**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH**

*School of Psychology, University of Birmingham*

**Attention and emotion in sexual and violent offenders**

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

The purpose of this study is to examine attention and emotion among participants in a Therapeutic Community who have committed a sexual or a violent offence. You will be asked to take part in tasks that will involve judging the emotions from faces, shifting attention toward and away from emotional stimuli, and performing an attentional task where we will measure how quickly and accurately you can respond. During these tasks, we will use an eye tracking device that will tell us where you are looking and when you are looking there, and how quickly your eyes are moving. This will allow us to measure visual attention. We will also look at how your performance in these tasks is related to levels of anxiety and the ways in which you interact with other people around you.

**What does this study involve?**

Your participation in this study will involve completing 3 computer based tasks which will ask you to view emotional facial expressions and identify letters quickly and accurately. During two of the three task we will use an eye tracker to measure your eye movements. You will also be asked to complete a small number of questionnaires. Participation will last no longer than 2 hours.

**Other important issues to be aware of:**

* Benefits from participation:
	+ You will also benefit from gaining an insight in to how easy or hard you find it to recognise different facial expressions of emotion, and how well you were able to control your own eye movements.
	+ Please note that taking part in this study will have no impact on your treatment status or progression through treatment.
	+ Participation will also have no bearing on the progress of your sentence or future parole applications.
* Risks associated with participation: During participation in this study, you will encounter no greater risks of discomfort than those incurred in routine daily activities.
* Withdrawal from the study: You may choose to stop your participation in this study at any time. Your decision to stop your participation will have no effect on your treatment or sentence progress*.* You may also choose to withdraw your data after you have completed the study. *If you wish to withdraw your data from the study, you must alert the researcher with-in* ***one week*** *of data collection to ensure that your data has not already been analysed.*
* Data collection: The data collected in this study will include the responses that you make on the computer based tasks, data on your eye movements, questionnaire responses, and basic demographic information about you (e.g., sex, ethnicity, age, offence type, offence history). The data collected in this study will be used only for the purpose described in this form, and will be available only to the principal investigator listed in this consent form and other personnel involved in this study at the University of Birmingham.
* Data gathered from this study will be maintained as long as required by regulations, which is up to 10 years following the publication of empirical articles or communications describing the results of the study.
* Confidentiality: Every effort will be taken to protect the names of the participants in this study. Your identity will only be recorded on your consent form and will not be recorded as part of your data. Your consent form will not be stored together with your data. Your data will only contain your Prisoner ID Number. The researchers involved in this study will not be able to match your ID Number to your identity. Your identity will not be revealed in any publication that may result from this study. All information you provide will be kept confidential, except as governed by law.
	+ Please note that should you disclose any new information about a victim or potential victim, or an as yet unknown offence, then the researcher will have to report this information.

**CONSENT**

􀂆 I have read the information about **“Attention and emotion in sexual and violent offenders”** and have been given an opportunity to ask questions.

􀂆 I understand that all data will remain confidential and will only be seen by members of the research team at the University of Birmingham.

􀂆 I understand that should I disclose any new information about an offence or victim/potential victim, the researcher will have to report this information.

􀂆 I confirm that the researcher may be provided access to details about me, including my age, and details about my offence and offense history.

􀂆 I agree to participate in this study.

**Participant Name Participant Signature and Date**

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**Researcher Name Researcher Signature and Date**

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