

# Health Economics Questionnaire

To be completed by parent/guardian

As part of this study we are interested to see how much people might value water softeners for their child with eczema. One way of measuring this is to ask how much you would be willing to pay in order to get a water softener, that is, what you would be prepared to give up in order to receive one.

**You are NOT being asked to pay anything for the water softener that will be installed in your home as part of the SWET study - we are just interested in your views about the value of water softeners.**

The likely benefits of installing a water softener in your home are:

- Your heating system (boiler) will work better and use less fuel.
- Your appliances, such as your washing machine, will not fur up.
- You will be able to use less washing powder and soap.
- You will not get scum or lime scale deposits on your bath, sinks and shower.
- It is also possible that using a water softener may improve your child's eczema – although obviously we are not sure of this, and this is why we are doing the study.

At the moment, water softening devices are only available if you buy one yourself. These units usually last for 10 to 20 years, and can be moved from one house to another. The devices typically cost anywhere in the region of £350 to £1500 (excluding installation costs and the recurrent costs of salt).

**If you were to buy a water softener today, what is the maximum you would be willing to pay for it? (This value can be anything you like, including zero).**

**Remember:** You will not be asked to pay this amount, but it should represent the amount that you would be willing to pay for the machine itself (excluding installation costs). Providing a money value is just a way of showing us how important (or unimportant) you think water softening devices are.

**The most I would be willing to pay for a water softener is:**

£.....