ELSA English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

UCL NatCen National Centre for Social Research IFS Institute for Fiscal Studies

Our reference: P2158

Dear _____

Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

Some time ago, you kindly took part in the first stage of a 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 and 2003, to conduct a second interview to see how their lives have changed, or stayed the same, over the last two years. It is important that we interview everybody who took part in the study so that our results give an accurate picture of people's experiences. Everyone who is interviewed will receive a token of appreciation for their help.

_____, an interviewer from the *National Centre for Social Research* called today at the address we have on our files only to learn that you now live elsewhere.

The interviewer spoke to _____ who did not wish to give your new address without your permission, but did agree to forward this letter to you on our behalf.

We hope that you are able and willing to help us with this stage of the study. If so, we should be very grateful if you would let us have details of your present address as soon as possible, wherever you are living now. Please call Helen Selwood on freephone 0800 652 4569 between 9:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can complete the form enclosed and return it to us in the envelope provided; you will not need a stamp. Can I stress that by giving us your address you are not committing yourself to be interviewed. You can decide when the interviewer contacts you to explain the study. If you do decide to take part, all the information you give will be treated in strict confidence. It will not be released in any way that allows you or your family to be identified. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Michael Marmot
Principal Investigator

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Helen Selwood
Project Manager

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