

## Background

Please confirm you have read and understood this important background information.

Yes, I have read and understood the information on this page.

## About you

### 1 What is your name?

Name:

### 2 What is your email address?

Email:

### 3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Age UK

## Section one: Measuring prices across the economy

### 1 Should ONS identify a main measure of price change across the economy?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

### 2 If you answered 'yes' to question 1a, then what should this measure be?

the CPIH, as recommended in the Johnson review. The CPIH includes owner-occupiers' housing costs. It does not currently hold the National statistics designation (although its reassessment is due to commence shortly). The index is a UK measure, designed by ONS to meet UK needs.

Why? Please provide comments.:

### 3. Should its production be governed by legislation?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

## Section two: Measuring consumer price inflation for different household types

### 4 Should ONS seek to measure changes in prices as experienced by different households?

Yes

Why? How often? Please provide comments.:

### 5 If yes, how should ONS seek to do so?

On the same basis as existing measures such as CPI.

Why? Please provide comments.:

## Section three: The RPI

### 6 Do you use the following indices? (Please select those that you use)

RPI pensioner indices, Component indices of the RPI

**If yes, for what purposes? Please provide comments.:**

We use the quarterly RPI pensioner indices to track inflationary pressures experienced by pensioner households over time, against the average UK household, and against prices of key items.

We use component indices of the RPI to carry out in-depth analysis of relative prices faced by pensioner households against other types of households -not only the component price indices, but also their different weights by household type.

**7 Do you agree that the following indices should be discontinued? (Please select those that you suggest should be discontinued)**

RPI pensioner indices, Component indices of the RPI

**Why? Please provide comments.:**

No, the RPI pensioner indices and the component indices of the RPI should NOT be discontinued.

**8 Do you have any views on what 'freezing' changes to the RPI should mean in practice?**

No

**Why? Please provide comments.:**

**Section four: Evolving consumer price statistics**

**9 Are the priorities identified by ONS in its forward work plan appropriate?**

Yes

**Why? Please provide comments.:**

**10 Should ONS include council tax in the CPIH?**

Yes

**Why? Please provide comments.:**

The Mirrlees Review (page 383) states: "Council tax can seem particularly onerous for the 'asset-rich, cash-poor' since, unusually, it is not linked to a pre-existing cash flow". Many older people fall into the "asset-rich, cash-poor" category and also most of the "asset-rich, cash-poor" are older people. Therefore, we welcome a price index that includes a measure of the impact of this tax on consumption of housing services to better reflect its incidence on pensioner households. Furthermore, it would help indirectly to estimate the distributional impact of both the tax and the Council Tax benefit, which is regressive in its current structure.

**Additional information**

**Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?**

**Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?:**

No

**User satisfaction**

**Overall, how satisfied were you with this online consultation service today?**

Very satisfied

**Please tell us if there are any specific areas for improvement, or if you have any other comments.:**