

2010

## Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

Some time ago, you kindly helped us with the fourth stage of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). 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 Aging in the United States. Your contribution has helped to make 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 explores the health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older. We are hoping to revisit everyone who participated in 2008 or 2009 to conduct an interview to see how their lives have changed or stayed the same. Taking part 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.

As a token of our appreciation, the interviewer will give you a cheque for £20. If you are unable to bank the cheque, we can arrange for you to be sent a gift voucher instead.

Your interviewer, \_\_\_\_\_, will invite you to take part and, if you are willing, arrange a time to do the interview. The interview can be arranged according to your needs and availability. The interviewer 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 in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.** We hope that you will want to be involved in this important study, and enjoy speaking to one of our interviewers again. If you have any questions or would like to make other arrangements for the interview, please don't hesitate to phone Elise Yarrow on freephone 0800 652 4574.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Michael Marmot  
Principal Investigator



Elise Yarrow  
Project Supervisor

AL1a/Exist