



Living Costs and Food Survey

Volume H:
Changes Database
January – December 2009

Great Britain & Northern Ireland

ONS Social Surveys

Office for National Statistics

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Explanatory Notes

This volume of the documentation describes the way in which the 2009 database has changed in relation to the 2008 database.

This volume is divided into 10 parts:

Part 1 - changes to raw variables are listed in terms of those that are new for 2009

Part 2 - Lists the 2008 variables that have been deleted for 2009

Part 3 - Lists any 2008 variables that have changed name for 2009

For Parts 4-6 - Changes to derived variables

Many derived variables remain unchanged in name, but it should be remembered that there may well be changes in the contents of the variables that feed them. Changes to

Part 4 - are new for 2009

Part 5 - have been deleted for 2009

Part 6 - have changed name for 2009

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Expenditure codes are also listed and explained in Volume of the User Documentation.

Part 7 - details expenditure codes which are new for 2009

Part 8 - details expenditure codes which have been deleted for 2009

Part 9 - shows expenditure codes which have been amended for 2009

Part 10 - gives details of the major changes to the Expenditure and Food Survey (previously Family Expenditure Survey) for 1991 to the current year 2009.

Part 11 - lists any known errors that may affect the 2009 data.

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Part 1

New Raw Variables

Household Questionnaire

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
HlthPreg	In the last 12 months, have you received the Health in Pregnancy Grant?	Rawper Q2
DVHIP	DV for HlthPreg	Rawper Q3-4
CWPayment	In the past 12 months, have you received any Cold Weather Payments	Rawper Q3-4
CWPAmt	How much have you received in total for the past 12 months?	Rawper Q3-4
DVCWPAmt	DV for CWPAmt	Rawper Q3-4
SICCODE	Standard Industrial Classification - SIC	Rawper
O_EStdordAmt	Electricity: Electricity standing order payment before abatement/imputation	Rawhh
EStdordAmt	Electricity: How much was your last standing order payment?	Rawhh
EStdordAbmt	Electricity: EStdordAmt has been abated, imputed or both	Rawhh
EStdordPer	Electricity: What period did this cover?	Rawhh
DVEStdord	Electricity: DV for EStdordAmt	Rawhh
DWPElec	Did the DWP pay all of your last Electricity bill?	Rawhh
DWPElecF	Electricity: How much did the DWP contribute to the last payment?	Rawhh
DWPElecP	Electricity: How much did you contribute towards your last payment?	Rawhh
DWPPER	Electricity: What period did this cover?	Rawhh
DVDWPEF	Electricity: DV for DWPElecF	Rawhh
DVDWPEP	Electricity: DV for DWPElecP	Rawhh
DWPGas	Did the DWP pay all of your last Gas bill	Rawhh
DWPGasF	Gas: How much did DWP contribute to the last payment?	Rawhh
DWPGasP	Gas: How much did you contribute towards your last payment?	Rawhh
DWPPerc	Gas: What period did this cover?	Rawhh
DVDWPGF	Gas: DV for DWPGasF	Rawhh
DVDWPGP	Gas: DV for DWPGasP	Rawhh
O_GStdordAmt	Gas: Gas amount before abatement/imputation	Rawhh
GStdordAbmt	Gas: GStdordAmt has been abated, imputed or both	Rawhh
GStdordAmt	Gas: How much did you pay last time?	Rawhh
GStdordPer	Gas: What period did this cover?	Rawhh
DVGStdord	Gas: DV for GStdordAmt	Rawhh

Income Questionnaire

Variable

Description

No changes

SPSS File Name



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 2

Deleted Raw Variables

Household Questionnaire Variable	Description	Equivalent in 2009 (if applicable)
MenuNote	Menu Note	N/A
NoteToHQ	Note to HQ	N/A
NoteToMM	Enter any essential notes for the..	N/A
TelNo	Record telephone number	N/A
PhysRef	Record in detail the reason(s) why..	N/A
SIC90	Standard Industrial Classification - SIC	SICCODE
PayCrdt	Pay: Did the take home pay of [£amount] include any of the	N/A
WTCamt	Benefits: How much was included for Working Tax Credit payment?	N/A
WTCPer	Benefits: What period did this cover ?	N/A
CTCamt	Benefits: How much was included for Child Tax Credit payment?	N/A
CTCPer	Benefits: What period did this cover ?	N/A
CCTCrdt	Pay: Does this payment include a Child Care Tax Credit to help pay for child care expenses?	N/A
O_EBBSAmt	Electricity: Electricity budgeting scheme payment before abatement/imputation	N/A
EBBSAmt	Electricity: How much was your last budgeting scheme payment?	N/A
EbbsAbmt	Electricity: EBBSAmt has been abated, imputed or both	N/A
EBBSPer	Electricity: What period did this cover?	N/A
DVEBB	Electricity: DV for EBBSAmt	N/A
DSSElecF	Electricity: How much did the DWP contribute to the last payment?	DWPElecF
DSSElecP	Electricity: How much did you contribute towards your last payment?	DWPElecP
DSSPer	Electricity: What period did this cover?	DWPPER
DVDSSEF	Electricity: DV for DSSElecF	DVDWPEF
DVDSSEP	Electricity: DV for DSSElecP	DVDWPEP
DSSGasF	Gas: How much did DWP contribute to the last payment?	DWPGasF
DSSGasP	Gas: How much did you contribute towards your last payment?	DWPGasP
DSPerc	Gas: What period did this cover?	DWPPERc
DVDSSGF	Gas: DV for DSSGasF	DVDWPGF
DVDSSGP	Gas: DV for DSSGasP	DVDWPGP
O_GBBSAM	Gas: Gas amount before abatement/imputation	N/A
GBBSAbmt	Gas: GBBSAmt has been abated, imputed or both	N/A
GBBSAmt	Gas: How much did you pay last time?	N/A
GBBSPer	Gas: What period did this cover?	N/A
DVGGB	Gas: DV for GBBSAmt	N/A

Equivalent in 2009 (if applicable)

Income Questionnaire Variable

Description

No changes

LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 3

2008 Raw Variables that have changed for 2009

Household Questionnaire: Variable Changes

2008 Variable Name	Description	2009 Variable Name
LnOrg	<p>Answer options expanded as follows: 2007: (1) A finance house, credit union, second mortgage, personal loan from bank or building society, (2) your employer as repayment of a loan, (3) DWP social fund, (4) or repayment of a student loan. 2008: (1) A finance house, (2) a credit union, (3) second mortgage or mortgage on a second dwelling, (4) a bank for a personal loan, (5) building society for a personal loan, (6) your employer as repayment of a loan, (7) DWP social fund, (8) or repayment of a student loan.</p>	LnOrg
GasPay	<p>Answer options expanded as follows: 2008: (1) Slot meter, (2) Account, (3) Budgeting scheme, (4) Gas card or disc, (5) DSS pay the whole bill, (6) DSS pay part of the bill, (7) or by some other method, (8) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DSS). 2009: (1) Direct debit, (2) Standing order, (3) Monthly/quarterly bill, (4) Pre-payment (keycard or token) meters, (5) Included in rent, (6) Frequent cash payment method, (7) Fuel direct/direct from benefits, (8) Fixed Annual Bill, (9) Other, (99) Don't know.</p>	GasPay
ElecPay	<p>Answer options expanded as follows: 2008: (1) Slot meter, (2) Account, (3) Budgeting scheme, (4) Electricity card, disc, token or electronic key, (5) DSS pay the whole bill, (6) DSS pay part of the bill, (7) some other method, (8) paid direct by someone outside household (except DSS), (9) or by C.O.C.D. (NI only). 2009: (1) Direct debit, (2) Standing order, (3) Monthly/quarterly bill, (4) Pre-payment (keycard or token) meters, (5) Included in rent, (6) Frequent cash payment method, (7) Fuel direct/direct from benefits, (8) Fixed Annual Bill, (9) Other, (88) Not applicable, (99) Don't know.</p>	ElecPay

JSACHk

Answer option removed as follows: **2008:** **JSACHk**
 (1) contributory, that is based on your NI contributions, (2) income-bases, that is based on an assessment of your income, (3) Have you received BOTH types of Jobseeker's Allowance at DIFFERENT TIMES in the last 12 months. **2009:** (1) contributory, that is based on your NI contributions, (2) income-bases, that is based on an assessment of your income.

Income Questionnaire: Variable Changes

2008 Variable Name

Description

2009 Variable Name

No changes



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 4

New Derived Variables

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name	Availability
B407	Health in Pregnancy Grant - amount received	Dvper	Q2
CB1311	Catered food- eaten on premises	Dvhh	Q3-4
CB1311t	Catered food- eaten on premises	Dvhh	Q3-4
CB1312	Non-alcoholic drink- drunk on premises	Dvhh	Q3-4
CB1312t	Non-alcoholic drink- drunk on premises	Dvhh	Q3-4
C93311w	Plants, flowers, seeds, fertilisers, insecticides	Dvhh	Q3-4
B223	Gas - amount of payment (standing order)	Dvhh	All
B224	Electricity - amount of payment (standing order)	Dvhh	All



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 5

2008 Derived Variables that have been deleted for 2009

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
A1312	HRP: No. of years at current address	Dvhh
B371	WTC - last amount received in pay	Dvper
B374	CTC – last amount received in pay	Dvper
B375	Tax credits paid through the payroll	Dvper
	WTC received as benefit, where not received through pay, excludes amounts where CTC and WTC are paid in combination	
B376	CTC received as benefit, where not received through pay, excludes amounts where CTC and WTC are paid in combination	Dvper
B377	Gas - amount of payment (board budget scheme)	Dvper
B221	Electricity - amount of payment (board budget scheme)	Dvhh
B222		Dvhh



LCF Changes Database 2009- Volume G Part 6

2008 Derived Variables that have changed for 2009

Variable Name	Description of Change	SPSS File Name	Availability
A128	Answer options expanded as follows: 2008: (0) Not applicable, (1) Slot meter, (2) Account, (3) Budgeting scheme, (4) Gas card or disc, (5) DSS pay the whole bill, (6) DSS pay part of the bill, (7) or by some other method, (8) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DSS). 2009: (0) Not recorded, (1) Direct debit, (2) Standing order, (3) Monthly/quarterly bill, (4) Pre-payment (keycard or token) meters, (5) Included in rent, (6) Frequent cash payment method, (7) Fuel direct/direct from benefits, (8) Fixed Annual Bill, (9) Other, (99) Don't know.	Dvhh	All
A130	Answer options expanded as follows: 2008: (0) Not applicable, (1) Slot meter, (2) Account, (3) Budgeting scheme, (4) Electricity card, disc, token or electronic key, (5) DSS pay the whole bill, (6) DSS pay part of the bill, (7) some other method, (8) paid direct by someone outside household (except DSS), (9) or by C.O.C.D. (NI only). 2009: (0) Not recorded, (1) Direct debit, (2) Standing order, (3) Monthly/quarterly bill, (4) Pre-payment (keycard or token) meters, (5) Included in rent, (6) Frequent cash payment method, (7) Fuel direct/direct from benefits, (8) Fixed Annual Bill, (9) Other, (88) Not applicable, (99) Don't know.		



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 7

New Expenditure Codes

EFS Code	Product	EFS Description
1.1.2.11.4	Rotisserie chicken	Hot cooked chicken.



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 8

2008 Expenditure Codes that have been deleted for 2009

EFS Code	Product	EFS Description	Reason
		<i>No changes</i>	



LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G Part 9

2008 Expenditure Codes that have been amended for 2009

Product

Details

No changes

LCF Changes Database 2009 - Volume G

Part 10

Major Changes

Changes in definitions 1991 to 2009

Family Expenditure Survey (FES):

1991

No significant changes

1992

Housing

Imputed rent for owner occupiers and households in rent-free accommodation has been discontinued. For owner occupiers this was the rent they would have had to pay themselves to live in the property they own, and for households in rent-free accommodation it was the rent they would normally have had to pay. Up to 1990 these amounts were counted both as income and as a housing cost. Mortgage interest

1993

Council Tax

Council Tax was introduced to replace the Community Charge in Great Britain from April 1993.

1994/1995

New Expenditure Items

The definition of expenditure was extended to include two items previously shown under "other payments recorded". These are:

- gambling payments;
- mortgage protection premiums.

Expenditure Classifications

A new classification system for expenditures was introduced in April 1994. The system is hierarchical and allows more detail to be preserved than the previous system. New categories of expenditure were introduced and are shown in detail in table 7.1. The 14 main groups of expenditure were retained, but there were some changes in the content of these groups.

Gambling Payments

Data on gambling expenditure and winnings collected in the expenditure diary. Previously these have been excluded from the definition of household expenditure used in the FES. The data have been shown as memoranda items under the heading "Other payments recorded" on both gross and net bases. The net basis corresponds approximately to the treatment of gambling in the National Accounts. The introduction of the National Lottery has stimulated a reconsideration of this treatment. From April 1994, (gross) gambling payments have been included as expenditure in "Leisure Services". Gambling winnings continued to be noted as a memorandum item under "Other items recorded". They are treated as windfall income. They do not form a part of normal household income, nor are they subtracted from gross gambling payments. This treatment is in line with the PRODCOM classification of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) for expenditure in household budget surveys.

1995/1996*Geographical Coverage*

The FES geographical coverage was extended to mainland Scotland north of the Caledonian Canal.

Under 16s Diaries

Two week expenditure diaries for 7-15 year olds were introduced following three feasibility pilot studies which found that children of that age group were able to cope with the task of keeping a two week expenditure record. Children are asked to record everything they buy with their own money but to exclude items bought with other people's money. Purchases are coded according to the same coding categories as adult diaries except for meals and snacks away from home which are coded as school meals, hot meals and snacks, and cold meals and snacks. Children who keep a diary are given a £5 Pocket money given to children is still recorded separately in adult diaries; and money paid by adults for school meals and school travel is recorded in the Household Questionnaire. However, no attempt is made to determine whether money given to children for the purpose of school meals or school travel is actually used for those purposes.

Databases and tables in Family Spending reports for 1994/05 to 1997/98 excluded these expenditures, however, and pocket money and other transfers to children were shown in the same way as in the earlier years. From 1998/99 they include results from the under 16s diaries. Appendix G of the 1998/99 report shows what difference the inclusion made.

1996/1997*Self-Employment*

The way in which information about income from self-employment is collected was substantially revised in 1996-97 following various tests and pilot studies. The quality of such data was increased but this may have lead to a discontinuity. Full details are shown the Income Questionnaire, available from the address in the introduction.

Cable/Satellite Television

Information on cable and satellite subscriptions is now collected from the household questionnaire rather than from the diary, leading to more respondents reporting this expenditure.

Mobile Phones

Expenditure on mobile phones was previously collected through the diary. From 1996/97 this has been included in the questionnaire.

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

Introduced in October 1996 as a replacement for Unemployment Benefit and any Income Support associated with the payment of Unemployment Benefit. Receipt of JSA is collected with NI Unemployment Benefit and with Income Support. In both cases the number of weeks a respondent has been in receipt of these benefits is taken as the number of weeks receiving JSA in the last 12 months and before that period the number of weeks receiving Unemployment Benefit/Income Support.

Restrospective Recall

The period over which information is requested has been extended from 3 to 12 months for vehicle purchase and sale. Information on the purchase of car and motorcycle spare parts is no longer collected by retrospective recall. Instead expenditure on these items is collected through the diary.

State Benefits

The lists of benefits specifically asked about was reviewed in 1996/97. See the Income Questionnaire for more information.

Sample Stratifiers

New stratifiers were introduced in 1996/97 based on standard regions, socio-economic group and car ownership.

Government Office Regions

Regional analyses are now presented using the Government Office Regions (GOR) formed in 1994. Previously all regional analyses used Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs). For more information see Appendix F.

1997/1998

Bank/Building Society Service Charges

Collection of information on service charges levied by banks has been extended to include building

Payments from Unemployment/Redundancy Insurances

insurance policies. This information is then incorporated into the calculation of income from other sources.

Retired Households

The definition of retired households has been amended to exclude households where the head of the household is economically inactive.

Rent-Free Tenure

The definition of rent-free tenure has been amended to include those households for which someone outside the household, except an employer or an organisation, is paying a rent or mortgage on behalf of the household.

National Lottery

From February 1997, expenditure on National Lottery tickets was collected as three separate items: tickets for the Wednesday draw only, tickets for the Saturday draw only and tickets for both draws.

1998/1999

Children's Income

Three new expenditure codes were introduced: pocket money to children; money given to children for specific purposes and cash gifts to children. These replaced a single code covering all three categories.

Main Job and Last Paid Job

Harmonised questions were adopted.

1999/2000

Working Family Tax Credit

The questionnaire was altered to deal with the replacement of Family Credit by Working Family Tax Credit in October 1999.

2000/01

Household Definition

The definition was changed to the harmonised definition which has been in use in the Census and nearly all other government household surveys since 1981. The effect is to group together into a single household some people who would have been allocated to separate households on the previous definition. The effect is fairly small but not negligible.

Up to 1999/2000 the FES definition was based on pre-1981 Census definition and required members to share eating and budgeting arrangements as well as shared living accommodation. The definition of a household was:

One person or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence
and (for a group)
 share the living accommodation, that is a living or sitting room
and
 share meals together (or have common housekeeping).

The harmonised definition is less restrictive:

One person or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence
and (for a group)
 share the living accommodation, that is a living or sitting room
or
 share meals together or have common housekeeping.

The report on the 2000-01 survey, Family Spending 2000-01, contains a discussion of the effect of the change in Chapter 9. There is no clear-cut answer but the effect may be increase average household size by a maximum of 1.9 per cent.

Question Reductions

A thorough review of the questionnaire showed that a number of questions were no longer needed by government users. These were cut from the 2000-01 survey to reduce the burden on respondents. The reduction was fairly small but it did make the interview flow better. All the questions needed for a

Redesigned Diary

The diary was redesigned to be easier for respondents to keep and to look cleaner. The main change of substance was to delete the column for recording whether each item was purchased by credit, charge or shop card.

Ending of MIRAS

Tax relief on interest on loans for house purchase was abolished from April 2000. Questions related to MIRAS were therefore dropped. They included some that were needed to estimate the amount if the respondent did not know it. A number were retained for other purposes, however, such as the amount of the loan still outstanding which is still asked for households paying a reduced rate of interest because one

Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF):

2001/02

FES -> EFS

and the National Food Survey (NFS). In 1997 ONS reviewed its multi-purpose surveys and found that the FES and the NFS had a significant degree of overlap between them. For example, it was noted that they were both diary surveys and both collected data on food expenditure. ONS and MAFF, the sponsors of the NFS, agreed a collaborative programme to develop a merged survey. The intensive development and testing that followed was successful and the two departments agreed to go ahead with the merged survey. MAFF has now become the Department of Rural Affairs (DEFRA). A full account of the development is in the Social Survey Methodology Bulletin No. 48 (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/ssmb/ssmb48.pdf>)

The following key features have been implemented into the LCF:

- The survey is broadly based on the FES - that is a household interview to collect regular payments and purchases of certain large items by retrospective recall, full income details from every adult and a two week diary of all spending kept by every person aged 7 upwards.
- Food weights for food brought home are collected in the diary.

- A more detailed coding frame than on the FES is used for food, both food brought home and food eaten out. (Expenditure code changes are detailed later on).
- The survey should record home grown and wild food (e.g. blackberries).

2002/03*Main Shopper*

shopping was identified as the Main Diary Keeper. From 2002/03, this term has been replaced by the "Main Shopper".

The importance of the Main Shopper is to ensure that we have obtained information on the bulk of the shopping in the household. Without this person's co-operation we have insufficient information to use the other diaries kept by members of the household in a meaningful way.

The main shopper must therefore complete a diary for the interview to qualify as a full or partial interview. Without their participation, the outcome will be a refusal no matter who else is willing to complete a diary.

2003/04*Benefits*

The benefit section of the Income Questionnaire was changed as part of the move to harmonisation with other ONS surveys.

Tax Credits

Disabled person's tax credit, Children's tax credit and Working families tax credit were replaced by Working tax credit and Child tax credit. (Note that data on both sets of benefits were collected during April 2004, to allow an overlap).

Internet Purchases

Information was collected on more items which were purchased over the internet.

High Expenditure

New questions were asked about individual purchases costing more than £5,000 and these were removed from diary data to avoid double-counting.

2004/05

The only one main change to have occurred in the survey was that the order of the questions has changed in the following sections of the household questionnaire: 'Money given to household members' and 'Items paid direct from outside the household'.

2005/06*Vehicles Section*

The vehicles section was redesigned for 2005-06. Previously, information about vehicles was recorded in

- Vehicles owned or privately leased (in the past 12 months)
- Vehicles bought
- Vehicles sold
- Use of other vehicles
- Vehicle service
- Vehicle repair
- Road tax

These have now been combined into one section, which first identifies all the vehicles owned, leased, used and sold by the household in the last 12 months, and then asks for details on each vehicle in turn. This has resulted in the addition of some new raw variables, and the amendment and deletion of others. During April to December 2005, respondents who had sold a vehicle were not asked whether they had bought that same vehicle in the previous year. This was corrected from January 2006. Questions on road tax refunds were inadvertently omitted from the 2005-06 questionnaire.

Urban and Rural Definition

A new urban and rural area classification based on 2001 Census data has been introduced onto the LCF dataset. The classification replaces the Department for Transport, Local Government and Regions (DTLR) 1991 Census-based urban and rural classification that was used previously. The new classification is the standard National Statistics classification for identifying urban and rural areas in England and Wales, and Scotland. Please refer to 'Definitions' for further details.

Stratification Variables

Stratification variables were updated using 2001 Census data when drawing the 2005-06 sample. Until 2004-05, area level stratifiers were derived from 1991 Census data.

2006

In anticipation of the introduction of the Continuous Population Survey (CPS) in January 2008, from January 2006 the survey has been conducted on a calendar-year basis.

2007

The weighting process was comprehensively updated using data from the 2001 Census.

From 2007 the non-response classes and weights have been updated using 2001 Census-linked data. The Census-linked studies matched Census addresses with the sampled addresses of some of the large continuous surveys, including FES for the 1991 link study and the EFS for the 2001 link study. In this way it was possible to match the address details of the respondents as well as the non-respondents with corresponding information gathered from the Census for the same address. The information collected during the 1991 and then the 2001 Census/FES/EFS matching work was then used to identify the types of households that were being under-represented in the survey.

For the updated 2001 Census based non-response weights a combination of household variables were analysed using a mixed model approach. The mixed model is a combined approach to modelling, to benefit from the underlying statistical model of logistic regression as well as utilising AnswerTree. Updated weighting classes were produced and households within each of the weighting classes were assigned an updated non-response weight.

In addition, the population-based weighting process was also updated for 2007. For 2007 data, the LCF used population projections from the 2001 Census. These estimates exclude residents of institutions not covered by the LCF, i.e. those living in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, hostels, residential homes and other institutions. The impact of the updated weights upon the expenditure estimates is described in more detail in the 'Weighting' section of Appendix B, Family Spending.

2008

From January 2008, the EFS questionnaire was known to interviewees as the Living Costs and Food (LCF) module of the Continuous Population Survey (CPS), though internally it is known as the EFS component of the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). As a consequence of this, the old EFS questionnaire has been altered to accommodate the insertion of a core set of questions, common to all of the separate modules which together comprise the IHS.

With a very limited number of exceptions, the insertion of the core has had minimal impact on both the amount and content of the standard data which is collected on the survey. Indeed, the addition of the core has not been at the expense of any data previously collected on the LCF. Instead, the core essentially constitutes a harmonised section of questions, as well as some new ones, which have been incorporated alongside the existing LCF questionnaire. This will continue to function as it did prior to the survey's incorporation into the IHS.

The 'Minimum Income' block previously used on the LCF is no longer in use on the questionnaire. This section of the questionnaire was used to collect a succinct overview of household income in cases where respondents were not willing or able to disclose a sufficient level of detail elsewhere in the questionnaire. Equivalent details are now collected in the core income section.

In an LCF module interview, the core income questions are typically asked of all adult respondents in addition to the full income questions, unless the respondent spontaneously refuses to answer one or both. This differs from the LCF, where respondents were offered a straight choice between answering full and minimum income questions, with a refusal to answer the full income section relegating cases to partial

2009

Gas & electricity payment methods – Following consultation with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the payment methods have been updated for the gas and electricity questions. This has brought the LCF questions in line with those on the EHS. This may cause a slight discontinuity in the data.

A question was added to capture the take up of the Health in Pregnancy grant, a benefit introduced in April 2009.

A question capturing Cold Weather Payments was included from July 2009 onwards.