

## **Crime Survey of England and Wales: Cognitive testing of family domestic abuse questions**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### **In brief**

We are seeking participants with experience of family domestic abuse to take part in an interview to help us test a new set of questions for the *Crime Survey of England and Wales*. It is really important that individuals with experience of family abuse test the questions. The interviews will take place during September and October 2022.

#### **What is the purpose of the study?**

This project aims to improve the measurement of domestic abuse in the Office for National Statistics' *Crime Survey of England and Wales*. The CSEW is the UK's largest population study on crime and victimisation, so it's vital that measures of domestic abuse are as accurate as possible.

#### **Who is funding and conducting the study?**

The study is funded by the UK Office for National Statistics. The Principal Investigator is Professor Marianne Hester (University of Bristol). This project builds on a partnership between the University of Bristol and the College of Policing, Women's Aid Federation England, Respect, IMKAAN and Welsh Women's Aid.

#### **How will the work be carried out?**

The study involves cognitive interviews about draft survey questions in the CSEW self-completion module. The purpose of a cognitive interview is to better understand how people understand and respond to survey questions on sensitive topics. We are NOT collecting or analysing information on experiences or history of domestic abuse.

#### **Why have I been invited?**

In order to improve the measurement of family domestic abuse in the CSEW self-completion module we are testing out some of the questions to see if we have got the wording right. We want to know if our questions make sense and if we are using terms that people understand.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary. If you agree to take part in one of the interviews for our study we will ask you to sign an online consent form to show that you have agreed to take part. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason. If you take part we will give you a £20 shopping voucher as a thank you.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to take part in an online interview from your home (via Zoom) which will last up to one hour. With your consent, we would like to digitally record the interview to make sure that we have recorded everything you said accurately. In the interview you will be asked to answer some of the revised domestic abuse module questions to see if they are easy to understand and complete, and an interviewer will ask you about your thought processes when responding to the questions.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

What you tell us will be confidential at all times. We will transcribe the recordings of interviews and will be writing up a report of the findings but we will not use your real names anywhere in the transcripts or the report. When we are analyzing the data from the study it will only be seen by the research team and it will be stored securely according to the regulations of the University of Bristol and the Data Protection Act. This study has been reviewed and approved by the National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee (NSDEC) and the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Bristol School for Policy Studies.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have any concerns or queries about any aspect of this study please do get in touch with Marianne Hester at [marianne.hester@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:marianne.hester@bristol.ac.uk).

**Data used and methods employed are consistent with legal requirements such as Data Protection Legislation<sup>[1][1]</sup>, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the common law duty of confidence**

The University of Bristol have the necessary procedures in place to ensure all aspects of this research comply with current UK data protection legislation.

### **Confidentiality**

Contributions by those involved in question testing will be anonymised and disclosure control will be applied to any reports/outputs. Additional data sources will not be able to be used to indirectly identify individuals. There is no requirement to share CSEW record level information as part of this project.

### **Data security**

Data will be handled securely in the University of Bristol Research Data Storage Facility and stored with unique identifiers, complying to GDPR requirements. Processing of participants' data will be within the GDPR lawful basis of public task. Consent forms will also be stored on the University of Bristol Research Data Storage Facility and will be destroyed at the end of the research. University of Bristol researchers will keep data and working papers produced through the life of the project for ten years beyond completion of the project. After the end of the project, the anonymised transcripts of the focus groups/interviews will be stored on the University of Bristol Data Storage Facility where it is available for accredited researchers to apply to access. No identifying information is deposited in the facility. Final reports produced on externally funded research projects are normally retained permanently by the University of Bristol. The report will include a full discussion of the background and context to the work, and full detail of the approaches and methods used to address the requirements of the work. It will detail the recommendations regarding new questions on domestic abuse, and alternative survey modes, including detailed explanations and rationale for any decisions.

### **Informed consent**

A Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form will be provided to all potential participants and include sufficient information to meet the GDPR requirements of Transparency.

<sup>[2][1]</sup> "Data Protection Legislation" means the full, applicable data protection framework as set out in the Data Protection Act 2018. This encompasses general processing (including the General Data Protection Regulation and the applied GDPR).