

Summary of changes: FRS 13/14

This document summarises the changes that were made to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) Questionnaire following the Summer 2012 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 has been used to capture the cross-sectional data requirements for the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Completed FRS interviews 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/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/archived-consultations/2011/the-future-of-the-glf-survey/index.html>.

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 changes in EU-SILC requirements, including the change of the trailer module, the following changes have been made to the questionnaire:

New questions

- Trailer module on wellbeing:
 - Overall life satisfaction
 - Meaning of life
 - Satisfaction with financial situation
 - Satisfaction with accommodation
 - Being very nervous
 - Feeling down in the dumps
 - Feeling calm and peaceful
 - Feeling downhearted or depressed
 - Being happy
 - Job satisfaction
 - Satisfaction with commuting time
 - Satisfaction with time use
 - Trust in the political system
 - Trust in the legal system
 - Trust in the police
 - Satisfaction with personal relationships

- Personal matters (anyone to discuss with)
- Help from others
- Trust in others
- Satisfaction with recreational or green areas
- Satisfaction with living environment
- Physical security
- Additional material deprivation questions
 - Replace worn-out furniture
 - Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones
 - Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)
 - Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month
 - Regularly participate in a leisure activity
 - Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself
 - Internet connection for personal use at home

Amended questions

- No EU-SILC questions were amended this year

Removed questions

- The 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

Non-EU-SILC related changes

New Questions

- Sheltered accommodation questions added to capture cases where a landlord provides care (LldCare)
- Proxy/personal interview question has been moved and a new question to indicate who answered for a proxy 16-19 year old has been introduced

- Discretionary Learner Support

Deleted Questions

- Year live check (YrLvChk)
- Adult Learning Grant questions (ALG, ALGAmt and ALGPd)
- New deal type (NDealType)

Amended Questions

- Relationship grid: new note to code family members of cohabiting same sex partners in the same way as those in a civil partnership
- Full time education: additional note, from 2013 young people in England must continue in education/training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and from 2015 until they turn 18
- Number of hours in school: new note to round number up or down to the nearest whole number
- Where is spouse: answer categories updated to include civil partners
- Country of origin categories updated to better reflect the composition of the UK population and align with other surveys
- A number of changes have been made to housing benefit questions as a result of changes in the way they're administered and with the introduction of Universal Credit. Most changes involve the movement of housing benefit questions to the benefit block, and a name change from housing benefit to 'benefits to help with rent' as local authorities now administer housing benefit and have control to rename them and change their eligibility criteria
- Rented accommodation questions have been amended to make them clearer for respondents and in relation to the change in housing benefit mentioned above
- Payment from outside the household towards mortgages/loans: new interviewer prompt
- Council Tax Benefits are now administered by local authorities and can have different names; the FRS will refer to a Council Tax Reduction. The questions and information have been updated accordingly
- Amount for boarding and lodging: change of wording from housing benefit to any state benefits to help with rent
- Rent within shared households: change of wording from housing benefit to any state benefits to help with rent
- Adult and child health questions have been reordered to be the same
- Access to medical and dental care routing has been changed so they are only asked if the child is aged 15 to 19
- Government Training answer options updated to reflect policy reforms, help information also updated and a new soft check introduced
- Training allowance: routing changed, asked of all respondents that report being on any of the training courses at Train
- Reason for not wanting work: question wording change to include did not want to look for work
- Number of weeks absent from work: interviewer note changed as they no longer record absences of less than a week in days

- Employee pay details – fuel types for company cars updated
- Pension schemes: changes reflect the introduction of auto-enrolment
- Benefit block: benefits are now grouped together in a more meaningful way and housing benefit and tax credits are incorporated into the benefit block. This has resulted in a large number of questions moving, changing or being replaced
- Total amount of benefits received (TtBPrx): change to routing, only asked if a respondent doesn't know the amount received for one or more benefits
- Redundancy tax question changed to capture £0 where the respondent is not eligible to pay tax on the payment
- Up to date with bills: answer categories updated
- Types of accounts for savings and investments have been updated to reflect changes

Documentation Changes

No changes planned at present.

Other Changes

No changes planned at present.

Reviewed May 2014