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Dear <W3Title><W3Name_2>,

Spring 2007

Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

You recently very kindly helped us with the third stage of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). This study is conducted by the *National Centre for Social Research* jointly with academic researchers from University College London and the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and is 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. Thank you very much for helping us with this part of the study.

Our records show that at the end of your last interview you said you would be willing to help us with a brand new part of the ELSA study called the Life History interview. This new interview will ask about key events in your life, for example, the places where you have lived and worked, and any children you may have had. The interview is very different from the last ELSA interview you had and most of the questions will not have been asked of you before. It should also take up much less of your time and hopefully be a very interesting experience.

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.

Your interviewer, _____, will be in contact in the next few days to 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. We hope that you will want to be involved in this important and innovative part of the 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 Chris Shaw on freephone 0800 652 4569.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Michael Marmot
Principal Investigator



Chris Shaw
Project Manager