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Your invitation to take part in the ELSA – 50+ Health & Life study!

Dear <MMname>

You kindly took part in the Family Resources Survey (FRS), which was carried out by The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Your responses have informed DWP about how people are coping with the current economic climate and help them understand the impact of increases in the cost of living.

We are now writing to ask for your help with a ground-breaking follow-up research study, called ELSA – 50+ Health & Life. The study aims to interview people aged 50 and over living in England to explore the health, lifestyles, and financial situation of people as they grow older. You have been specially chosen from the households that took part in FRS as you or your partner are aged 50 or over and agreed to be contacted again about future research.

Why take part?

Research studies like the FRS and ELSA make a real difference to life in this country. The government, universities, and charities are taking notice of this research and use the findings to help them make big decisions about issues like work, pensions, and healthcare. Participation in this study is voluntary.

What does the study involve?

One of our NatCen interviewers will contact you soon to tell you more about the study and invite you to take part and, if you agree, arrange a convenient time to interview you.


If you complete the interview, we would also like to invite you to participate in other occasional data collection activities including questionnaires and health visits. In this way, your participation in the study could continue into the future. You will, at any time, be free to decline these opportunities or to withdraw your participation from the study completely.

As a thank you for taking part, we will give you a **£20 voucher**. The voucher can be used at a range of high street shops.

Yours 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. 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. We will use a small number of answers from your Family Resources Survey interview to help us ask more appropriate questions in ELSA. 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 your interviewer can arrange an appointment time convenient to both you and your friend or family member.

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 don't want to take part in ELSA, want us to delete your personal information or want to withdraw your consent to take part in any future surveys, please contact us using the details below.

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** (Monday - Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm).