

P3096/Exist/

## Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

Some time ago, you kindly helped us with a study about ageing. As you may recall, **the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), explores the health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older.** The study is important because the combination of topics is unique and will help us gain a greater understanding of what life is like for you.

The help you have provided with the survey over the years is very much appreciated. Without the ongoing commitment of ELSA participants the study could not continue. We are writing to you now to ask for your help with the current stage.

We are very interested in what you have to say. Taking part in ELSA is voluntary; we hope that you will be able to help us again. **All your answers will be treated in strict confidence.** As a token of our appreciation, the interviewer will give you a **£20 gift voucher** after the interview.

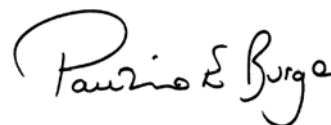
Your interviewer will telephone or visit your household to invite you to take part and, if you agree, arrange a convenient time to do the interview.

**We hope that you will want to be involved in this study, and enjoy speaking to one of our interviewers again.** On the back of this letter there is more information about the study and how to contact us if you have further questions.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Sir Michael Marmot  
Principal Investigator



Pauline Burge  
Project Coordinator

***Your interviewer will be:***

Name:

Interviewer's ID number:

**Who runs ELSA?**

It is conducted by *NatCen Social Research* jointly with academic researchers from University College London, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the University of Manchester. It is funded by a number of government departments in Britain and the National Institute on Aging in the United States.

**When will the interview be?**

The interview can be arranged according to your needs and availability.

**How will I know the interviewer is from NatCen?**

The interviewer will be carrying a *NatCen Social Research* identification card, showing their photograph. The interviewer's name is written at the bottom of this letter.

**What if I have any other questions?**

We hope this letter answers your questions, and that it shows the importance of the study. If you have any other questions or concerns about the study, please ask the interviewer or contact us on 0800 652 4574 (this number is free from landlines, mobile network charges will vary) or on [ELSA@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:ELSA@natcen.ac.uk). You can also view some frequently asked questions on our ELSA respondents' website <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/elsa>.

**How do you use the answers I provide?**

We have enclosed a newsletter so that you can read about recent findings from the study and how they are being used. It also provides information about the research team. You can see past reports and papers produced as a result of ELSA on the special ELSA respondents' website <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/elsa>.