

Participant Information Sheet

1. LGBTQ+ Assets and Welfare

2. Background, aims of project

We would like to invite you to take part in our research project investigating the welfare and wellbeing of people who identify as LGBTQ+ in the UK. The bigger research project will be investigating whether there are differences between LGBTQ+ people and heterosexuals in the UK in terms of:

- Accessing welfare benefits from the UK or Scottish Governments
- Accumulating assets, like a house, a pension, or savings over their lives

The research has been funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and is a collaboration between researchers at the University of Stirling, University of Nottingham, Sheffield Hallam University and Vanderbilt University.

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you responded to one of our participant recruitment posters, or were invited to apply by an organisation you are involved with.

4. Do I have to take part?

No. You do not have to take part.

If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time without needing to explain and by advising the researcher of this decision.

You can also withdraw your data at any time until March 2023. To withdraw your data email peter.matthews@stir.ac.uk with the participant ID number on top of the consent form you will have been asked to complete.

You will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form or complete an electronic consent form.

5. What will happen if I take part?

You will need to complete an interview with a researcher from the research team.

The interview should take approximately one hour.

The interview will take part at a time and date convenient to you, and in a location where you feel safe. Depending on what you chose, the interview will take place online using MS Teams or Zoom, or in-person.

6. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

If you are not “out” as LGBTQ+ then there is a small risk that you might be “outed” by participating in this research. For example:

- if you chose to be interviewed in a public place, someone you know may see you with one of the research team and then find out why you are being interviewed;
- If someone entered the room during an online interview, they may overhear what you or the researcher are saying, or again may identify the researcher and then find out why you are being interviewed;
- Someone may see correspondence relating to your involvement in the project.

To help prevent these risks the researchers will ensure: they are discrete when interviewing you; you feel comfortable in a location you have chosen for your interview; and ensure your confidentiality and the security of your data.

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

You will receive a £20 voucher for taking part in the research. You will receive this at the end of your interview.

8. Legal basis for processing personal data

As part of the project we will be recording personal data relating to you. This will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Under GDPR the legal basis for processing your personal data will be public interest/the official authority of the University. We will also be processing your sensitive/special categories of personal information relating to your sexual life for research purposes in the public interest.

9. What happens to the data I provide? [examples of text – pick the most applicable]

The research data will be kept anonymous using encrypted, password-protected storage. The only identification on your research data will be your participant ID.

Personal/confidential information will be stored anonymously using encrypted, password-protected storage.

The researcher team and transcribers will have access to personal, sensitive, research data and will have signed a confidentiality agreement.

Your personal data will be kept for ten years in secure SharePoint online storage.

10. Future uses of the data

Due to the nature of this research, it is very likely that other researchers may find the data to be useful in answering other research questions. We will ask for your explicit consent for your data to be shared with other researchers in an online repository. If you agree, we will ensure that the data shared is untraceable back to you before letting others use it.

11. Will the research be published?

The research will be published on the research project website, in a report for the Nuffield Foundation, and in academic journal articles. You will not be identifiable in any report or publication

The University of Stirling is committed to making the outputs of research publicly accessible and supports this commitment through our online open access repository STORRE. This research will be publicly disseminated through our open access repository.

12. Who has reviewed this research project?

The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via The University of Stirling [Delete as appropriate: General University Ethics Panel.

13. Your rights

You have the right to request to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to request corrections or deletions of the information that is no longer required.

You have the right to withdraw from this project at any time without giving reasons and without consequences to you. You also have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data however, please note that once the data are being analysed and/or results published in March 2023 it may not be possible to remove your data from the study.

14. Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?

If you would like to discuss the research with someone please contact the research leader, Dr Peter Matthews, peter.matthews@stir.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the Associate Dean for Research, in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stirling, Professor Fiona Copland, fiona.copland@stir.ac.uk.

You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>).

The University's Data Protection Officer is Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary. If you have any questions relating to data protection these can be addressed to data.protection@stir.ac.uk in the first instance.

You will be given a copy of this information sheet to keep. **Thank you for your participation.**