# Consent for Archiving Research Data

In the period 2017-18, you were interviewed by researchers for the project *Smart Cities in the Making: Learning from Milton Keynes* (SCiM). You completed a consent form allowing us to use that interview for academic research and giving us permission to archive the transcript of that interview in the UK's research data archive, the UK Data Service's ReShare. On this consent form, you ticket the box requiring your data to be stored anonymously in ReShare. However, because of the way this project has panned out we now need to revisit this requirement.

The nature of the project is such that anonymity cannot be guaranteed for participants whose data is archived in ReShare. This is because, though we can remove direct identifying information (for instance, name) and indirect identifying information (for instance, age, sex/gender, job title etc.), from the transcript, the topics discussed in the interview make it possible for someone accessing the data to deduce the identity of the interviewee. This is because the subject of the interview, the place and time when the interview took place, and the wider association with Milton Keynes' smart city projects are very specific. As you will see from your interview transcript, an interested party could use information from other sources along with the data archived to make an educated guess as to the identity of the interviewee. It would be impossible to redact the interview in a way which concealed this information but retained the meaning of the interview, therefore we could not guarantee anonymity.

To treat your data in a way you are happy with, there are now two options which you may select from:

- Revocation of your consent of the archive of your interview; or,
- Giving permission for your interview to be archived in as anonymous a form as possible, and archived securely.

If you select the first option, your data will not be archived in ReShare.

If you select the second option, the research team will remove all direct and indirect identifying information from the transcript without making changes to the content of the interview itself. This redacted version of the transcript will then be submitted to ReShare and will be archived as Safeguarded Data. Safeguarded Data is private and requires potential viewers or users of the data to submit a request to SCiM's PI, Prof Gillian Rose, outlining their intended use of the data. This can be approved or denied depending on the applicant's proposal, and users must follow particular terms and conditions. Anyone using the data would be required to sign a legal agreement to ensure anonymity and confidentiality. This approach has been designed to balance the importance of archiving research data and making it available to future researchers and the need to protect the personal information of interviewees.

Please state your preferred choice and sign the document below.

☐ I revoke my consent for the archiving of my interview.

☐ I give permission for my interview to be anonymised to the extent reasonably possible by the research team, and for this to be deposited in the UK Data Service's ReShare system as Safeguarded Data in the way outlined above.

Signed _____

Date _____