

Serial Number:

Biomedical Fieldworker Name: _____

Biomedical Fieldworker Contact Number: _____

Date: _____

First Name of Participant: _____

Dear _____

Our records show that the person named above resides in your care home. Recently they took part in an interview for The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, also known as **ELSA 50+ Health and Life**. During this interview they also agreed to participate in a follow-up health visit.

This visit collects important information on how health changes over time and allows comparisons to be made with the health of people in other countries. We would very much appreciate your help with the next stage of this project as it is especially important that we capture the health of people living in care homes.

The health visit involves the person named above having a range of biomeasures taken, which include blood pressure, height and weight, grip strength, lung function and blood samples. Participants can take part in all or some of the measures. The visit will be undertaken by a trained NatCen or Inuvi biomedical fieldworker. The visit should last between 60 - 90 minutes. If the participant wishes, a friend or family member can be present during the health visit.

We will contact you in the next few days to discuss how to proceed with the health visit. We have also written to the above-named person to inform them of this stage of the ELSA study.

Thank you for your assistance.

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



What is ELSA and who runs it?

ELSA is a research study which has been running since 2002, and helps to build a picture of ageing in England. The information gathered through ELSA, is used by the government, charities and academics when thinking about policies and initiatives for people aged 50 and over. This includes things like work, pensions and healthcare.

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).

What is a biomedical fieldworker?

A biomedical fieldworker is a data collector with a background in health and social care who is specially trained to take biological samples and measurements, in a survey setting. Biomedical fieldworkers may have previously worked in one of a range of health and social care settings, including nurses, midwives, phlebotomists, health care assistants, paramedics and other healthcare or health research related roles. The health visits are being carried out by NatCen and Inuvi biomedical fieldworkers.

When will the health visit be?

We realise that people are busy, so we'll organise the health visit at a convenient time, which could be in the evening or a weekend. The biomedical fieldworker will visit at a time that is most convenient for the participant and will aim to keep disruptions to the routine running of the home to a minimum. The activities of other residents won't be affected by the interview.

As the health visit only needs to involve the participant, we will not need to take-up any additional staff capacity.

In the coming weeks, the biomedical fieldworker will be in contact to discuss taking part and arrange a time for the visit.

How do you safeguard the participant's privacy?

We will treat the participant's information in the strictest confidence under UK GDPR data protection legislation. The participant's answers are put with those collected from people across England and the survey findings are used for research that benefits society. They 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>.

Do they have to take part?

Participation is voluntary and participants have the right to withdraw at any stage.

How can you contact us?

To get in contact you can e-mail NatCen at elsa@natcen.ac.uk or call our freephone number **0800 652 4574**.