



HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2025-26

Participant Guidance



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Introduction

The Household Expenditure Survey is a year-long survey in which households are asked to keep a detailed record of all their expenditure for one full month in every quarter. The survey is normally carried out every 5 to 7 years. The main aim of the survey is to get an accurate picture of spending patterns in the Falklands. This information will be used to renew the Retail Price Index (RPI) basket of goods, and to renew the weighting of categories accordingly.

Prices in the RPI basket of goods are monitored on a quarterly basis. Increases or decreases in the index provide data on inflation and changes in the cost of living. This data is then used to guide a wide range of benefits and Government rates and charges; from the minimum wage to pension rates and service charge. As such, it is important that the basket of goods is up to date, and that it reflects the day-to-day spending habits of the community.

Who can participate?

Any household in Stanley or Camp can participate. The only requirement is that you are expecting to be physically present in the Falklands for the 12 months (or as much of it as possible) that the survey will run. This does not include absences for holidays, for example, but if you know you are likely to be away from the Islands for a long time over the 12 months, you should not participate. If you do intend to travel on holiday during that period, you will not be required to detail all the expenditure incurred while travelling (other than flights and insurance), but you will be asked to give an approximate figure for the overall cost of the holiday (e.g. the sum of accommodation, activities, travel within the countries you're visiting).

What does the survey entail?

Put simply, you will be required to keep a record of everything you spend your money on for a whole month four times a year. You will be supplied with three forms, each one covering three different types of expenditure:

- **Day-to-day expenditure.** This will account for most of items you record, as it includes groceries (which have to be recorded by item, brand, and weight/volume), clothes, and things like nights out and meals. This data has to be submitted every month.

- **Recurring expenditure.** This includes regular subscriptions and regular billing items and household invoices. This will likely include utilities, website subscriptions, and home and car insurances. This form has to be filled in and returned quarterly with all the data from the preceding quarter.
- **Big expenditure items.** Any one-off expenditure over £300 not covered in the above. This is likely to include white goods, cars, flights among others. This form only has to be filled in and returned once, at the end of the survey.

In addition, you will also be asked to provide basic household data at the start of the survey. This includes number of people in your household, their ages and genders, the household income, the number of bedrooms in your home, and whether you own or rent your home. This data is collected to ensure that the survey participants make up a representative sample of the Falklands population.

Do I get anything in return?

Participants will receive a £50 voucher for local businesses after submitting each set of quarterly forms. In addition, all participants who complete the survey will be entered into a prize draw for a £5,000 prize. Participants who cannot complete the survey due to mitigating circumstances (illness, for instance) will not be disqualified from the draw.

Past participants have found that keeping close track of all the items they buy, even if only for one month in every quarter, for a year proves a valuable budgeting exercise, and helps them to save money in the long run.

How will my data be managed and kept confidential?

There will be a single FIG employee, the HES Manager, dedicated exclusively to managing submissions of the data. The HES Manager will have a dedicated user account and email address. Once forms are submitted, the HES Manager will input all the data received into an anonymised database, which will collate expenditure information but not names. Once participation has been confirmed, only anonymised returns will be kept by FIG and made available for analysis by the Policy Team.

The Household Expenditure survey will be carried out under the terms of the Statistics Ordinance. Under that piece of legislation, any personal data collected must be kept confidential, and it is an offence to make any such data public, or to use that data for gain.

It also means that data provided to FIG is considered privileged information. This means that no officer can be requested by any court to reveal information provided under this survey, whether in person or through records (unless the information relates to an offence under the Statistics Ordinance itself).

Recording expenditure

You will be provided with four different forms, either in electronic format (Excel and Word) or paper copies if you prefer.

Form 1 – day-to-day expenditure

This form is likely to represent most of your expenditure. Here you will record your day-to-day purchases and expenses on goods and services. You will be required to do this for a full month, once every quarter. For some things, like groceries, you will be required to detail the brand and weight as well as the product, price and business. Receipts will therefore need to be kept where available. Some examples are detailed below, and other are covered in the FAQ section. A reasonable level of detail is required. Where an item is bought at a flea market or through Facebook, the business can simply be listed as private seller.

The price for each purchase should be the total price, not the unit price, so that six apples at £1 each will have a price of £6. Where possible, purchases should be listed by units, even if the price is the total price. For example, self-catering accommodation costs should be broken down by nights, and a lunch or dinner out, by the number of people it is paying for. However, there is no need to break down by dishes ordered. More information on grouping similar items is included below, and there are specific instructions for particular items at the end of the document.

Grouping items

Normally, different items within a single order should be listed separately. This is particularly important for groceries. However, there may be some occasions where an order of several items can be grouped if the items in that order can reasonably be considered to be similar. For example, an order of several items making up a vehicle lift kit can reasonably be grouped as such. However, a mixed order of Christmas presents cannot be grouped, as there are likely to be items within that order that are different. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to contact the HES manager on nknight@sec.gov.fk.

Shipping Costs

Where possible, items bought from abroad should be listed separately to shipping costs to the Falklands, but those shipping costs need not be apportioned to each item. For example, if one phone was bought overseas and sent via DHL, the DHL cost should figure as a separate cost to the phone. However, if a large ASDA or Amazon order is bought through a freight-forwarder, the shipping cost to the Falklands should figure as a single expenditure, regardless of how many items were in that order. Where a freight forwarder is used, or where delivery is made directly to a friend to hand-carry, shipping costs within the country of origin must also be recorded.

If you don't find out the shipping cost until much later than the purchase is made, please contact the survey manager once you know the shipping cost so that they can link the cost to the original purchase.

Form 2 - Recurring expenditure

This form is submitted on a quarterly basis and records recurring expenditure and normal household bills (excluding store account bills). Some expenditure may recur on a regular basis (such as rent, mortgage, or phone bills), while other may be irregular, such as fuel for heating.

For regularly recurring expenditure, you need only include the regularly recurring payment, not the total over that quarter. If the payment has increased over the period of the quarter, write the last value you paid. For example, a monthly Netflix subscription of £15 need only be written down as a cost of £15, even though over the quarter you will have paid £45. The form indicates certain types of subscriptions that can be grouped and need not be set out in full, but they must be grouped by renewal period.

Form 2 will also be used to record variable recurring expenditure. This mainly comprises household bills, such as fuel and electricity (by meter reading), that don't have a fixed billing cycle. In this section, you must list every payment in respect of that expenditure you made in the quarter. For example, if you ordered kerosene twice in the quarter, you must list it twice, each one with the specific amount ordered, date, and amount paid.

Form 3 - Large expenditure items

Form 3 records one-off items of expenditure costing over £300. This is likely to include cars, flights, and large home furnishings or white goods. Holiday expenses beyond flights and travel insurance can be grouped as an approximate cost.

Form 4 – Household details

This need only be filled in once unless there are any changes to the household during the year.

Specific item instructions

Accommodation	Falklands accommodation only. Divide per people (Number) and per nights (Units)
Alcohol (pub nights out)	Ideally, all drinks should be recorded, but where the circumstances are not conducive to good record-keeping or memory, an approximate record will suffice.
Car Insurance	Where more than 1 car is covered, this should be detailed in "number". Personal vehicles only.
Electricity	Meter-billed electricity should be recorded in form 2, electricity cards in form 1
Heating fuel	Record every single purchase in the quarter, included amount and price
Holidays	Flights out and back to the Falklands and travel insurance should be listed separately. Expenditure over the holiday can be lumped together and estimated and included in Form 3. If you paid for your flights outside the recording period, include them anyway but email the survey manager to let them know.
Meals out	Include the number of people it is paying for under number, and "people" under units
Phone and internet	Line rental, mobile and broadband packages should be listed in form 2 as recurring expenditure, but call charges, top-ups and data boosters or mobile top-ups should be recorded in form 1
Pocket money	Only write the pocket money given out, there is no need to detail how the pocket money is spent.
Second hand items	Record in forms 1 or 3 according to price, set supplier as private seller.
Shipping costs	Record as a single cost regardless of how many items in the order. If received long after the purchase is made, email the shipping costs to the survey manager so they can be linked to the original purchase
Shop account / chargecard bills	Cannot be listed as one item, all the items within it must be separated and listed in the appropriate form

Further information

If you have any doubts, or would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact the survey manager, Nadia Knight, on 55494 or nknight@sec.gov.fk

Thank for taking part in the survey!