**INFORMATION SHEET**

**Constraints on the Design of Security Policy: Insights from Audience Costs Theory and Security and Defence Elites in the United Kingdom**

**Details of Project**

This project seeks to explain how security policy is developed in the United Kingdom. Security policies protect the borders of a nation-state and the security of it citizens. Specifically, this project wants to examine the interactions between different security agencies and actors involved in the security policy process and the impact these interactions have on the flexibility of security policy. I am lecturer in Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Exeter’s Strategy and Security Institute and this project is funded by an Economic & Social Research Council grant. The general trends found in this research will form the basis for academic articles in peer-reviewed journals.

**Contact Details**

For further information about the research or your interview data, please contact:  Dr. Catarina P. Thomson, Strategy and Security Institute, Exeter University, Devon UK, Tel 44 (0) 1392 725595, c.p.thomson@ex.ac.uk. If you have concerns/questions about the research you would like to discuss with someone else at the University, please contact: Professor Gareth Stansfield, Director of Research Strategy and Security Institute, G.R.V.Stansfield@exeter.ac.uk.

**Benefits and Risks**

Although, there is no direct benefit from participation for you as an individual, it is hoped that the research will inform the design and implementation of security policy in the U.K.

**Interview Procedures**

The interview will involve a series of questions about your experience in the design or implementation of security policy in the U.K. Before the interview begins, we can discuss questions or concerns you may have about the project. Next, I will ask you to sign a consent form, which states that you understand the nature of the research and that your participation is voluntary. The duration of the interview will be approximately an hour. During the interview, to maintain an accurate record I will take notes as well as audio record the dialogue that takes place. The latter will only be used for purposes of transcription.

**Confidentiality**

All material pertaining to the interview (interview recordings, notes, and transcripts) will be held in confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The material will not be used other than for the purposes described above and third parties will not be allowed access to them (except as may be required by the law). To minimize the risks to confidentiality, data will be stored on a central server of the University of Exeter that is password protected and abides by the security standards and protocols of the University. All audio files will be destroyed six months after the end of the duration of this project. Any other future research outputs will adhere to the same confidentiality procedures articulated here.

**Anonymity**

Interview data will be anonymized, no personal identifiers of interviewees will be used in the transcripts, and interviewees will be identified by a code, with the key held in a separate document in a separate location to the transcripts. Audio recordings and transcripts will be password protected and stored on the University of Exeter secure system. All audio files will be destroyed six months after the end of the duration of this project. All data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act. To the extent that it is possible, geographical and other identifiers which will heighten the risk of identifiability will be removed from transcripts prior to archiving.