

## Changes to the collection of EU-SILC data.

Since 2005 the UK has been obliged to gather longitudinal data on income and living conditions. This is required of all EU countries and the data are known as European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The survey replaces the European Community Household Panel Survey 1994. After a period of derogation while the survey design was arranged, the collection mechanism chosen as the best match was identified as the General Household Survey (now known as the General Lifestyle Survey) (Lakin 2005 see [http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2005-02-04/Rickards\\_Lakin.ppt#286,15,GHS developments for 2005, including the longitudinal component](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2005-02-04/Rickards_Lakin.ppt#286,15,GHS%20developments%20for%202005,%20including%20the%20longitudinal%20component) ).

However, following a review the EU-SILC data will be collected from the FRS and an associated new follow up panel drawn. This has the benefit of ensuring that EU and national poverty estimates for the UK are based on the same source. The format of the FRS however will not be affected by the change; instead the EU-SILC should be viewed as a separate follow up survey.

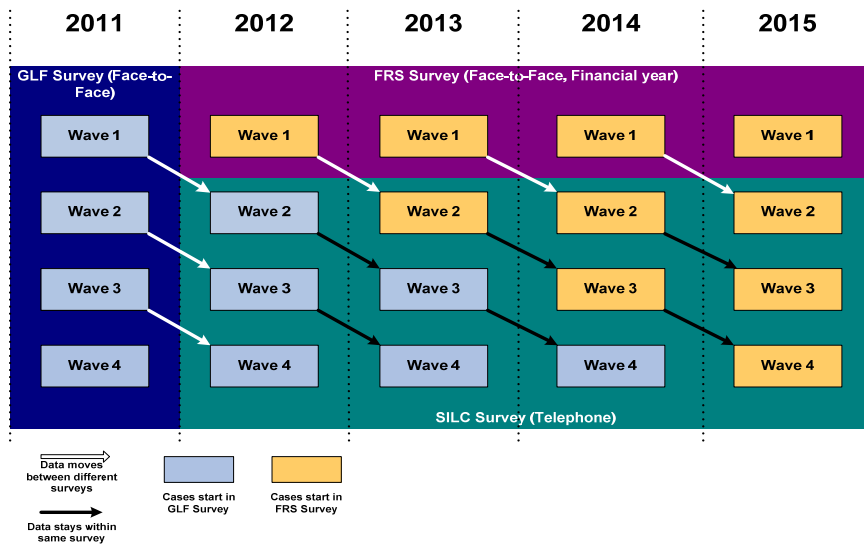
From April 2011 the achieved sample size of the FRS will fall to approximately 20 thousand households (five thousand less than in the previous year). This sample size will be retained and completely refreshed each year. The FRS will therefore continue as a large cross-sectional survey conducted over the financial year and will only change with respect to the inclusion of additional EU-SILC questions and some minor refinements to existing FRS questions.

One half of the FRS sample will also satisfy the need for a first wave in a four year panel dataset. The remaining three waves will be composed of follow-ups to the nine thousand cases eligible for follow up from the FRS. The follow ups are proposed to be conducted by telephone (although ONS is exploring using a mixed mode approach) and will be limited only those questions necessary to meet the requirements of the EU-SILC. When the design is embedded the EU-SILC study will be a four wave longitudinal survey with a sample size of approximately nine thousand cases per wave (minus attrition). It is unclear at the time of writing what data are likely to be made available for users from this study.

The change in design will start in April 2012, when the FRS will start to be used as the source for cross-sectional EU-SILC data. In 2015, all cases for the longitudinal SILC survey will have originated from the FRS, however between 2012 and 2015 the EU-SILC will contain cases originating from both surveys.

More information on the implementation of the change is available in the presentation slides by Valerie Christian and Tom Howe available at <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2011-06-10/index.html>

# EU-SILC longitudinal sample design



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Slide from Tom Howe and Valerie Christian presentation at the 2011 Family Resources Survey User Meeting. Available online at <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2011-06-10/index.html>