

Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

Some time ago, your household kindly took part in the Health Survey for England, which was conducted by the *National Centre for Social Research* on behalf of the Department of Health. Your contribution helped make the study a great success, and we are writing now to ask for your help with a new study, which we believe will be very important in the future.

A number of Government Departments in Britain, alongside the National Institute of Aging in the United States, have come together to fund the start of a ground-breaking study. The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) will explore the health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older, with interviews for study members and any partners under fifty now and in the coming years. The study is being carried out by *National Centre for Social Research* jointly with academic researchers from University College London and the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

You have been specially chosen from among the households that took part in the Health Survey for England and we are very interested in what you have to say. The study is voluntary, but we hope that all of the people who are chosen will take part so that our results give an accurate picture of people's experiences. Everyone who is interviewed will receive a £10 gift voucher as a token of our appreciation for their help.

Your interviewer, _____, will visit you in the next few days to invite you to take part and, if you are willing, arrange a time to do the interview. They will be carrying an identification card, with a photograph and should be able to answer any questions you may have about the study. You can also phone Phillipa Hunt on 01277 200 600.

All your answers will be treated in strict confidence. We hope that you will want to be involved in this important study, and enjoy speaking to one of our interviewers.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Michael Marmot
Principal Investigator



Phillipa Hunt
Project Manager

<<Title>> <<Name>> <<Surname>>
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Spring 2002

Dear <<Title>> <<Surname>>

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