

Interview guide: design decision-making for sustainability research, 2020.

Greetings/checking sound etc.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this interview for my PhD research. My research is about how decision-making is done in sustainable product design, and about who is involved in making design decisions. I'm interested in hearing about your experiences of decision-making in sustainable design, either in terms of decisions you have made alone, or with other people. As stated in the info sheet you received by email, this conversation is confidential, and anything you say will be kept anonymous. This might take around 45 minutes, but it depends on how much detail you wish to provide. Do you have any questions before we start?

Are you ok to proceed and for me to start recording our conversation? *If yes, start recording on Teams, and also backup recording via browser.*

I need to ask you a few questions to get your consent to participating in the research.

- Have you read and understood the participant information sheet?
- Have you got permission from your employer or manager to take part in this interview, if relevant?
- Are you happy for the recording to be analysed for research purposes, and for anonymised quotes to be used in publications?
- Are you ok with the anonymised transcript of our conversation being stored by the UK Data Service (or an equivalent) to potentially be used by other researchers in future?

Hopefully you will feel comfortable having this conversation, but of course you can stop the interview at any time, or choose not to respond to particular questions. You can also let me know within two weeks of today if you would like to withdraw anything you have said.

If using Teams: If it's helpful, please do share any images/sketches or documents that relate to our discussion today, you can share your screen using the button at the bottom, or send things in the chat.

OK so now I will begin the interview. First, I have a few quick background questions to get started:

1. **You told me about a sustainable design project by email, could you remind me what the product was?**
2. **Where did the idea come from? (brief/client/in-house?)**
3. **What was your role in the design of this product?**
4. **How many others were involved?**

Now I'd like to ask about the decision-making in the project.

5. **What were some of the things you had to make design decisions about?**
6. **Which decision was most important in terms of sustainability?**
7. **How was that decision made?**
 - **Individual/collaborative**
 - **What helped – any tools/methods**
8. **What was your role in the decision-making? (or who made the decision?)**
9. **Did you own values come into the decision?/do your values influence your design work? (explain)**
10. **Who took final responsibility for the decision?**
11. **What were the lines of responsibility in the project? Is this typical?**
12. **Who is responsible for the sustainability of the product? Or for the sustainability of products generally?**
13. **Do you feel a personal responsibility for sustainability as a designer?**
14. **Anything else that might be relevant/that you would like to share?**

Thank you for your participation. Explanation of next steps/you will receive a follow up email.

End.