**Research Project on Borders**

**TOPIC:** The Security and Ethics of Border Management

**TO:**

**FROM:** A multidisciplinary team of researchers at Queen’s University Belfast

**DATE:**

**WHAT OUR PROJECT DOES:** We are a team of academic researchers with expertise in security, law, and ethics. Our research examines how people and objects are managed at border sites. By comparing how travellers, baggage and freight are processed at select borders, this project aims to provide insight into the differential treatment of people and objects, helping policy-makers and practitioners.

**WHAT OUR PROJECT CAN DO FOR ……:** By working in collaboration with ….., we hope to **align our research project with current strategic thinking about how to improve all aspects of border management**. In particular, we hope to:

* Identify and share **best practice** by providing an in-depth analysis of border management across all levels from policy-makers and senior managers down to operational personnel.
* Reveal new opportunities to decrease ‘silo’ thinking and **increase interoperability** between the different specialists involved in border management.
* Identify and develop strategies to negotiate emerging tensions between **security, mobility and efficiency** in border management.
* Develop and enhance strategies that can help …….. to demonstrate that the **rights of travellers** are respected, especially in times of rapid change.
* Help …… adapt to a changing **regulatory environment** within Europe by producing resilient and practical strategies which are evidence-based;
* Contribute to …… **quality enhancement** by offering insights from our research on the experiences of people crossing borders.

We will share our insights with you as they develop during the lifecycle of the project; we will also disseminate our findings to …… personnel in a dedicated briefing report which will be presented at our final stakeholder meeting in London.

**CONFIDENTIALITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS:** Our project adopts the highest research ethics standards and has been approved through rigorous internal and external ethical reviews (i.e. Queen’s University Belfast). We understand and appreciate the sensitivities around the work of ……., and therefore we will:

* Respect and guarantee **anonymity and confidentiality** when requested.
* Maintain our observation field notes, transcripts and any other collected data in **secure storage**.
* **Share our findings in advance** of any presentation or publication.
* Respect and guarantee any requests to **withdraw any data or quotations**, in part or in full, from the project.
* Respect and obey the **parameters of access** that are agreed prior to any site visits.

**WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF …….:** We are mindful of the sensitivity and time-pressure of …….. work, and are therefore requesting the following from appropriate ……. personnel:

* To help **facilitate access** to ……. At these sites we would like to observe ……… daily practices in order to gain understanding of the practical challenges encountered.
* To help facilitate **interviews** with key …….. personnel.
* To attend and participate in our **final Stakeholder workshop** in London in October 2016.

**GET IN TOUCH:** we are happy to answer any questions or provide any existing documentation about our project. Please contact:

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