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Dear Colleague

Research into Relations between Government and Citizens: Baltimore Case Study

This letter is an invitation to participate in a major international study of the way cities govern and manage crises and social change, in particular the relationships between governmental and non-governmental actors. The study, funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council from April 2015 to September 2017, and led by Professor Jonathan Davies at De Montfort University in Leicester, explores these issues in eight cities: Baltimore, as well as Athens, Barcelona, Dublin, Leicester, Melbourne, Montreal and Nantes. We anticipate that the research will develop important insights into the ways that cities interpret, govern, contest and cope with waves of social and economic turbulence - particularly during a period when most face significant downward pressure on budgets.

To answer our research questions, we are interviewing 320 people – 40 in each city, together with a small number of focus groups and observations. We are talking to a wide variety of people – from city government, social movements and campaign groups, voluntary organisations – including charities and churches - media and business leaders. Our preferred approach is to record and transcribe the interview material. If you are willing to be interviewed and for us to record the discussion, we will ensure that anything that might identify you as an individual is removed from the transcript. Participating in this research poses no material risk. For information on the project, see our website at <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/ESRCAusterity>. If you have further questions, we will be delighted to answer them. When the research is complete in mid-2017, we will be holding workshops with feedback for participants and other interested parties.

Please complete and sign the attached consent form if you are happy to take part in the study and would like to be involved in the dissemination workshops.

With many thanks

**Dr Madeleine Pill**

Consent to participate in study of relationships between government and citizens: Baltimore Case Study

Name: _____

Contact Details (address, email or telephone) _____

I have read and understood the letter of information about research into relationships between government and citizens. I understand that I may withdraw from the process at any time, or ask for the recording device to be switched off. I agree that my interview can be recorded and transcribed, provided I cannot be identified from the written transcript. Accordingly, I freely and voluntarily consent to participate in the study.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Please tick the box below if you would like be invited to a local feedback event in mid-2017.

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Contact details for local feedback event (if different from above:) _____
