**SURVEY INFORMATION SHEET**

The information below tells you about the study that we are inviting you to be involved in. Please ask any questions you want about the research, and we will try our best to answer them.

**Who are we?** We are experienced prison researchers, who work at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. We do not work for the Prison Service, and our study is funded independently, by the Economic and Social Research Council.

**What is this study about?** We are interested in finding out more about the experiences of prisoners who are given very long sentences (over fifteen years) when they are under twenty-five. As part of the study, we are conducting long interviews with some prisoners and also giving out these surveys to help us to understand what it is like to serve a sentence of this kind.

**What will participation involve?** Participation will involve filling in a survey. This should take around thirty minutes. It is possible that, in a few years from now, we will try to contact you again, to give out another survey to see how your feelings and experiences have changed.

**Do I have to take part in the study?** Your participation is completely voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to, and this will not count against you in any way.

**Are there any risks involved in taking part?** Some questions might ask you to think about things you have not thought about before, and some might make you think about problems that you are having. This might trigger some unhappy or upsetting thoughts. However, you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to, and, if you are upset by filling in the survey, we can advise you on who, in the prison, you could talk to about your feelings.

**Are there any benefits in taking part?** We cannot pay you for taking part in the study, but you may feel that it is helpful to contribute to our understanding of prison life, and to reflect on your situation. Taking part in the study will not affect your privilege level or any decision about your parole or release.

**Will what I say be kept confidential?** The information you share in the survey will be kept COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL *unless* you provide details of any of the following:

* A breach of prison security
* Any further offences you admit to that you have not yet been convicted for
* Anything you say that implies a threat to yourself or to others

We will not discuss your individual responses with anyone beyond the research team, and the information you provide will be stored securely, for an indefinite period.

**Will my contribution remain anonymous?** We have asked you to write down your name and prison number so that we can contact you in future to follow-up this research. You do not have to give these details if you do not want to. Whether you do or not, when we write up our study, we will not include any personal details about you and will not link what you say to your name.

**How do I agree to take part in the study?** If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete a consent form, confirming that you understand what the study involves and have had a chance to discuss any questions with the researcher.

**What if I want to withdraw from the study?** You are free to withdraw from the study at any stage during the research process, without having to explain your reasons. You may make this decision at any point up until 30th June 2014, when we will begin writing the research findings. If you make this decision, we will destroy your survey. Making this decision will not count against you in any way. To do this, you should write to our contact within NOMS at the following address: Dr Ruth Mann, 5th Floor, Clive House, 70 Petty France, London, SW1P 9EH.

Dr Mann will pass on your letter to us, but she will not have any access to your survey or any further details about you.

**What will happen to the results of the study?** Your survey may contribute to publications that we will write about the issues we are interested in. These will mainly be academic articles and books. The findings may also be discussed in other academic publications written by the researchers, and in discussions or presentations with members of the Prison Service or the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and other university researchers. Again, this will be done in such a way that you will not be personally identified.

The study has been reviewed by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. If you want further information about its ethics, or if you want to complain some aspect of the research, you should write initially to Dr Ruth Mann, who will forward your comments to relevant person on the Ethics Committee.

**Thank you for your time in reading this information. If you have any further questions at any stage of the research, please do not hesitate to ask one of us.**

  
Dr Ben Crewe Dr Susie Hulley Dr Serena Wright