



Information on adding economic records



Understanding
Society

Data linking

Government departments and agencies collect a range of information about all of us for administrative purposes, so they can plan and provide services. Added to the responses you have provided in this study the information can inform further analyses and help us get a better picture of those who are using services provided by the government.

What am I being asked to give permission for?

The Social Security Agency (SSA) keeps records of everybody's benefit claims and any periods people spend on employment programmes.

The *Understanding Society* study at the University of Essex would like to add these records to the responses you have given to this study.

If you give your permission, it will inform further analysis to help us get a better picture of those who are claiming benefits and how they can best be helped.

What will happen if I give permission?

- 1) The *Understanding Society* study will give the SSA your name, address, sex and date of birth.
- 2) The SSA will use these details to identify the correct records it holds about you.
- 3) The SSA will send your records to the *Understanding Society* study.
- 4) The SSA will not keep any of the personal information passed on to them.
- 5) The *Understanding Society* study will add the SSA records to your study responses.
- 6) Your personal information (name and address) will be removed before any research is done.

What will the research be used for and who will use it?

Like your study responses, the additional information would be used by professional academic and social policy researchers for non-commercial research and statistics. Any sensitive information would only be made available to them under restricted access arrangements which make sure that the information is used responsibly and safely. Names and addresses are never included in the results and no individual can be identified from the research.

The data will not be used to work out whether any individual is claiming benefits they should not be and will not affect any current or future claims for benefits.

What if I change my mind?

You can withdraw permission at any time for your SSA records to be added to your study answers.

Who do I contact?

If you would like any further information or want to withdraw your permission, please contact us at:

FREEPOST RRXX-KEKJ-JGKS,
Understanding Society,
University of Essex,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester,
CO4 3SQ.

Freephone 0800 252853

Email: contact@understandingsociety.org.uk





Thank-you

If you have any questions or concerns,
just call our Freephone number 0800 252 853
or write to Freepost RRXX-KEKJ-JGKS,
Understanding Society, University of Essex,
Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ