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November 2015

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 how relationships between government, business, the community and voluntary sectors and citizens evolve, particularly at times when public spending is squeezed. The study, funded by the British Economic and Social Research Council from April 2015 to September 2017, explores these issues in eight cities: Baltimore, along with Athens, Barcelona, Dublin, Leicester, Melbourne, Montreal and Nantes. We anticipate that the research will reveal important insights into the relationships between city governments and citizens during a period when, to a greater or lesser extent, all our cities face public spending cuts.

To answer our research questions, we are interviewing 320 people during the next 18 months – 40 in each city. We are talking to a wide variety of people in government, citizen activists, voluntary organisations and businesses. 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:) _____
