

Summary of changes: FRS 15/16

This document summarises the changes that were made to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) Questionnaire following the Summer 2014 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:
 - Northern Ireland specific questions for pension age benefit units: does household have a roast joint or equivalent once a week (EUroastOA) and during the last fortnight was there ever a day when you did not have a substantial meal due to lack of money (EUSMealOA)
 - Pension age benefit units: holiday away from home (OAHolB)
- Social and Cultural Participation module:
 - Attendance at:
 - Cinema (EUCinema)
 - Live sporting events (EUSport)
 - Live performances (EULivePer)
 - Cultural sites (EUCulture)
 - Artistic activities (EUArtAct)
 - Meet with family (EUMeetFam)
 - Meet with friends (EUMeetFri)
 - Contact family (EUTalkFam)
 - Contact friends (EUTalkFr)

- Interacting on social networking sites (EUSocNet)
- Ability to ask for help (EUAskHelp)
- Personal conversations (EUTalkMat)
- Formal voluntary work (EUVolunteer)
- Informal voluntary work (EUInformVol)
- Participation in the community (EUActive) and reasons if not (EUActiveNo)

Amended questions

- Unexpected expense amount updated to reflect AROP threshold (EUExpnsOAand EUExpnsNonOA)
- Ownership of a computer updated to include tablets and notebook computers (EUComputer)

Removed questions

- Material Deprivation module
 - New clothes for children (EUChClth)
 - New shoes for children (EUChShoe)
 - Children have a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent (EuChMeat)
 - Children have books (EUChBook)
 - Children have indoor games (EUChGame)
 - Children aged 1-15 have somewhere to study (EUStudy)
 - Use of public transport (EUPbTrans and EUPbTransN)

Non-EU-SILC related changes

New Questions

- Level of qualification achieved for National (Scotland) and Skills for Work (Scotland) qualifications (NatScot and SkiWork)
- Level of qualification studying towards for National (Scotland) and Skills for Work (Scotland) qualifications (NatScotNow and SkiWorkNow)
- Outstanding student loans for those who have a student loan but are not making repayments (SLOs)
- Is the respondent paid a fixed hourly rate (Hourly) and what is their hourly rate (HrRate). Soft checks added if the hourly rate is outside of the range £6-£50.
- How pension is received (PenWealth) and supporting interviewer notes

Deleted Questions

- Questions on type, value and number of Social Fund Loans and Grants (SFTType, SFGrNum, SFGrAmt and SFLnType)
- Type of pension lump sum removed (PenLump) and replaced with a question to give greater clarity of how people access their pension pots

Amended Questions

- Highest qualification response options updated to include Scottish Baccalaureate, Nationals (Scotland), Skills for work (Scotland) and option 30 also includes Essential Skills (Wales) (HiQual3)
- Current qualification response options updated to include Scottish Baccalaureate, Nationals (Scotland), Skills for work (Scotland) and option 30 also includes Essential Skills (Wales) (CurQual)
- Government training scheme question changed to harmonise with other surveys, one category changed as a result (Train)
- Northern Ireland Government training scheme options updated to reflect schemes available (NITrain)
- Reason for leaving previous job (YJobLev)
- Benefit question response category “One of these/more than one of these, but don’t know which” changed to number 97 to prevent mis-coding (WageBen, DisBen, PenBen, KidBen, OtherBen and SocFund)
- Any other sources of income answer options updated to include non-pension fund based annuities (AnyPen), interviewer notes and checks updated to reflect this change

Documentation Changes

No changes planned at present.

Other Changes

No changes planned at present.

Reviewed May 2016