

Your invitation to the next ELSA – 50+ Health & Life Interview!

Dear _____

ELSA – 50+ Health and Life is a unique and innovative study about the health and lives of people aged 50 and over in England. Whether you have taken part before or you are new to this influential survey, we are really interested in what you have to say. We hope you will be able to help us this time around.

What's next?

A NatCen interviewer will contact you by telephone or in person to invite you to take part and, if you agree, arrange a convenient time to do the interview. If you would prefer to do the interview by video call instead, please let the interviewer know when they call, and they can arrange this for you.

Thank you

Without the ongoing commitment of people like you, ELSA could not continue.

We really appreciate the time you give to ELSA.

We hope you enjoy speaking to one of our interviewers. On the back of this letter there is more information about the study and how to contact us with any further questions.

Your sincerely,



Martin Wood
Head of Longitudinal Research
The National Centre for Social Research



Professor Andrew Steptoe
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care
University College London



Who runs ELSA?

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) is a collaboration led by University College London involving the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), The Institute for Fiscal Studies, The University of Manchester and The University of East Anglia. The research is funded by a number of UK government departments coordinated by the National Institute for Health Research, and the National Institute on Aging in the United States. Funding has also been provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

How are the ELSA results used?

ELSA helps to build a picture of ageing in England and the data is used for statistical and research purposes only. Government, charities and academics use ELSA data when thinking about policies and initiatives for people aged 50 and over, including things like work, pensions and healthcare, which could affect you and your family.

When will the interview be?

We realise that you may be busy, so we'll organise the interview at a time that suits you. This could be in the evening or at the weekend if you prefer. In the coming weeks your interviewer will contact you to discuss taking part and arrange an appointment to conduct the interview in your home. If you prefer, a video call can be arranged instead.

What will the interview be about?

We would like to ask you some general questions about your health and living standards, as well as asking you to do some simple problem-solving exercises. Some of you will also be invited to take part in a health visit which your interviewer will tell you more about.

Can a friend or family member be present during the interview?

Yes, if you want a friend or family member there during the interview then this is certainly possible.

How do you safeguard my privacy?

We will treat your information in the strictest confidence under UK GDPR data protection legislation. Your answers are put with those collected from people across England and the survey findings are used for research that benefits society. You will not be identifiable from the published results. You can read more about the ELSA privacy policy here:

<https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/privacy-notice>.

Can I request access to my data?

Your data is used for research purposes and therefore not all GDPR rights apply. For more information, please see the link above for the ELSA privacy notice. We will, however, always do our best to meet any requests for your data to be accessed, deleted or amended. For more information or to request to delete your data, contact the NatCen Data Protection Officer by email:

dpo@natcen.ac.uk.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this research is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any stage. If you would like to leave ELSA, please get in touch so we can update your records.

Who has reviewed the study?

ELSA is assessed by an independent group of people called a research ethics committee to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and approved by South Central – Berkshire NHS Research Ethics Committee.

How can you get in contact with us?

To get in touch you can email us at **elsa@natcen.ac.uk** or call our freephone number on **0800 652 4574**.