



Living Costs and Food Survey

Volume H:
Changes Database
January – December 2010

Great Britain & Northern Ireland

ONS Social Surveys

Office for National Statistics

December 2011

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Explanatory Notes

This volume of the documentation describes the way in which the 2010 database has changed in relation to the 2009 database.

This volume is divided into 10 parts:

Part 1 - changes to raw variables are listed in terms of those that are new for 2010

Part 2 - Lists the 2009 variables that have been deleted for 2010

Part 3 - Lists any 2009 variables that have changed name for 2010

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 derived variables are listed that:

Part 4 - are new for 2010

Part 5 - have been deleted for 2010

Part 6 - have changed name for 2010

Parts 7-9 - LCF expenditure codes

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

Part 7 - details expenditure codes which are new for 2010

Part 8 - details expenditure codes which have been deleted for 2010

Part 9 - shows expenditure codes which have been amended for 2010

Part 10 - gives details of the major changes to the Expenditure and Food Survey (previously Family Expenditure Survey) for 1991 to the current year 2010.

Part 11 - lists any known errors that may affect the 2010 data.



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Part 1

New Raw Variables

Household Questionnaire

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
PassDuty, PassDuty2...Passduty10	Air Passenger Duty Band	Rawhh
MortTypeO	Other mortgage type	Rawhh
MortPayQ	Last mortgage payment (questionnaire)	Rawhh
MortPercQ	Period for last mortgage payment installment (questionnaire)	Rawhh
Morusu	Whether mortgage payment is the agreed monthly amount	Rawhh
Morusamt	Agreed monthly mortgage amount	Rawhh
HIStPsn, HIStPsn2...HIStPsn5	Who received the vouchers?	Rawhh
HIStAmt, HIStAny, HIStAny2...HIStAny5	How many Healthy Start vouchers Anyone else received Healthy Start Vouchers?	Rawhh Rawhh
HIStFlt	Anyone received Healthy Start vouchers?	Rawhh
NMkPsn, NMkPsn2...NMkPsn5	Who received the nursery milk?	Rawhh
NMkMan, NMkMan2...NMkMan5	How many of the past 7 days nursery milk was received	Rawhh
NMkAny, NMkAny2...NMkAny5	Any other children received nursery milk?	Rawhh
NFMkFilt	Any child received nursery milk?	Rawhh
Schm08	Were you on a government training scheme in the last 7 days?	Rawper
SchmYr	Were you on a government training scheme in the last year?	Rawper
NDType4	New Deal scheme attended in last 7 days	Rawper
NDTypYr	New Deal scheme attended in last 12 months	Rawper
NewDea4	New Deal option attended in reference week	Rawper
NewDeYR	months	Rawper
TecLec4	Which organisation funds the scheme attended in last 7 days	Rawper
TecLeYR	Which organisation funds the scheme attended in last 12 months	Rawper
TrainBen	Allowance received from government scheme	Rawper
TrainPer	Period the allowance covered	Rawper
YTEtMp	Were you doing any of the following on that scheme?	Rawper

TYTErMYR	Were you doing any of the following on that scheme?	Rawper
DVG0VWK	On a government scheme in the reference week	Rawper
YTEtJb	Paid job/business in addition to government scheme?	Rawper
EmpStY	Year started job as employee	Rawper
SEmpStY	Year started job as self-employed	Rawper
JobStM	Month started job	Rawper
Multi	Was this address a multihousehold?	Rawhh
MultiNo	address	Rawhh
PENFLAG		Rawper
CAPVAL	Enter the capital value for this property	Rawhh
OthPay4...OthPay7	Do you pay any of these accomodation charges?	Rawhh

Income Questionnaire
Variable

Description

SPSS File Name



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Deleted Raw Variables

Household Questionnaire Variable	Description	Equivalent in 2010 (if applicable)
TVNum	How many TVs do you have?	N/A
UseTV	Is this/Are any of these TV set(s) currently in use?	N/A
BrkTV	Is this/Are any of these TV set(s) broken but due to be repaired within 7 days?	N/A
Video	Consumer Durables: Does your household have any of the following items in your (part of the) accommodation... ..Video recorder?	N/A
DVDHow1.. DVDHow4	May I just check, is that a stand-alone DVD player, or do you have a DVD player as part of a computer or games console?	N/A
Euunion, EUunion2...EUunio10	Flights: To which country did you fly?	PassDuty
Svise	Job: Supervisory status	N/A
SViseDsc	Job: Please describe the type of responsibility you have for supervising the work of other employees	N/A
Tessac	TESSA: Do you have now, or have you had in the last 12 months, a Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (TESSA)?	N/A
TesInt	TESSA: In the last 12 months, have you had any interest credited to your account?	N/A
TesAmt	TESSA: What was the total interest over the last 12 months?	N/A
DVTES	TESSA: DV for TesAmt	N/A
FullInc	questions?	N/A
Menstyr, Menstyr2..Menstyr4	Mortgage: In what year was this endowment policy/pension plan/PEP/ISA/unit trust taken out?	N/A
WMkPsn, WMkPsn2...WMkPsn5	Welfare Milk: Who received the milk?	N/A
WfMkMan, WfMkMan2...WfMkMan5	Welfare Milk: How many pints received during the 7 days ending yesterday?	N/A
WfMkAny, WfMkAny2...WfMkAny5	Welfare Milk: Have any more of you had any free welfare milk in the 7 days ending yesterday?	N/A
WfMkFilt	Welfare Milk: Have (any of) you (or your children under 16) had any free welfare milk during the 7 days ending yesterday?	N/A
GovtProg	Government Schemes: In the last 12 months, have you taken part in any of the schemes shown on card	SchmYr
NIProgType	Government Schemes (Northern Ireland): Which scheme was that?	N/A

Progtype	Government Schemes: Which scheme was that?	N/A
PrgTypO	Government Schemes: Please specify the type of scheme	N/A
NewDOpt	Government Schemes: Which New Deal option were you most recently on?	N/A
INA273	Government Schemes: Are you on Work Trial/on New Deal/receiving this allowance at present?	N/A
IntText	Internet Purchase: Please specify what other items or services were ordered over the internet	N/A
WorkYr	Job: In which year did you start working continuously?	EmpStY/SEmpStY
WorkMth	Job: And which month in [^WorkYr] was that?	JobStM
NRV	Code the net rateable value of ...	CAPVAL
OthPyam8	How much did yo...	N/A
ChgPer8	What period did...	N/A
DVChgOt8	DV for oth pay	N/A

Income Questionnaire Variable	Description	Equivalent in 2010 (if applicable)
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Part 3

2009 Raw Variables that have changed for 2010

Household Questionnaire: Variable Changes

2009 Variable Name	Description	2010 Variable Name
GasPay	Answer option added as follows: (10) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DWP).	GasPay
ElecPay	Answer option added as follows: (10) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DWP).	ElecPay
OthPay	Answer options reduced and re-organised as follows: 2009: (1) Ground rent, (2) Feu duty (Scotland), (3) Chief Rent, (4) Service charge, (5) Compulsory or regular maintenance charges, (6) Site rent (caravans), (7) Factoring (Scotland), (8) Any other regular payments, (9) None of these. 2010: (1) Ground rent, (2) Chief rent, (3) Service charge, (4) Compulsory or regular maintenance charges, (5) Site rent (caravans), (6) Factoring (Scotland), (7) Any other regular payments, (8) None of these.	OthPay
MortType	Unit Trust or ISA mortgage, (5) BOTH an endowment (or other interest only) AND a repayment mortgage, (6) an interest only mortgage with more than one linked investment, (7) an interest only mortgage with NO linked investment, (8) Another type.	MortType

Income Questionnaire: Variable Changes

2009 Variable Name	Description	2010 Variable Name
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Part 4

New Derived Variables

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name Availability	
A1711	Television in household	Dvhh	All
B2011	Mortgage endowment policy amount premium	Dvhh	All
B204	Other mortgage - last payment	Dvhh	All
B2631	Healthy Start vouchers - imputed value last week	Dvhh	All
B2632	Nursery milk - imputed value last week	Dvhh	All
B071u	Capital value (Northern Ireland only)	Dvhh	All
P212	Calculated domestic rates (2010)	Dvhh	All
B2081	Mortgage protection amount premium	Dvhh	All



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Part 5

2009 Derived Variables that have been deleted for 2010

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
A141	Possession of video recorder	Dvhh
A171	TV set in household	Dvhh
B398	TESSA interest received	Dvper
B201	Mortgage endowment policy after 1983 - amount premium	Dvhh
B202	Mortgage endowment policy before 1984 - amount premium	Dvhh
B263	Welfare milk - imputed value last week	Dvhh
A330	Internet order last 12 mths: Other	Dvhh
B3681	WFTC/WTC - lump or non-lump payment?	Dvper
B070u	Rateable value for part of dwelling occupied	Dvhh
P211	Calculated domestic rates	Dvhh
B208	Mortgage protection pre April 1984 amount premium	Dvhh
B213	Mortgage protection after April 1984 amount prem	Dvhh



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Part 6

2009 Derived Variables that have changed for 2010

Variable Name	Description of Change	SPSS File Name	Availability
A128	Answer option added as follows: (10) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DWP).	Dvhh	All
A130	Answer option added as follows: (10) Paid direct by someone outside household (except DWP).	Dvhh	All
A246	Answer options added and re-organised as follows: 2009 : (0) Not recorded, (1) Training for work (GB), (2) Youth Training (GB), (3) Project Work (GB), (4) Work Trial (GB), (5) Enterprise Ulster Job Training Program, (6) Youth Training Programme (NI), (7) Action for Community Employment (NI), (8) Job Skills (NI), (9) Other Government Programme, (10) New Deal: further education or training, (11) New Deal: voluntary option, (12) New Deal: environment option. 2010 : (0) Not recorded, (1) Work-based learning for young people, (2) Work-based learning for adults, (3) Job Skills, (4) Work Track, (5) Entry to employment, (6) New Deal: Gateway, (7) New Deal: Working for an employer, (8) New Deal: Working for the voluntary sector, (9) New Deal: Environmental Task Force, (10) New Deal: Full-time study, (11) New Deal: Setting up as self-employed, (12) New Deal: Basic employment training, (13) New Deal: Education/training opps, (14) New Deal: Follow-through scheme, (15) New Deal: Not specified, (16) Other training Internet expenditure is now included in this variable.	Dvper	All
P555	Internet expenditure is now included in this variable.	DVHH	All
P608	Internet expenditure is now included in this variable.	DVHH	All
P136	No longer includes internet expenditure. Internet expenditure is now included in this variable.	DVHH	All
P558	Internet expenditure is now included in this variable.	DVHH	All
P609	No longer includes internet expenditure.	DVHH	All
P532	B204 now feeds into this variable.	DVHH	All
B150	Mixed mortgages now feed into this variable.	DVHH	All

B060	No longer includes expenditure on Feu Duty	DVHH	All
B130	Unit linked, ISA mortgages, Interest only		
B230	with linked investments and interest only		
	mortgages now feed into this variable	DVHH	All
	variable.	DVHH	All
	B201 and B202 no longer feed into this		
	variable as they have been removed, they		
P620	have been replaced by B2011	DVHH	All

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Part 7

Major Changes

Changes in definitions 1991 to 2010

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

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

- 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

2009

Gas & electricity payment methods – Following consultation with the Department for Energy and Climate 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.

2010

Multiple household interviews - In 2010 the LCF in line with other ONS Social Surveys changed the way interviews were conducted at addresses with more than one private household. Until July, 2010 interviewers were instructed to interview all households (up to a maximum of three at any one address) when a sampled address contained more than one private household. From July onwards interviewers were no longer required to interview multiple households at these addresses, instead a random selection method is used to select one household to interview.

Northern Ireland sample - Until 2010 the LCF ran a boosted Northern Ireland sample which allowed for separate Northern Ireland analysis to be conducted, at the end of 2009 this boost came to an end.

Female pension age - Due to changes in the female pension age, the way in which pensioner households are identified has changed. Until May 2010 any female over 60 and male over 65 was defined as a pensioner, from May 2010 onwards the female pension age increases gradually, which is reflected in the LCF definition.

Internet subscription fees - For 2010 the internet subscription fees sub category has been moved from recreation and culture to the communications category of COICOP.