

## **What is the Annual Population Survey?**

The Annual Population Survey is a major new source of statistics about life in your local area. The survey asks 65,000 households a year about their own circumstances and experiences regarding a range of subjects including housing, employment and education. Together with other data sources, the survey will provide an annual update on much of the information collected as part of the 2001 Census. Results will be published on the NS Neighbourhood Statistics web site:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

## **Why have we come to you?**

We want to be sure that the survey represents everyone in the country, so we have to interview men and women of all ages and of different backgrounds. We have selected a number of addresses in different regions for our interviewers to visit. These were chosen at random from the Post Office's list of addresses in a way that gives every address the same chance of being selected.

Now your address has been selected we cannot replace you with another household. This ensures that all types of people are properly represented in the sample. That is why it is so important that everyone we approach agrees to take part.

## **How you can help**

Everyone has a contribution to make by taking part in the survey. Your answers are important, even if you feel that none of this applies to you, as they will help to build up an overall picture of life in your area.

## **What does it involve?**

Our interviewer will ask questions on the topics mentioned above and will talk to each member of your household aged 16 or over (or asks about any member who is not available). We also ask some brief questions about younger members of the household.

The questions have been kept to the absolute minimum because we do not want to take up more of your time than is necessary. The length of time the interview takes is normally quite short.

## **The survey is confidential**

We rely on your voluntary co-operation and we guarantee that information given to us is treated with the strictest confidence, as directed by the National Statistics Code of Practice. The results are made available for statistical purposes only and, as with all our surveys, names and address are never passed on with the results.

No identifiable information about you or your household will be passed to any organisation, commercial or public, outside the Office for National Statistics.

As a further assurance of confidentiality, results which indicate people's general area of residence, and which might therefore stand some chance of being identified with them or their households, are made available only to the research staff of government departments and reputable institutes who need to use these statistics from the survey.

The information you give us will be used for a range of purposes including those shown on the NS Neighbourhood Statistics web site: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

Thank you for helping us. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.