

Ms Bloggs  
Smedley Hydro  
Birkdale  
Southport  
PR8 6PR

Dear Ms Bloggs

October 1996

#### NATIONAL TWINS PLUS REGISTER

Within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) the General Register Office is responsible for ensuring birth registration within England and Wales, and keeping an archive of the information.

ONS is setting up a national register of twins, triplets, or more. It is called the "National Twins Plus Register". I attach a leaflet which describes the purposes of this register. The register will start with younger children. We hope to extend our register to include older twins and higher order multiple births when more funding becomes available. The Medical Research Council is funding the largest study ever of how young twins develop called TEDS. TEDS provides the funding to set up the register. The study will include all twins born in England and Wales in 1994, 1995, and 1996. A separate letter about TEDS is attached.

We note from our birth registration records that you are the parents of twins, triplets or more in 1995. We are writing to invite your children to take part in the register and in TEDS. For reasons of confidentiality, we have not released your name to our colleagues in ONS who will be setting up this register. Instead we agreed to contact you on behalf of Twins Plus and TEDS.

Joining the register does not oblige you to take part in any research at all. This is entirely your choice. We do hope, however, that you would like to be part of our register. If you are willing for your children to be part of this register, my colleagues will contact you just once a year. Our annual newsletter will let you know about progress on approved research. We hope you will take part in some of these projects.

Would you like to hear more about taking part? Please put a tick on the attached reply card. If you have any queries please contact Bev Botting (telephone 0171 396-2221) or the National Twins Plus Register(0151 471-4700).

Yours sincerely,

*Isobel Macdonald Davies*  
Isobel Macdonald Davies  
Deputy Registrar General