



We would be grateful if you participate in the research titled:

### **Can 'Flood Re' increase the resilience of small businesses?**

Before you decide to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please get in touch with us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

#### **What is the purpose of this project?**

Flooding is highlighted as the UK's most predominant natural hazard. Around 3,158 businesses were directly flooded by the 15/16 winter floods. Many more were indirectly affected due to the high level of business-to-business relationships. SMEs constitute 99% of the whole economic units in the UK. If they are affected, it can ripple the effect on the socio-economic structure of communities as they provide goods, services, and also employment to people in the community. It is vitally important to examine which strategies SMEs can use to reduce the impact of a flooding event. By investigating the mechanisms available for SMEs, such as flood insurance among others, if they have been useful or not, we aim to offer knowledge to contribute to the development of a flood protection policy framework that increase the resilience of this backbone of the economy.

#### **Why have I been contacted?**

You have been contacted because you have done work related to the 2015 Boxing Day flooding, and have either been in contact directly or indirectly with affected businesses. To draw a picture of the situation SMEs face, we aim to get different point of views. In this sense, you are a key part of this project.

#### **What are the benefits of taking part?**

Whilst there is no benefit to you, your participation will contribute to gather the evidence of the needs of SMEs, and individual businesses may benefit from future initiatives to promote SME resilience to flooding.

#### **Do I need to take part?**

Your participation is invaluable to improve the understanding of SMEs situation. However, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and you can still withdraw at any time without being required to provide a reason, up until 12/2018.

#### **What will happen if I take part?**

By taking part you will be asked to answer questions relating to flooding from your perspective. There are no right or wrong answers, just try to be as informative as you can be. You will be asked for permission to record the interview. The audio recording will be used for analysis. No other use of them will be made without your written permission, no one outside the research team will be allowed access to the recordings, and no copies will be made. These will be destroyed after 2 years, once the research outputs have been concluded.

#### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no risks associated with this research. All data from the study will be anonymised and any personal details will be kept confidential, so you will not be recognisable in the study results. Only aggregate results will be published.

#### **Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly anonymised and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the data you provide. In addition, your details will be kept separately from the responses, and you will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications. I would like to remind that your specific responses will be kept confidential.

#### **What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The results of the research will be published in a final report and in academic journals. A summary of the general results will be made available to all participants as requested. As it was stated before, neither you nor your business will be identified in any report or publication.

#### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This project is organised by the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP) at the University of Leeds and London School of Economics. <https://www.cccep.ac.uk/our-work/innovation-fund/>

#### **Contact for further information**

If you want further information about the research, or any suggestion/complaint, please get in contact with the leading researcher:

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