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**“A rite of passage?”: National Citizen Service and the Geographies of Youth Citizenship**

**Participant Information Sheet**

**Dear X**

You have the opportunity to participate in a study on National Citizen Service and the Geographies of Youth Citizenship

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

This study examines the state’s motivations behind, the voluntary sector’s engagement with, and young people’s experiences of, National Citizen Service.

**Who is doing this research and why?**

This study is part of an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded research project led by Dr Sarah Mills and Dr Catherine Waite from the Department of Geography, Loughborough University (grant no. ES/L009315/1). It aims to produce a piece of academic research that is also useful to relevant stakeholders.

**What will I be asked to do?**

You will be invited to take part in an interview to discuss your role and experiences in relation to NCS.

**Once I take part, can I change my mind?**

Yes. After you have read this information and asked any questions you may have, you will be asked to complete an Informed Consent Form, however if at any time, before, during or after the interview you wish to withdraw from the study please contact the project team. You can stop being part of the project at any time, for any reason and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing. If you withdraw from the project before the end of January 2016 all data will be removed from the project. After this date, the right to withdraw remains and all data will still be removed from the project, but some anonymised information may already be in the public domain.

**How long will the interview take?**

The discussion will last no longer than an hour of your time.

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

The information provided will be treated in strict confidence and remain confidential to the researchers of the study. The audio from the interview will be recorded and transcribed. Transcripts will be stored on a secure University server and backed-up regularly on a password-protected external hard drive. The data will be stored for five years after the end date of the project (September 2017). Furthermore, signed informed consent sheets will be scanned as a pdf document and password protected and hard copies securely stored and then destroyed at the end of the project.

As the ESRC is a publicly funded body, it has developed ways to share data among academic researchers (subject to strict conditions). To this end, your anonymised interview transcript could be stored as part of the UK Data Archive (a service provider for the Economic and Social Data Service), subject to your wishes.

**I have some more questions; who should I contact?**

Dr Sarah Mills [S.Mills@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:S.Mills@lboro.ac.uk) 01509 223725 OR

Dr Catherine Waite [C.A.Waite@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:C.A.Waite@lboro.ac.uk) 01509 222791

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results will be used in academic publications and reports to non-academic stakeholders i.e. local and national government departments, third sector organisations. Any quotes from the interviews will be anonymised. We will not use your real name and no one will be able to tell that it was you who said the words we quote.

**What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?**

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Secretary for the University’s Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee via the Research Office, Rutland Building, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 222423.

The University also has a policy relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing which is available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/>