

Summary of changes: FRS 12/13

This document summarises the changes that were made to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) Questionnaire following the Summer 2011 consultation. Please note that this document does not include details of processing changes/improvements.

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Implications of EU-SILC

From April 2012 the FRS will be used to capture the cross-sectional data requirements for the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Completed FRS interviews will form the sample frame for a follow-up survey, which ONS will use to meet the longitudinal EU-SILC requirements. DWP and ONS have agreed to share savings from this exercise. More details can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/open-consultations/the-future-of-the-glf-survey/>.

More information about EU-SILC can be found:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income_social_inclusion_living_conditions/introduction

As a result of this, the following changes have been made to the questionnaire:

New questions

- Trailer module on housing conditions:
 - Shortage of space
 - Size of dwelling (in metres)
 - Adequate electrical installations
 - Adequate plumbing/water installations
 - Equipped with heating facilities
 - Comfortably warm in the winter
 - Comfortably cool in the summer
 - Satisfaction with the dwelling
 - Accessibility of grocery services
 - Accessibility of banking services
 - Accessibility of postal services
 - Accessibility of public transport
 - Accessibility of primary health care services
 - Accessibility of compulsory school
 - Immediate risk of changing the dwelling
 - Main reason for move
 - Change of dwelling in last 5 years

- Main reason for change
- Follow-up question referencing the longitudinal EU-SILC element
- Self-reported employment status, for current month and previous 12 months
- Number of dwellings in the building
- Problems with accommodation (damp, not enough daylight, noise, pollution or crime)
- Bath or shower for use by the household
- Inside flushing toilet for use by the household
- Reason for the household not having a colour TV
- Washing machine for use by the household and if not, reason
- Telephone for use by the household and if not, reason
- Computer for use by the household and if not, reason
- Motor vehicle for use by the household and if not, reason
- Value of services per month
- Burden of housing costs
- Country of origin (where other)
- Countries passport held (or entitled to hold)
- Age highest qualification was achieved
- Additional questions to determine highest qualification (degree type, NVQ level etc)
- Qualification currently being studied for
- General health status
- Required a medical examination/treatment but did not receive it, and reason
- Required a dental examination/treatment but did not receive it, and reason
- Burden of loans
- Household could afford to eat meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
- Household could afford to pay a necessary but unexpected expense
- Household's ability to make ends meet
- Minimum amount of money required to pay usual expenses
- Amount of tax paid on redundancy payments
- Amount of tax paid on training allowances
- Amount received regularly from friends and family each month
- Amount given regularly to friends and family each month
- Value of alimony payments made
- Amount of tax paid on rent received in the last 12 months
- Amount of tax paid on bonuses
- Employment status of odd-jobs
- Number of times household has been behind with bills in the last 12 months
- Main reason for changing job
- Employment contract status for main job
- Age started first regular job
- Number of rooms used only for cooking and food preparation
- Exact year started living at the address
- Reason for not being able to keep the house warm

- Number of hours in school

Amended questions

- Routing for a number of questions amended to be asked of those aged 16+, in addition to adults (including HiQual and Corign)
- Follow-up question: only those not pre-selected for the EU-SILC longitudinal element to be asked the general follow-up question.
- Contribution to the cost of the motor vehicle: wording changed to be consistent with GLF
- Services: electricity, gas and liquid or solid fuel added
- Number of employees at place of work: additional answer categories
- Highest qualification: revised answer categories
- Debt: rent, mortgage payments, and other payments added
- LikeHr and NoMor replaced by one question: wording changed to be consistent with GLF
- Look: replaced by two questions to separate looking for work and looking for training, to be more consistent with GLF
- YearLive, MonLive and YrLvChk: routing changed to be based on the new question on year started living at the address
- YrLvChk: year reference changed to be 2008 and not updated annually.
- Routing for occupation questions (such as ftwk, ptwk, SOC and SIC) to be changed to include those who are retired

Non-EU-SILC related changes

New Questions

- Support (income and non-income) received from the 16-19 Bursary Fund
- Arrangements for making child maintenance payments

Deleted Questions

- Prescription questions removed (MedPay, MedWho, MedPrPay, MedPrPd, MedNum, MedRep, MedRepNm, Med12m)
- Child maintenance payments covered by a court order (MrCt)

Amended Questions

- Disability questions: Replaced by the harmonised standard questions
- CBAamt: Additional answer category to capture £0
- Ben5Q: additional interviewer instruction to exclude benefits referenced in previous questions
- ESAType: Additional answer category to capture those receiving both income based and contributory payments
- JSAType: Additional answer category to capture those receiving both income based and contributory payments
- LegDep and Ben1Q: additional interviewer note to be added to reflect planned changes in Child Benefit policy

- OthDed: Additional answer category to capture student loans
- Othded1: Additional answer category to capture student loans
- Deduc: Routing changed to capture amount of student loan
- UDeduc: Routing changed to capture amount of student loan
- Acclnt: Interviewer instruction to check amounts over £10.
- OddJob: Additional interviewer instructions to record the details in the job section if done on a regular basis
- Freeitem: Additional answer category to capture free school fruit and vegetables (and associated follow-up questions)
- GrWage: Additional interviewer note to include overtime, bonuses, commission, tips or other payments
- Followup: wording amended to be in line with DWP legal advice
- Ethnicity: revised wording and answer categories to be consistent with harmonised standards
- Train and NITrain: additional check when New Deal answer categories are chosen

Documentation Changes

No changes planned at present.

Other Changes

No changes planned at present.

Reviewed May 2012