Dear Jane Middleton,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 6 April. You wrote:

“For the first time, questions on food insecurity have been included in the Family Resources Survey. I should be grateful for answers to the following questions:

1. What plans are there to compare the FRS survey results with data collated by the Food and You 2 Survey (Wave1)? The latter survey covers a time period during the pandemic while the FRS survey period ends in March 2020.

2. What plans are there to increase the time period linked to food insecurity questions from one month to one year? (We know from the USDA that this has an impact on the results.)”

**DWP Response**

We can confirm that we hold the information falling within the description specified in your request.

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) did introduce a section on Household Food Security for the 2019 to 2020 survey, and details of how this was measured is published in the Questionnaire changes section of the methodology document here.

The FRS asks about household food security using a 30-day measure, whereas the Food and You 2 Survey, run by the Food Standards Agency, asks about household food security using a 12-month measure. Due to this difference in methodology the Department currently has no plans to compare the FRS results with the data collected by the Food and You 2 Survey.

The Department does not have any plans to change the existing 30-day measure. The FRS is designed to measure a ‘snapshot’ of household circumstances and a 30-day measure fits this description more appropriately than using a 12-month measure.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.
Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.
Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Website: ICO Contact Information or telephone 0303 123 1113.