

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:

Pensioner

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.:

The current choice between CPI and RPI seems to be arbitrarily applied, especially in the field of pension increases. It does seem to be a trend for pension payouts to be linked to the lower value CPI index, while receipts and charges, such as student loan interest and rail fares are linked to the higher RPI rate. A standard rate would appear to be more honest.

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

Other (please provide details).

Why? Please provide comments.:

The RPI index has served us well for many years and should be retained as a more relevant and appropriate index. If a new index must be introduced then the CPIH, with adjustments and safeguards, is better than retaining CPI.

3. Should its production be governed by legislation?

No

Why? Please provide comments.:

An index produced independently and impartially would be more acceptable than one crafted by Government which could be influenced by a political agenda.

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.:

At present the CPI does not reasonably reflect this.

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

Using a payments-based approach.

Why? Please provide comments.:

Because I feel a 'payments-based' approach best reflects my expenditure as a pensioner.

Section three: The RPI

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

RPI pensioner indices

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

British Airways APS pensions followed, and indeed were guaranteed to follow, RPI until the introduction of the CPI index when the Trustees, claiming to be required to link to the new index, transferred to CPI. They did not need to, having had a valuation in 2010 which was based on continuing at the RPI rate (and agreed between BA and the Pensioner Trustees), and being allowed, under Scheme Rules to make an independent decision on this matter; however a recent attempt by the Trustees to apply a tiny 'discretionary' increase of 0.2% over CPI has resulted in a major court case, due to be heard in early 2016 over the legality of this independent decision.

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

Why? Please provide comments.:

I cannot be specific about which indices should be dropped, but would argue for an established RPI to be maintained until a more appropriate and 'pensioner-acceptable' index can be agreed.

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

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

Whatever its deficiencies, RPI is the fairest and best index currently available. It is in common use and forms the agreed basis of many pension indexes. If it has serious flaws they can be rectified, but it should not be abandoned if its replacement is not an appropriate index, acceptable to those pensioners who will be adversely affected by its loss.

Section four: Evolving consumer price statistics

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

No

Why? Please provide comments.:

The index required should reflect household inflation accurately and fairly. It is important that the compounding effect of the gap between CPI and RPI is addressed.

10 Should ONS include council tax in the CPIH?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

It is a legitimate expenditure and should be reflected in the index.

Additional information

Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?

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

No, thank you.

User satisfaction

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

Satisfied

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