

# Your invitation to the next ELSA - 50+ Health & Life interview!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

ELSA – 50+ Health and Life is the ground-breaking 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?

Your 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. Your safety is important to us, so we are making sure that our interviewers follow all the latest guidelines for COVID safety. Please see the enclosed COVID-19 leaflet which explains how we are keeping you and our interviewers safe. **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. As a thank you for taking part, we will give you a **£20 gift card**, which you can use at a range of high street shops.

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.

Yours sincerely,

**Martin Wood**  
Head of Longitudinal Research  
NatCen Social Research

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

### **What is ELSA and who runs it?**

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. This includes things like work, pensions, and healthcare which could affect you and your family.

The ELSA research team is made up of five institutions: NatCen Social Research, University College London, 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, the Economic and Social Research Council, and the National Institute on Aging in the United States.

### **When will the interview be and what will it be about?**

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 a time for the interview. They will show you their photo ID card from NatCen. We'd 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. 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 current data protection legislation. Your personal details will only be known to the members of the ELSA team who administer and process the results of the survey. For more information about your data and your rights please see the enclosed survey leaflet. You can read the ELSA Privacy Notice here: [natcen.ac.uk/elsa-privacy-notice](https://natcen.ac.uk/elsa-privacy-notice).

### **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.

### **How can I contact you?**

To get in touch you can email us at [elsa@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:elsa@natcen.ac.uk) or call our freephone **0800 652 4574**.