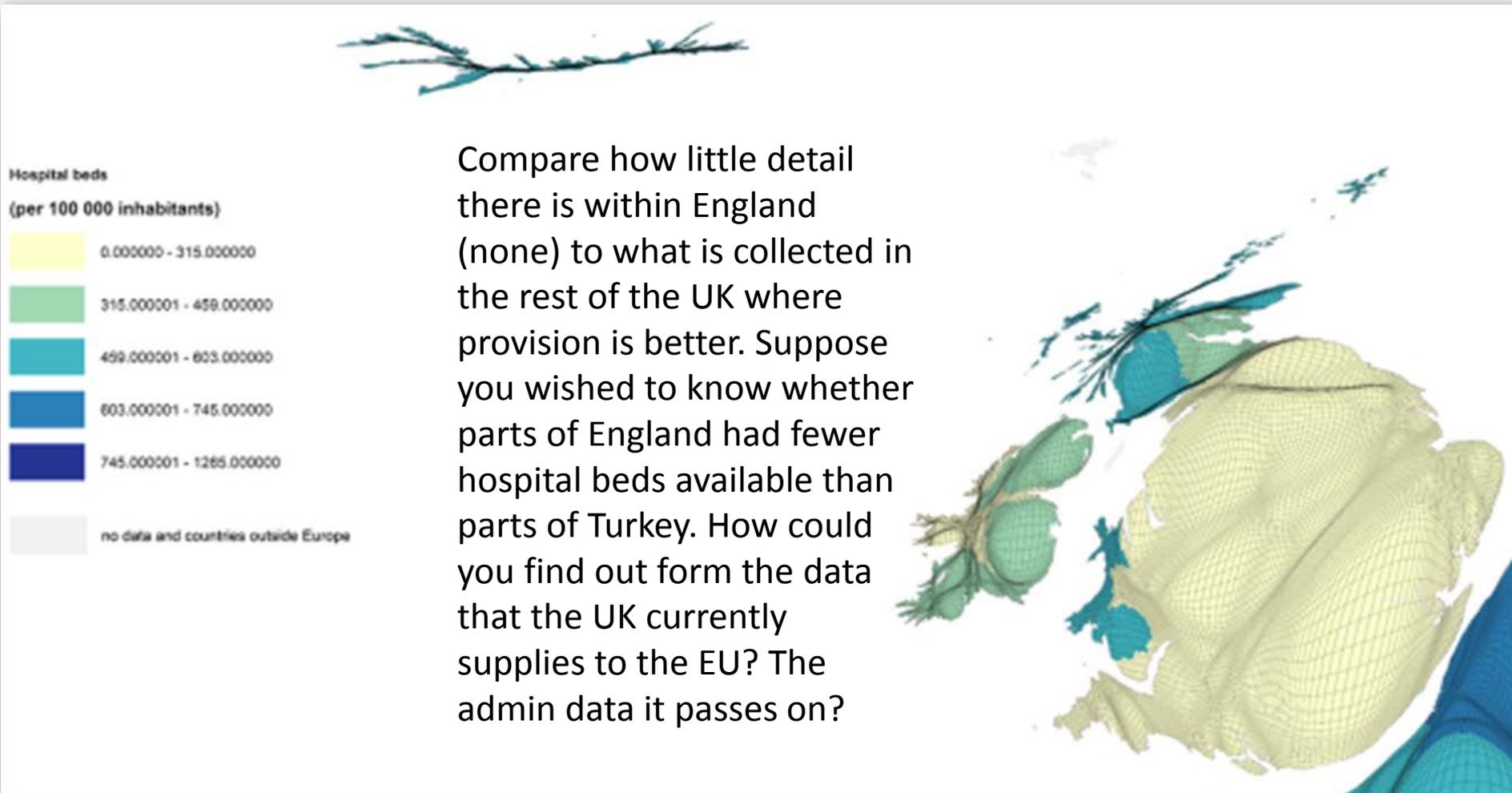
Sources: <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/dec/04/government-spending-department-2011-12>
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-user-guide/faqs/index.html>

+Another £9 million a year of cuts to normal statistical series is proposed

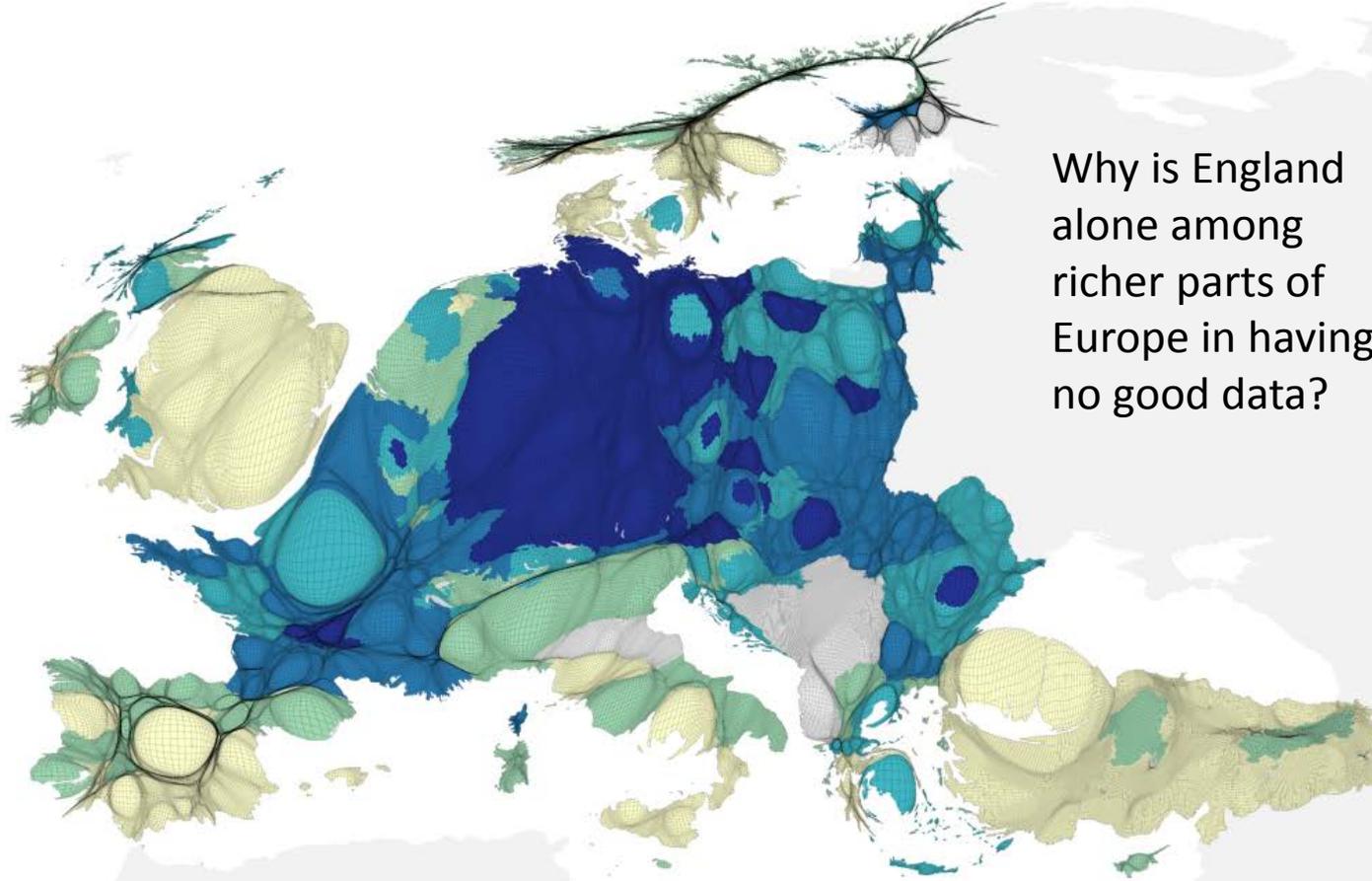
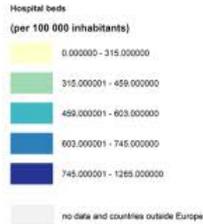
- Among the possibilities: Stop weekly figures on Deaths Registered in England and Wales (Indicative cost saving: between £10,000 and £50,000). **That is not a saving of money!**
- Stop annual statistical bulletin on Cancer Survival in England - Indicative cost saving: between £10,000 and £50,000. **[not as serious proposal]**
- Stop annual statistical bulletin on Suicides in the United Kingdom Indicative cost saving: between £10,000 and £50,000. **AND 200 to 900 more....!**

All this while absolute numbers of deaths are rising

Already England is missing data on hospital beds per person by area...



Hospital beds, by NUTS 2 regions, 2010 (per 100,000 inhabitants). Source: Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2013



Why is England alone among richer parts of Europe in having no good data?

Conclusion – “It matters because you matter”

- Our admin data are already deficient. Not good enough as they are, let alone to replace a census, and parts are being cut
- ONS produce no comparison of how much is spent on National Statistics in the UK as compared to spending per head in other areas
- Paying 80p a year to record where you are once every 10 years is cheap. But some people think most people are not worth that much.

‘They’ are suggesting not counting you because they think that you don’t count. Suggest options A+B, a census and an annual survey along with option C asking how our data compare to the rest of the EU [and cut ‘help-to-buy’, which is £12 billion underwriting £130bn of lending].