*Email 1* or *Email 2* (depending on the researchers’ assessment of the appropriate form of archiving suitable in each case) was sent to all donor participants who had not been given the choice to consent (or not) to archiving at the time of their interview.

One follow-up reminder was sent 13 days later.

*Text of Email 1 (consent for archiving under safeguarded access)*

Hello

 I hope you are well. I am writing in relation to your participation in our research project, a few years ago now. The project is called ‘Curious connections: the impact of donating egg and sperm on donors’ everyday lives and relationships’ and is based in Sociology at the University of Manchester.

 First of all, thank you so much for your support for the research. It would not have been possible without you and people like you giving up your time to take part. The research will help to provide better evidence-based support for people involved in, and impacted by, donor conception.

 Second, I wanted to check whether you would be happy for us to archive an anonymised copy of your interview transcript with the UKDS ([UK Data Service](https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/)). The UKDS is an online archive which shares anonymised data from past research with other researchers who wish to re-analyse the data. Researchers who are funded by the UK’s research council (as we are) are encouraged to deposit their data here, so long as they have the informed consent of participants.

 The option to archive your data was discussed on the participant information sheet (see attached) and we may have discussed it at interview. However, due to an error, some consent forms did not have the specific tick box relating to archiving. We are therefore getting in touch with everyone this applies to in order to check their wishes. It is completely up to you whether you would like your anonymised transcript to be archived or not. Only *anonymised* interview transcripts (with names, places, specific dates and other clearly identifying features removed) will be archived. Audio recordings will *not* be archived.

**If you are happy for your data to be archived as described in this email, please reply to this email (including Petra, cc-ed) stating:**

**‘I consent for anonymised transcripts from my interview as part of the Curious Connections study to be archived with the UK Data Service for use by other researchers’,  followed by your full name.**

**The email will then be printed and stored along with your original consent form in a locked filing cabinet on university premises, separately from your interview data.**

**If you do *not* want your interview transcript to be archived, that is absolutely fine and you do not need to do anything. We may send one reminder email to double check if we do not hear from you.**

If you would like to discuss this, or any other aspect of the research, further, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, I’d like to take the opportunity to highlight our project website where you can find resources we’ve produced from our research (so far) which include leaflets, webinar recordings and a collection of research inspired fiction. More will be added over the coming year, including details of a book we are writing and which we hope will be published in spring 2022 and a second short story collection focussed on known egg donors’ experiences. [Being an egg or sperm donor - School of Social Sciences - The University of Manchester](https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgan-centre/research/research-themes/kinship-and-relatedness/being-an-egg-or-sperm-donor/)

Best wishes

Leah

 Dr Leah Gilman

Research Associate

Sociology, Arthur Lewis Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

+44 (0)161 275 8995

*Text of Email 2 (consent for archiving with controlled access)*

Hello

 I hope you are well. I am writing in relation to your participation in our research project, a few years ago now. The project is called ‘Curious connections: the impact of donating egg and sperm on donors’ everyday lives and relationships’ and is based in Sociology at the University of Manchester.

 First of all, thank you so much for your support for the research. It would not have been possible without you and people like you giving up your time to take part. The research will help to provide better evidence-based support for people involved in, and impacted by, donor conception.

 Second, I wanted to check whether you would be happy for us to archive an anonymised copy of your interview transcript with the UKDS ([UK Data Service](https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/)). The UKDS is an online archive which shares anonymised data from past research with other researchers who wish to re-analyse the data. Researchers who are funded by the UK’s research council (as we are) are encouraged to deposit their data here, so long as they have the informed consent of participants.

 The option to archive your data was discussed on the participant information sheet (see attached) and we may have discussed it at interview. However, due to an error, some consent forms did not have the specific tick box relating to archiving. We are therefore getting in touch with everyone this applies to in order to check their wishes. It is completely up to you whether you would like your anonymised transcript to be archived or not. Only *anonymised* interview transcripts (with names, places, specific dates and other clearly identifying features removed) will be archived. Audio recordings will *not* be archived.

 In your case, we would be proposing to archive your data under ‘controlled’ access. This means that any request to view your anonymised transcript would have to first be approved by Petra Nordqvist (the lead researcher for the project). She would ask about the person’s interest in the data, check they wish to use it for research purposes and are suitably qualified/experienced in managing research data. She would also highlight aspects of your story which are unusual enough that they could, in combination with other details, potentially identify you to people who know you well. We are very careful in our own publications not to combine details in a way which could be identifying and we would ask other researchers to do the same. This places an additional safeguard on your privacy as a research participant but it is not an absolute guarantee so you may decide you prefer for your data not to be archived. It’s completely up to you and opting out of archiving doesn’t impact the really important contribution you have made to this project.

**If you are happy for your data to be archived as described in this email, please reply to this email (including Petra, cc-ed) stating:**

**‘I consent for anonymised transcripts from my interview as part of the Curious Connections study to be archived with the UK Data Service for use by other researchers’,  followed by your full name.**

**The email will then be printed and stored along with your original consent form in a locked filing cabinet on university premises, separately from your interview data.**

**If you do *not* want your interview transcript to be archived, that is absolutely fine and you do not need to do anything. We may send one reminder email to double check if we do not hear from you.**

If you would like to discuss this, or any other aspect of the research, further, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, I’d like to take the opportunity to highlight our project website where you can find resources we’ve produced from our research (so far) which include leaflets, webinar recordings and a collection of research inspired fiction. More will be added over the coming year, including details of a book we are writing and which we hope will be published in spring 2022 and a second short story collection focussed on known egg donors’ experiences. [Being an egg or sperm donor - School of Social Sciences - The University of Manchester](https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgan-centre/research/research-themes/kinship-and-relatedness/being-an-egg-or-sperm-donor/)

Best wishes

Leah

 Dr Leah Gilman

Research Associate

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