

# Converting Social Survey Blaise 4 questionnaires to Blaise 5

Creating a Blaise 5 application and modernising the Labour Force Survey

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# LCF

## What is the LCF?

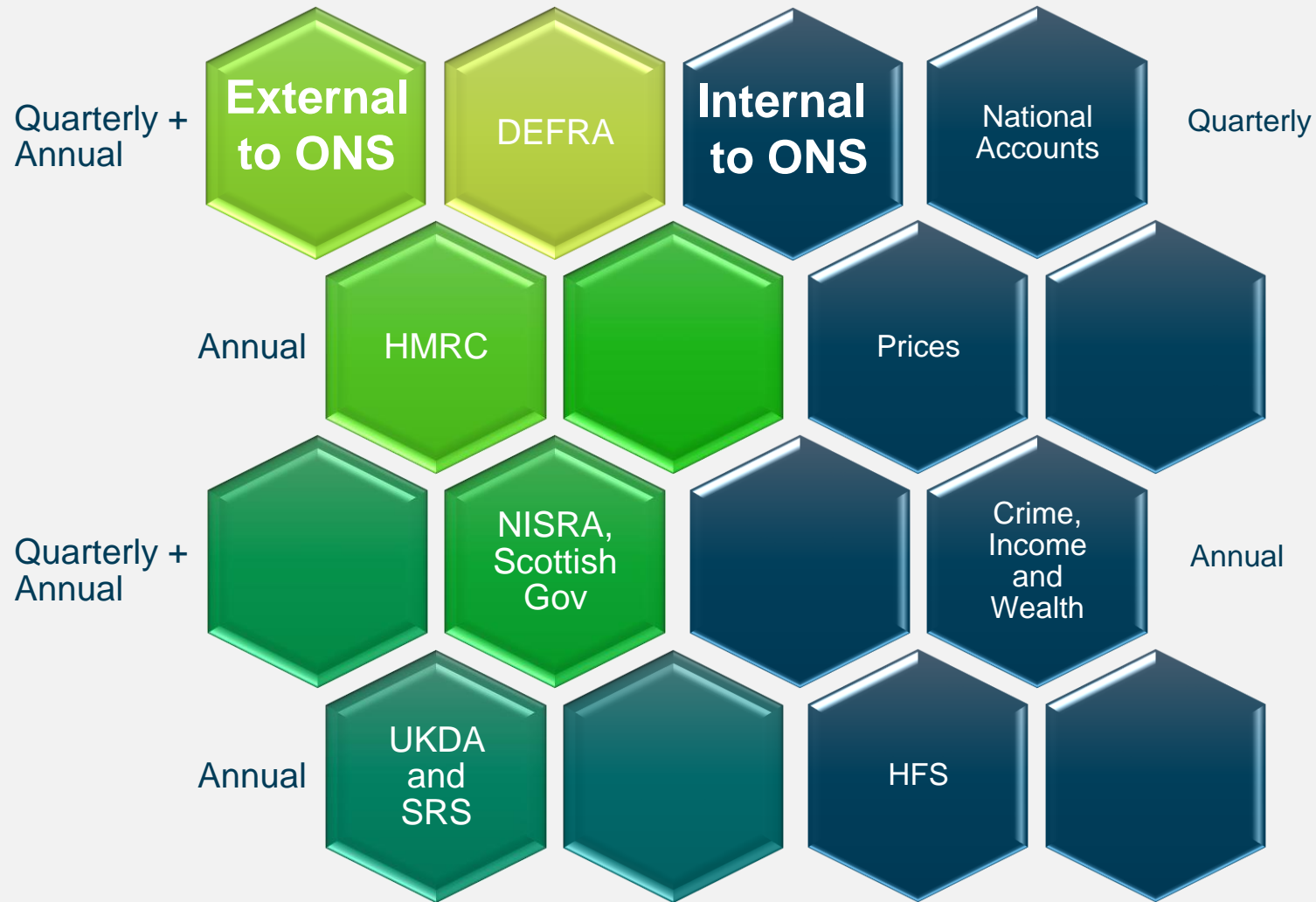
The Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) collects information on spending patterns and the cost of living that reflects household budgets across the country.

## What is the Diary?

Previously each person kept a record of their individual spending by recording it all on a paper diary.

Currently the interviewer sets up an excel spreadsheet for each member of the household which contains a Tab for each day of the collection period and a separate 'Area' on that Tab for each expenditure block.

# LCF Stakeholders



## LCF Diary application Development

## Re-Development

## Further developments

# LCF Diary application Development

# The very old ways...

Please unfold the side flaps to refer to the notes

Office for National Statistics

## Living Costs and Food Survey

### Diary of spending

**In confidence**  
All information you give in this diary will be treated in strictest confidence.

Name:

**Interviewer use only:**  
Starting date:

Your interviewer:  will call again on

Date:

Date:

Date:

Consumed on or off premises? (please tick)	Amount paid £ p
✓	49
✓	40
✓	25
✓	40
✓	50
✓	1 25
✓	30
✓	50
✓	00
✓	00
✓	1 50
✓	5 00
✓	7 00
✓	6 00
✓	1 50
✓	5 00
✓	3 50
Amount paid	
£	49 49
p	24 49
Amount paid	
£	34 49
p	9 49
Amount paid	
£	49 49
p	34 49
Amount paid	
£	25 00
p	9 40
Amount paid	
£	10 00
p	5 23
Amount won	
£	10 00
p	5 23

## How to fill in this diary

Day 1 MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT SUN

What did you buy today? <small>Include everything, e.g. crisps, sweets, ice cream, coca cola, CDs, clothes</small>	How much did you pay?		Where did you buy it? <small>e.g. school, shop, cafe, restaurant</small>	For food and drinks only <small>Where did you eat or drink it? please tick</small>	
	£	p		At home	Somewhere else
Ice cream	1	99	Van		✓
Locker rent at school	3	00	School		
Comic	1	49	Newsagent		
2 Doughnuts		72	Bakery	✓	
Fish burger	1	30	School		✓
Chips			School		✓
Mushy peas			School		✓
cream bun			School		✓
Diet cola		44	Newsagents		✓
Big Mac Meal - burger, fries, diet coke	2	99	Restaurant		✓
Tuna, mayonnaise and sweetcorn sandwich (white)	1	25	Shop		✓
CD	12	99	Internet		
Pick and mix sweets		35	Newsagents	✓	

**In confidence**  
All information you give in this diary will be treated in strictest confidence.

First name:

Starting date:



# The old ways...

AutoSave Off LCF\_Adult\_Excel\_Diary\_Template\_v9\_LOCKED (8).xlsx - Read-Only - Excel

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Automate Developer Help

Clipboard Font Alignment Number

**Office for National Statistics**

**The Living Costs and Food Survey Adult Excel diary**

Please complete the information in the white boxes below.

Quota number: (e.g. 21023)

Address number: (e.g. 27)

Person number: (e.g. 1)

Respondent name: (first and last name)

Main Diary Keeper? (use the drop down to select Yes or No)

Weights and measures? (use the drop down to select Yes or No)

Diary start date (DD/MM/YYYY): (This will add the dates to the rest of the diary)

Interviewer number: (e.g. 9999)

Interviewer name: (first name and last name)

HQ ONLY:

Booking in date (DD/MM/YYYY):

Editor name:

Date of editing completion:

Coder name:

Date of coding completion:

Respondent Information Data Collection Index Page Usual Purchases Special Circumstances Day 1 Day 2 Day 3

AutoSave Off LCF\_Adult\_Excel\_Diary\_Template\_v9\_LOCKED (8).xlsx - Read-Only - Excel

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Automate Developer Help

Clipboard Font Alignment Number

**Instructions for Use**

- Each tab represents a different page of the diary. Use the index page to navigate between pages.
- Use the scroll bar at the foot of the spreadsheet to scroll across the spreadsheet to scroll up and down.
- Days 1-14. Enter the amount paid as pounds and pence by type. e.g. enter 0.89 for 89p and enter 1.89 for £1.89

**Interviewer declaration** Please tick the box to confirm I confirm that I have:

- completed all relevant sections of the diary
- used the final checking call with respondents to follow up on any missing information
- completed the Usual Purchases page with the Main Diary Keeper
- included information about any high, low or unusual spends on purchases
- checked that all receipts are clear, readable and have the shop name and total amount paid
- included a detailed breakdown for all eating out spending and receipts
- checked that all the necessary weights and measures information is included
- checked through each household member's Excel diary before submitting
- I am sending this to HQ as soon as possible and at the latest by 15th of the month
- I am sending the email to HQ with the Month/Quota/Address in the subject line

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I have completed the above.

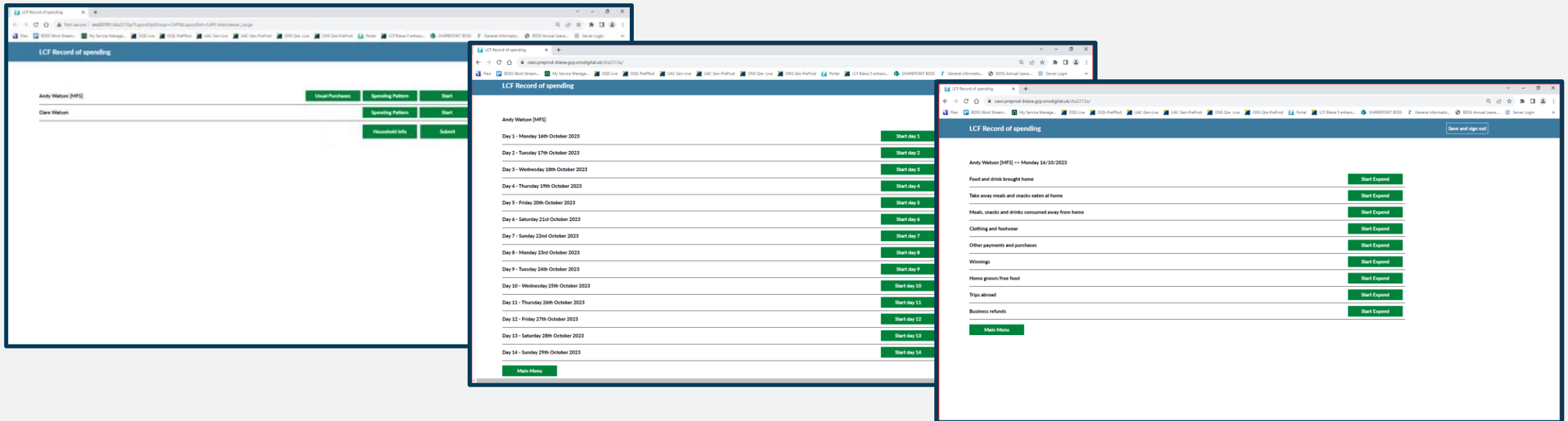
Section 1				Section 2			Section 3			Section 4	
Food and drink brought home - exclude take away food (see section 2)				Takeaway meals and snacks eaten at home			Meals, snacks and drinks consumed away from home			Clothing and other purchases	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List all items and amounts individually, probe for breakdown of items if no receipt provided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Where receipts are provided, include 'receipt pasted below', shop name and total amount paid (or 'receipt posted by respondent', shop name and total amount paid if sending paper receipts)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include meals delivered to home, e.g. pizzas and meals on wheels <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record items separately (probe if necessary), what was included in the meal? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check what alcoholic (what type?) or soft drinks were purchased with the meal			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include canned drinks, crisps, sweets etc <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record items separately (probe if necessary) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include if tea/coffee was with/without milk and sugar			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record each item separately (probe if necessary)	
Enter items below, line by line	Name of shop where bought	Weight/Volume	Amount Paid Enter pounds and pence	Enter items below, line by line	Portion Size small/medium/large	Amount Paid Enter pounds and pence	Enter items below, line by line	Where bought e.g. restaurant, café, pub, workplace, place of study, cinema	Consumed on or off premises?	Amount Paid Enter pounds and pence	Enter items below
Tin Heinz Baked Beans	Sainsburys	416g	£0.89	Chicken curry	Medium	£3.75	Big Mac	MacDonalds	Off	£3.19	School Skirt
Receipt pasted below	Morrisons		£72.00	Pilau rice	Small	£1.99	Fries	MacDonalds	Off	£0.99	Pyjamas

Respondent Information Data Collection Index Page Usual Purchases Special Circumstances Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7 Day 8 Day 9 Day 10 Day 11 Day 12 Day

# The New way...

The new requirement is to be able to enter the information into a Blaise 5 questionnaire so that some of the Data can be transferred automatically.

It needs to be a single questionnaire, but with the manoeuvrability of an Excel spreadsheet. It should still gather the same data as the multiple files.



# That's too many Parallels!!!

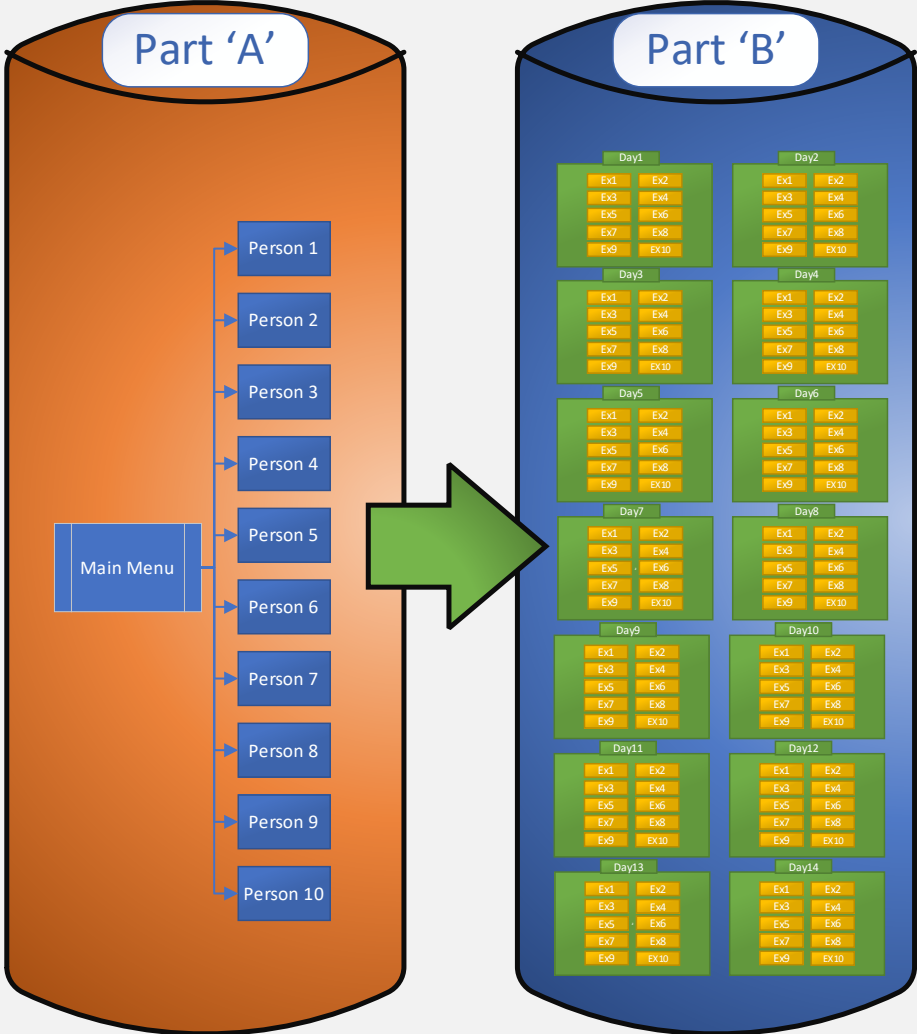


# Problems!



# Re-Development

# The NEW new way...



# Navigation is key - Parallels vs. Buttons

Usual Purchases    Spending Pattern    Start

---

Household Info    Submit

DIA2213b  
Days  
Day 1  
Food and drink brought home  
Take away meals and snacks eaten at home  
Food and drinks away from home  
Clothing and footwear  
Other payments and purchases  
Winnings  
Home grown/free food  
Trips abroad  
**Business refunds**  
Money given to child

# Further developments



# Summary pages – Customers Design

Breadcrumb trail will adjust so the interviewer can easily see which record they are working on

Bob Smith [MFS] >> Sunday 29/01/2023 >> Food and drink brought home

Save and sign out

Item – 1 Co-op	Can of diet coke	£1.50	Edit	Delete
Item – 2 Co-op	Packet of Wotsits	£0.90	Edit	Delete
Item – 3 Co-op	Brown bread ham and tomato sandwich	£2.75	Edit	Delete
Item – 4 ASDA	Receipt	£87.90	Edit	Delete

Days

Day 1

Day 2

Save and sign out to be included at each stage

Shortcuts being developed to support easy navigation – these will change according to the page

Add entry

Easy to add new entry

Easy to view entries already included for the person, day and section

Easy to navigate to previous entries to make amendments or delete incorrect entries

# Summary pages – Final look

LCF Diary Save and sign out

Andy Watson [MFS] >> Thursday 05/10/2023 >> Food and drink brought home

Item - 1 - Asda - Fish - £2.50	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	
Item - 2 - Asda - Chips - £1.50	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	
Item - 3 - Asda - Curry Sauce - £1.00	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	
Item - 4 - Asda - Saveloy Sausage - £2.30	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	
Item - 5 - Asda - Steak and Kidney Pie - £3.75	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	
Item - 6 - Asda - Mushy Peas - £1.25	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

Go To -> [Day Menu](#) [Expend Menu](#)

[Save and continue](#)

**Questions?**

# LFS

## Modernising the Labour Force Survey (LFS) with Blaise 5

# The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

- Survey of households living at private addresses in the UK.
- Provides information on the UK labour market.
- Used to develop, and report on labour market policies.
- Longitudinal survey with rotated sample
- Additional Annual Population Survey boost to sample from 1984.

The screenshot shows the Blaise 4.8 Data Entry software interface. The window title is "Blaise 4.8 Data Entry - d:\blaise4\lfs\v7\lfs0323". The menu bar includes "Forms", "Answer", "Navigate", "Options", and "Help". The breadcrumb trail shows the current form: "LF50323 | Household\_Information | Household\_Reference\_Person | Benefit\_Unit | Information\_about\_next\_interview | Timing\_administration\_and\_household\_outcome".

The main content area has a yellow background and contains the following text:

Can you interview at this household?  
household eligible last wave & to be closed down:  
- Code existing hhid as 2 (non-contact W2-5) and open a new hhid  
household ineligible last wave but eligible this wave:  
- Code existing hhid as 8 (ineligible) and open a new hhid

Below this text is a list of radio button options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. Non-contact all members - WAVE 2-5
- 3. Outright refusal all members - WAVE 2-5
- 4. Circumstantial refusal all members - WAVE 2-5
- 5. Non-contact all members - WAVE 1
- 6. Outright refusal all members - WAVE 1
- 7. Circumstantial refusal all members - WAVE 1
- 8. Ineligible
- 9. Later

Below the options is a light blue area with a form field for "RespHH" with a dropdown menu set to "Yes". Below that are labels for "HHComp", "HHNew", "Wv1Num", and "ChkSt" with a dropdown menu set to "1".

The status bar at the bottom shows "8/2969 | Navigate | LF50323".

# The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

1973-1983: Carried out every two years

1984-1991: Annual

1992-2006: Seasonal Quarters

2006-Present: Calendar Quarters

Sample size steadily increased

## More information on LFS

- More information about the history available in Volume 1 of LFS User Guides:



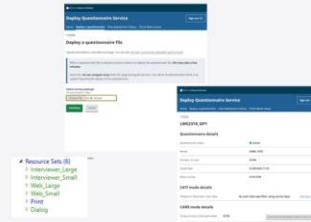
### Early LMS

- Started as a longitudinal Test
- One mode: CAWI
- Hosted: NISRA
- Re-used Resource Database from Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).



### Current LMS

- Two modes - CAWI and CATI
- Separate databases
- CAWI hosted at NISRA
- CATI hosted at ONS on Cloud – via "Deploy Questionnaire Service"
- Resource database further developed to enable fast keyboard data entry



### New LMS

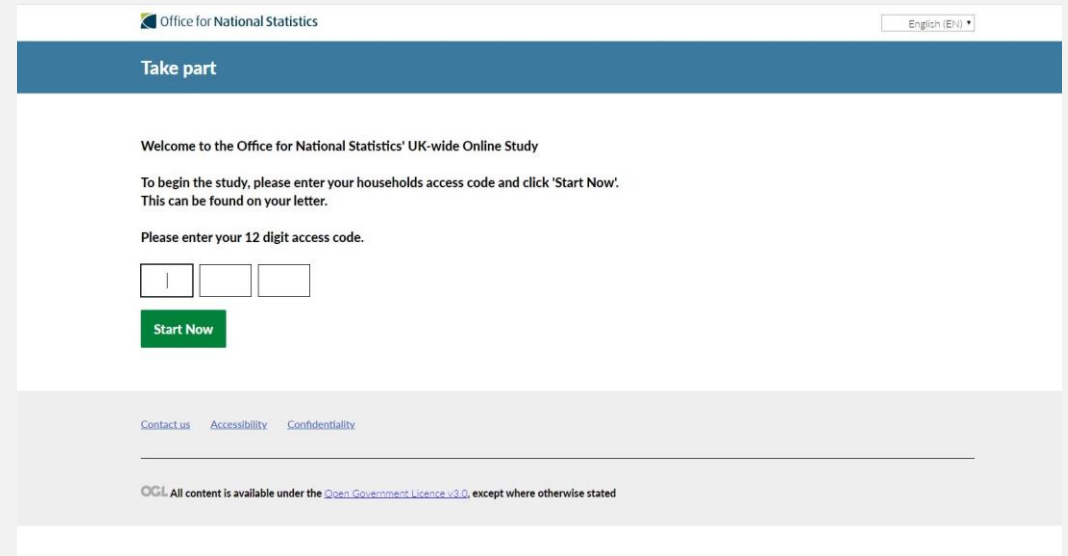
- Currently in Development
- Three modes: CAWI, CATI & CAPI
- All modes hosted at ONS
- All modes in one database
- Login process handled by Data Collection Platform





# Early LMS

- Started as a longitudinal Test
- One mode: CAWI
- Hosted: NISRA
- Re-used Resource Database from Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Take part" from the Office for National Statistics. The page is for the "UK-wide Online Study". It includes a welcome message, instructions to enter a 12-digit household access code, and a "Start Now" button. The page also features a footer with links for "Contact us", "Accessibility", and "Confidentiality", and a copyright notice for the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Office for National Statistics English (EN) ▾

## Take part

Welcome to the Office for National Statistics' UK-wide Online Study

To begin the study, please enter your households access code and click 'Start Now'.  
This can be found on your letter.

Please enter your 12 digit access code.

[Start Now](#)

[Contact us](#) [Accessibility](#) [Confidentiality](#)

OGI. All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

# Early LMS

Cohorts A1 through  
J5

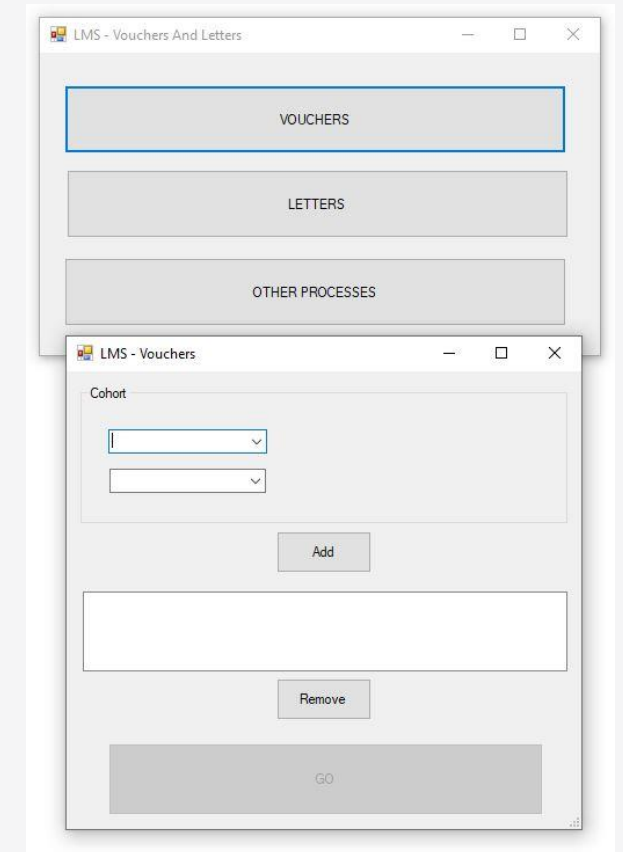
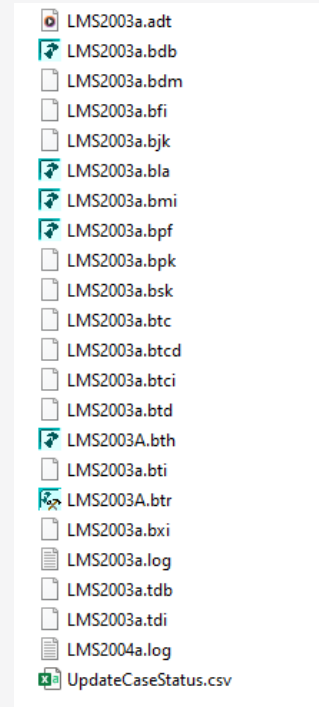
Whole sample in  
one database

Main Questionnaire  
-> Login  
questionnaire ->  
Main Questionnaire

Sample size: Just  
67 cases per cohort

# Early LMS

- “Survey Enquiry Line”  
Q’re in Blaise 4
- Post collection processes:  
Blaise 4 Manipula  
launched via VB6 app.



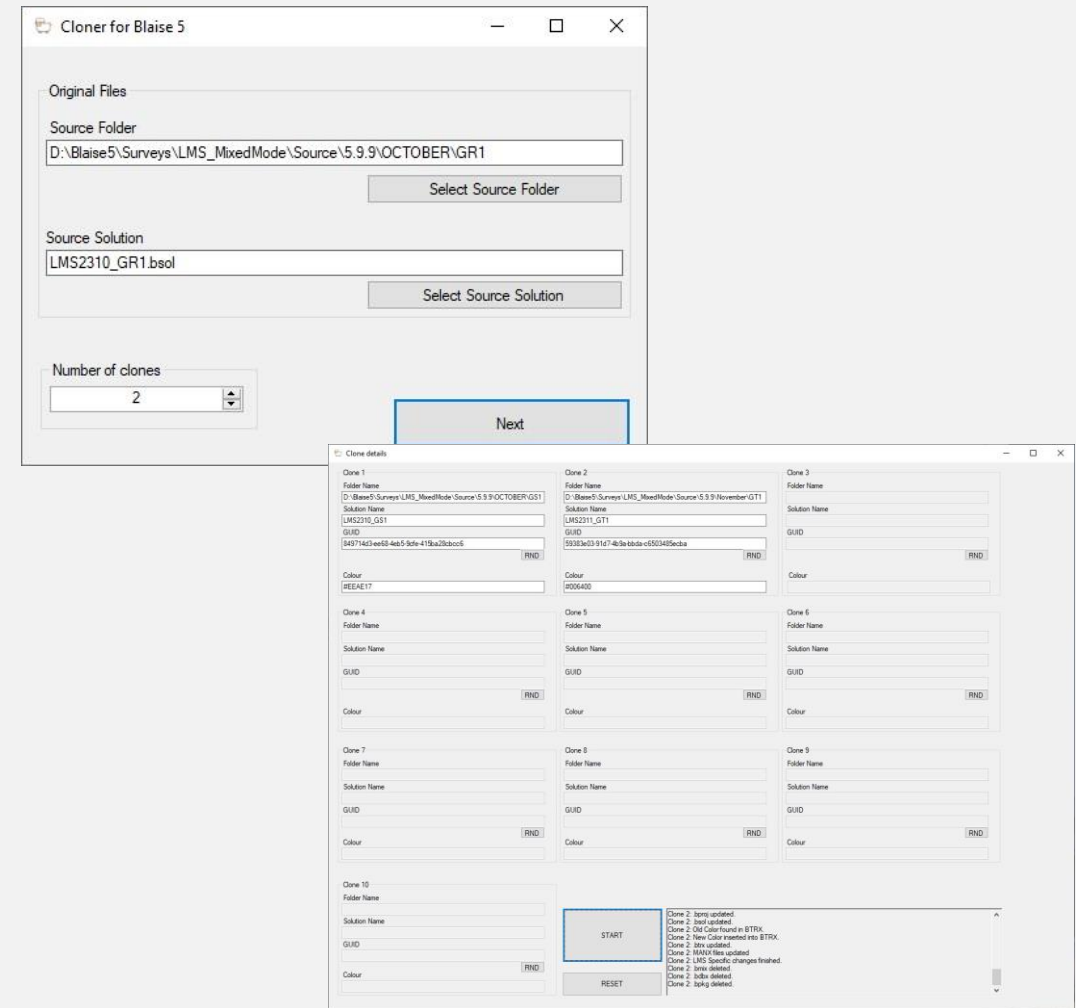
# Current LMS

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- Resource database further developed to enable fast keyboard data entry

The image displays three screenshots related to the Deploy Questionnaire Service. The top-left screenshot shows the 'Deploy a questionnaire file' page, which includes instructions on uploading a Blaise package and a warning not to navigate away during the process. The top-right screenshot shows the 'Questionnaire details' page for 'LMS2310\_GP1', which is active and includes details such as modes (CAWI, CATI), number of cases (10795), install date (21/09/2023 11:31), and Blaise version (5.9.9.2735). The bottom screenshot shows a tree view of 'Resource Sets (6)' with sub-items: Interviewer\_Large, Interviewer\_Small, Web\_Large, Web\_Small, Print, and Dialog.

# LMS

- 1 Cohort per Questionnaire
- Login questionnaire -> Main Questionnaire
- 10,795 Fresh Cases added each week (down from a peak of 14k)



# Current LMS

- Survey Enquiry Line Q're now a Parallel of CATI questionnaire
- Data from CAWI -> CATI every hour
- Wave 1 Telephone numbers collected and inserted via Knock to Nudge and “Telematching” service
- Post collection processes moved to Blaise 5 with a C# launcher

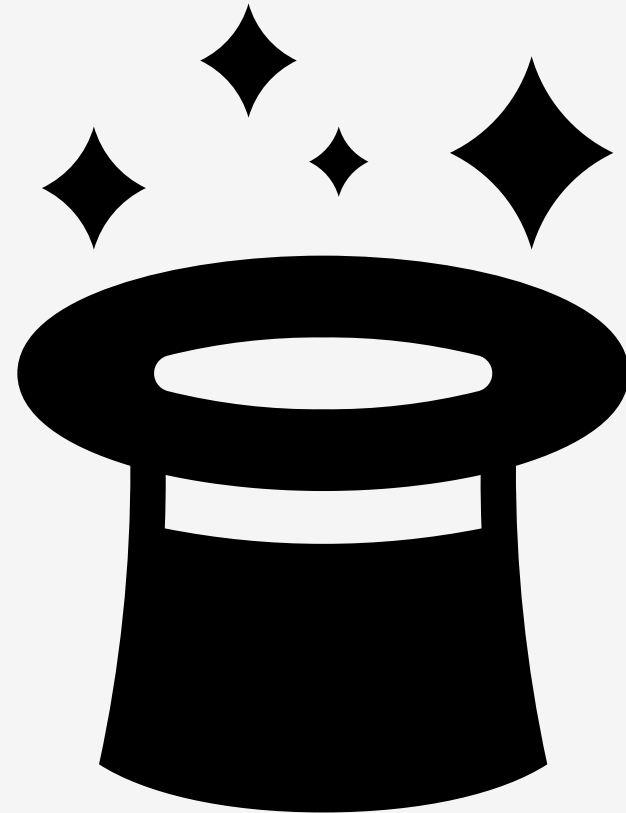
**Totalsmobile details**

Totalmobile release date	19/10/2023 (6 hours from now)	<a href="#">Change or delete release date</a>
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The screenshot shows the LMS/LMB Tool interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu set to "Production". Below this is a list of files, with "LMS\_LMB\_A\_CoachFiles.manrx" highlighted in blue. To the left of the file list is a "Cohort" input field and a right-pointing arrow button. Below the file list is a box containing the text "GR1", "GS1", and "GT1". To the right of this box are "Start date" and "End date" pickers, both set to "01 October 2023" and "31 October 2023" respectively. Below the date pickers are two checkboxes: "Retain cohort list" and "Batch Mode", both of which are unchecked. At the bottom right, there is a red "X" icon and a "BEGIN" button. The bottom left corner shows "Network Mode" with a dropdown arrow.

# New LMS

- Currently in Development
- Three modes: CAWI, CATI & CAPI
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# Summary

...and some reflections



Questions?

**Questions?**

**Questions?**

If we are unable to answer your questions, we will endeavour to follow up in an email after the conference.

## Find out more -

- about the National Survey for Wales here – <https://gov.wales/national-survey-wales>
- about the International Passenger Survey here – <https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/internationalpassengersurvey>
- And about the ONS here – <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

# Speakers

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