

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES & BUSINESS

**Information Sheet**

**Lead researcher’s name:** Andrew McStay

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Details of research project: **An ethical impact assessment of personal data storage apps**, funded by Innovate UK, ethically reviewed by Bangor University.

Purpose of research: to identify citizen-led socio-technical terms and ethical issues that should govern the use of personal data storage apps.

What participation will involve: an online focus group.

Participation is voluntary: participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the project at any time without prejudice by informing Andrew McStay

Research context. This project examines personal data storage apps, and considers, from a citizen-based perspective, what privacy and ethical considerations need to be embedded into the design of these systems. Our project partner, Cufflink, is developing a citizen-level personal data storage app that seeks to empower users to manage and control their own personal information when linking this to other individuals and organisations. Unlike other such apps, Cufflink’s app does not require users to prove their identity. However, we do not yet understand the ethical principles by which these apps work, whether their revenue models raise other ethical and privacy problems, and whether their design adequately reflects citizen concerns with control over their data. This project aims to understand stakeholders’ views on potential benefits and harms from citizen-level personal data storage services, and any regulatory and ethical issues arising. It also aims to understand the public’s views on the degree and nature of control that people feel they have over personal data, and citizen awareness, preferences and ethical concerns concerning use of, and desirability of citizen-level personal data storage apps.

What happens to my data?

*How data collected will be handled and protected*: Audio files of our conversation will be sent to a transcriber compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation, guaranteeing high levels of care for storage and processing of your personal data. After this, we will respect your chosen level of anonymity, as indicated via the consent form.

*How results will be disseminated*: results (at the anonymity level set by you) will be fully public (websites, academic publications, policy reports).

*Plans for storage, archiving, sharing and re-use of data*: Data will be held on our password protected private computers for three years. Anonymised data will be archived at UK Data Service. Anonymised results will also be sent to Cufflink to help them improve the design of their app.