

Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

Some time ago, you kindly took part in the first stage of a new study about ageing. It was conducted by the *National Centre for Social Research* jointly with academic researchers from University College London and the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and was funded by a number of government departments in Britain and the National Institute on Ageing in the United States. Your contribution helped make the first wave of the study a great success, and we are writing to you now to ask for your help in the next stage.

As you may recall, this ground-breaking study, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), explores the health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older. We are hoping to revisit everyone who participated in the study during 2002 to 2003, to conduct a second interview to see how their lives have changed, or stayed the same. Taking part is entirely voluntary, though we very much hope to interview everybody who took part last time so that our results give an accurate picture of people's experiences. We cannot replace you with anyone else.

As a token of our appreciation, the interviewer will give you a cheque for £10. This is similar to the gift voucher we gave you when we last spoke to you. If you are unable to bank the cheque, we can arrange for you to be sent a gift voucher instead.

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 the logo of the National Centre for Social Research. They should be able to answer any questions you may have about the study.

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. If you have any questions or would like to make other arrangements for the interview, please don't hesitate to phone Helen Selwood on freephone 0800 652 4569.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Michael Marmot
Principal Investigator



Helen Selwood
Project Manager