

We'll be calling again soon

Dear

ELSA – 50+ Health and Life is the ground-breaking study about the health and lives of people aged 50 and over in England. The study is about the health, living standards and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over, living in England.

Whether you have taken part before or you are new to this influential survey, we are really interested in what you have to say. We hope you will be able to help us this time around.



What's next?

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



Why you are so important to us

Without the ongoing commitment of people like you, ELSA could not continue. Last time we asked, 8 out of 10 people in the study agreed to continue taking part. We really appreciate the time you give to ELSA.



Thank you

As a thank you for taking part, we will give you a £20 gift card, which you can use at a range of high street shops.

We hope you enjoy speaking to one of our interviewers. On the back of this letter there is more information about the study and how to contact us with any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Wood
Head of Longitudinal Research
NatCen Social Research

Professor Andrew Steptoe
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care
University College London

When will the interview be?

We realise that you may be busy, so we'll organise the interview at a time that suits you. Your interviewer will telephone or call at your home to arrange an appointment.

What will the interview be about?

We'd like to ask you some general questions about your health and living standards, as well as asking you to do some simple problem solving exercises. Some of you will also be invited to take part in a nurse visit which your interviewer will tell you more about.

How will I know the interviewer is from NatCen?

Your interviewer will be carrying a NatCen Social Research ID card, showing his/her photograph.

How are the ELSA results used?

ELSA helps to build a picture of ageing in England and the data is used for legitimate purposes – statistical and research purposes – only. The results are used by government, charities, academics and other influential people, when thinking about planning services which affect people aged 50 and over. So, that's things like work, pensions and healthcare which could affect you and your family.

What will happen to any information I give?

We will treat your information in the strictest confidence under current data protection legislation. The results are used for research and statistical purposes only. Your personal details will only be known to the team who administer and process the results of the survey at NatCen, stored securely and will never be passed on to anyone else. As we would like to look at long term trends, we have not set a limit on how long we would like to keep the information you give. You have the right to request access to your data, to amend it if it is incorrect, or that your data is deleted (if still in its raw form).

Participation in this research is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any stage.

You can contact the NatCen Data Protection Officer by email at dpo@natcen.ac.uk. To read our data protection policy, visit www.natcen.ac.uk. If you have a complaint, please get in touch by contacting NatCen on elsa@natcen.ac.uk or Freephone **0800 652 4574**.

Who has reviewed the study?

ELSA is assessed by an independent group of people called a research ethics committee to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and approved by South Central - Berkshire NHS Research Ethics Committee.

Where can I find out more?

If you'd like to know more, see the enclosed leaflet, call us free on **0800 652 4574** or visit our website www.natcen.ac.uk/elsa50plus. Your interviewer will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Where can I spend my £20 gift card?

You can spend your gift card at a range of high street shops, including Marks & Spencer, Argos, Debenhams and Boots.