**Information sheet**

**Families’ of Adult Persons Reported as Missing: research project**

**WHY YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION SHEET?**

Missing People supports a research study, exploring the experiences of adults reported missing and their families, being undertaken by a team of researchers at the Universities of Glasgow and Dundee. So you understand why the research is being carried out and, if you would like to, how you can get involved the following information sheet has been prepared.

**RESEARCH TEAM**

My name is Olivia Stevenson and I am a researcher from the University of Glasgow. The research team also includes Dr. Hester Parr from Glasgow University, Prof. Nick Fyfe from Dundee University and Dr Penny Woolnough from Grampian Police. You can find out more about us and the project by visiting the website. Contact details are below. You are receiving this information sheet via the UK Charity *Missing People* as they are partners with this the research.

**WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PROJECT ABOUT?**

We are carrying out a research project which involves talking with families of adults who have been reported as missing in the past. Learning about your views and experiences is really important as it might help others, such as the police, charities, families and people who have been reported missing better understand how to respond to the issues involved. This research is fully supported by the UK Charity *Missing People*.

**WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?**

The researcher – Olivia Stevenson – will soon visit families who have a direct experience of a relative going missing and we would like to invite you to take part. If you agree to take part we would like to talk informally to you for an hour or so ***about your memories from this time, such as what happened, if you searched for your missing relative, your reflections on police involvement and key moments that were important to you.*** Understanding longer term impacts of ‘going missing’ on all family members is also of interest. We are particularly interested in how and whether families search for missing people. We are happy to visit you at a time and in a place that is suitable for you.

**AM I SUITABLE?**

We wish to talk to people who have either directly reported a relative missing or had a member of their family go missing. It does not matter how long the person reported as missing was away for or under what circumstances, we still want to hear from you. This project will help to find out what is most important to people when they are missing and to the families who are left behind.

**WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION?**

We will write a report for all the people involved. We will talk about what we have learnt from the research using anonymised direct quotation to academics and the media and will write articles for other people interested in missing experiences. We will also use the information to develop guidance for families of missing people in association with the Missing People charity and as part of an information event to be held in London in 2013, and to which you will be invited. We may use your account to create a readable ‘story’ or case study for learning resources – but again using completely anonymous detail.

We may use your words in our writing or publicity, but we will *not* use your name or the names of other people who took part in the project, and all the information we collect will be *anonymised* so that participants cannot be identified. The police service will **NOT** know if you have taken part or not. You are free to express any opinion with no risk to yourself or your identity. If you choose to participate, you will get a written summary of the findings of the research project at the end.

**WHAT DO I DO NOW?**

Your experiences are extremely important to us and this project and we invite you to contact us to take part. We hope that you will agree to be involved, but participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to refuse or to withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason.

If you think you might be interested in taking part in an interview or even finding out more please return the reply slip in the **freepost envelope** provided. If easier, you can contact Olivia with your details by text, phone, email or through facebook, details below. We will then contact you in advance of the interview to talk to you more about the project and answer any questions you might have.

If you have any questions about the project and would prefer to speak a representative from the Missing People Charity, you can also contact Lucy Holmes, details below.

*Thank you* very much for taking the time to read this, and for considering taking part.

**MISSING PEOPLE CONTACT DETAILS**

Lucy Holmes

Email:lucy.holmes@missingpeople.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8392 4591
Website:[www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)

**GEOGRAPHIES OF MISSING PEOPLE RESEARCH PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS**

Email: Olivia.Stevenson@glasgow.ac.uk

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/OliviaStevenson2>

Website: <http://www.geographiesofmissingpeople.org.uk/>

Telephone 0141 330 8655 / Mobile 07582 903 175

**Research Manager**: Dr Hester Parr, University of Glasgow: Hester.Parr@glasgow.ac.uk

We are happy to answer any questions about the project.