

Summary of changes: FRS 14/15

This document summarises the changes that were made to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) Questionnaire following the Summer 2013 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.

More information about EU-SILC can be found:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main>

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

- Material Deprivation module:
 - ALL have books at home suitable for their age
 - ALL have some new (not second-hand) clothes
 - ALL have indoor games suitable for their ages
 - ALL eat meat / chicken / fish / vegetarian equivalent at least once a week
 - ALL have at least 2 pairs properly fitting shoes (incl 1 pair)
 - Do you regularly use public transport?
 - Why do not regularly use public transport: too expensive
 - Why do not regularly use public transport: station too far away
 - Why do not regularly use public transport: too difficult to use
 - Why do not regularly use public transport: use own/private transport
 - Why do not regularly use public transport: other reason
 - Does your household have a roast joint (or its equivalent) once a week
 - In the last 14 days was there a day you/partner didn't have a day off?
 - ALL have suitable place to study / do homework

Amended questions

- Number of utility rooms
- Services paid for: electricity
- Services paid for: gas
- Services paid for: heating / hot water

- Services included in rent: liquid / solid fuel
- Electricity: amount paid last time
- Gas: amount paid last time
- Heating / hot water: amount paid last time
- Liquid / solid fuel: amount paid last time
- Does your household have a roast joint (or its equivalent) (NI only)
- No substantial meal due to lack of money in the last two weeks (NI only)
- Changed employer or contract with current employer last 12months

Removed questions

- Wellbeing module
 - 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

Non-EU-SILC related changes

New Questions

- Costs of utilities, including electricity, gas, heating/hot water and liquid or solid fuel. Also includes a check if someone reports paying more than £50 a week for any of utilities.
- Free early years education childcare (FreeCC)
- 4 harmonised questions to capture respondents life satisfaction (Satis), how worthwhile they feel their activities are (Worth), how happy they are (Happy) and how anxious they feel (Anxious); these are only asked in personal interviews

- Level of each qualifications achieved, including NewDepl, WELSHBAC, GNVQ, GCSE, NumOs, CandG, OthCheckWV, OthCheckP, OthCheckF and OthCheck2
- BLAISE works out the respondents highest qualifications, the respondent is asked to identify which of these they achieved most recently (HighQual) and the age at which they achieved the(se) qualification(s) (AgeHighQ2 and AgeHighQ1)
- Level of qualification currently studying for, including NewDeplNow, WELSHBACNow, GNVQNow, CandGNow, CurOthCheckWV, CurOthCheckP and CurOthCheckF
- Change of job and reason for leaving job (JbChnge and YJbChng)
- Recipients of Universal Credit are asked their payment method and if the account is held jointly with anyone (AccUC and UCJoint)
- Child Maintenance questions: proportion of maintenance received (MntPro), timeliness of payments (MntTim), number of children covered by payment (MntNoCh) and how well they consider the arrangement is working (MntWrk)

Deleted Questions

- OtherBen option for Lone Parent's Benefit Run On / Job Grant has been removed – no longer available
- Child Maintenance via Government (MntGov)
- Variation in child maintenance (MrV) and reason for variation (MrChWhy)

Amended Questions

- Sewerage rates or charges now include septic tank charges (SewerPay)
- Childcare questions have been changed to account for free early education – all 3 and 4 years olds in England are entitled to 15 hours of free early education each week for 38 weeks of the year, some 2 year olds are also eligible (Disp, Cost)
- Informal carers who report very occasional care are now coded as 0-4 hours per week (Hour)
- Respondents are asked to identify all of the institutions where they have gained qualifications (HiQual1) and all of the qualifications they have achieved (HiQual3)
- The level of qualification questions have some changes to the answer categories, this includes HighO, BTEC, SCOTVEC, NVQlev and RSA
- Qualifications currently studying for – updated options (CurQual)
- The level of qualifications currently studying have changes to the answer categories, including HighONow, BTECNow, SCOTVECNow, NVQlevNow and RSANow
- Grant has been changed to include maintenance and tuition fee loans
- Question for any other educational loans changed to specifically include loans for tuition fees that need to be repaid (Loan)
- Educational access fund instruction updated to ensure loans that must be repaid are not included (Access)
- Absent with pay answer categories changed to include proportion of normal pay (more or less than 50%) that is being received (AbsPay)

- Questions on payments made directly from benefits have been extended to those in receipt of Universal Credit, including GOVPay, GovAmt, GovPd, GovBefor, SFRepay, RepayAmt and SFInc
- Child Maintenance questions revised to take account of changes to how this is paid by the Child Support Agency and Child Maintenance Service
- Type of arrangement for child maintenance, options for financial and non-financial arrangements added (MrArr)
- Regular allowances from an organisation extended to include income from electricity the respondent has generated (Allow)
- Answer options for up-to-date with bills (Debt) and behind with payments (DebtArrear) have changed. DebtArrear will now be asked of all respondents

Documentation Changes

No changes planned at present.

Other Changes

No changes planned at present.

Reviewed May 2015