



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Dear Householder

Your household has been selected with others throughout the country to participate in the **Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS)**. Enclosed you will find a brochure with additional details.

The Survey

HFCS is being conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to collect household-level data on households' finances and consumption. It will be used to produce a national picture of household assets and liabilities. The data will ensure that policymakers use the most complete information possible when making decisions that will affect us all.

Confidentiality

All information provided in the survey will be treated as strictly confidential and used for statistical purposes only. Results relating to the survey will be published in an aggregate format. Confidentiality is guaranteed by law under the Statistics Act, 1993.

Interview

The questionnaire is completed on a laptop computer. The hard disks of all CSO laptop computers are **encrypted** to the highest industry standard. In addition, all CSO laptops have a system of multiple passwords to prevent against unauthorised access. All data is transmitted electronically from the laptop in an encrypted format to CSO HQ, via secure and **encrypted** 'data tunnel'.

Areas covered by this questionnaire include details of household spending, saving and credit. Documentation (e.g. bank statement, annual mortgage statement, etc.) will greatly assist the interviewer in filling in the questionnaire in a timely fashion.

One of our interviewers will visit your home in the next few days to conduct the survey or to arrange a suitable time with your household to conduct the survey. She or he will show you CSO photo identification. Please help us learn more about your community in order to paint an accurate picture of Ireland.

In view of the **national** importance of the survey, it is very much hoped that you will participate when our interviewer calls.

If you have questions, our field interviewer will be glad to answer them. You may also call the HFCS section on 021 453 5532, email: hfcs@cs0.ie, or visit the survey website at www.hfcsurvey.cs0.ie.

I would appreciate if you could make other adults in your household aware of this letter and enclosed brochure.

Yours sincerely

Mary Malone
Higher Executive Officer
Household Finance and Consumption Survey



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