

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study Title:** Pandemic Policing – public perceptions in Hampshire

**Name of Researchers:** Dr Robert Inkpen and Dr Aram Ghaemmaghami

**University Data Protection Officer:** Samantha Hill, 023 9284 3642 or data-protection@port.ac.uk

**Ethics Committee Reference Number: FHSS 2020-056**

**1. Invitation**

I would first like to thank you for completing the survey related to this project. Your responses have been invaluable to the research team in assessing the public attitudes to policing in Hampshire during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The data yielded from the survey is already being used by Hampshire Constabulary to adapt their provision on the ground to better meet the needs of its service users.

During the survey, you indicated that you would be willing to be interviewed. To that end, I would now like to invite you to take part in a 1-1 video interview to be held online at a time conveient to you. The purpose of this interview is to contextualise some of the findings of the survey and to help Hampshire Constabulary better serve its service users moving forward into the second lockdown and beyond. Joining the study is of course entirely up to you and you a free to leave the process at any time during the data collection process. I or another member of the research team will be happy to go through this information sheet with you when we meet and answer any further questions you may have before you make a final decision. In the meantime, please feel free to talk to others about the study anddo not hesitate to ask for further clarification if anything is unclear.

**2. Study Summary**

The primary aim of this study is to identify and analyse the public perception of policing during the COVID-19 crisis and the influence of an individual’s worldview on that perception. The principle investigator for this study is Dr Sarah Charman who has over 20 years’ experience researching policing in all of its aspects at the University of Portsmouth. More details about Sarah’s research profile should you be interested can be viewed here - <https://researchportal.port.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/sarah-charman(e74acf96-7cb9-44e8-9744-0cf584983f58).html?_ga=2.220876817.847719460.1542010079-971176742.1517406127>. The public interviews are being conducted by Dr Inkpen and Dr Ghaemmaghami, part of the research team.

**3. What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of the study is to conduct research to understand more about public - police relations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey data has highlighted some interesting findings that need further contextualisation before they can be used to influence the development of policing strategies in response to the crisis and beyond. This will not only provide a valuable contribution to the academic literature but will also provide useful information that will benefit the police service and ultimately the public who they serve. Online interviews with 40 individuals who took part in the initial public survey will be conducted in order to meet this aim.

**4. Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited to take part in the interview process as you indicated that you would be willing to be interviewed after taking part in the online survey conducted earlier this year in the first lockdown period. It is important to note that although the valuable data you will supply will be used to influence the practices of Hampshire Constabulary moving forward, they will not have access to any of the research data but will be provided with an organisational report outlining the research findings.

**5. Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to volunteer for the study and can withdraw at any time during the research period.

**6. What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in this research, you will complete an online video interview. This should take approximately 30-45 minutes. An audio recording of the interview will be made so it can be transcribed for further analysis. You will not be asked to provide any information that could be considered sensitive or confidential. Answering the Interview questions will be considered to be an indication that you are participating of your own free will and without pressure. Verbatim comments extracted from an interview transcript may be used in the research but you will not be identified – pseudonyms or codes will be used at all times

**7. What are the possible disadvantages, burdens and risks of taking part?**

Other than the use of your time, very little in the way of disadvantage or risk to participants is foreseen. Any risk of your contribution being identifiable to you personally will be minimal as all participant information will be anonymised.

**8. What are the possible advantages or benefits of taking part?**

I am happy to provide you with copies of the research publications and the organisational report that emanates from this research study. Hampshire Constabulary will be able to use the research findings to address any potential gaps in their support for police officers and to improve their service to the public.

**12. Will my data be kept confidential?**

Your contribution will be kept entirely confidential; no information that will connect you to your contribution will be used in the study report. All digital data and digitised copies of consent forms will be stored for a period of ten years, in accordance with university standards. The raw data, which identifies you, will be kept securely on a password protected research folder on the university system by the research team. Only the research team will have access to this data. The raw data will be retained for a minimum of 10 years. When it is no longer required, the data will be disposed of securely.

**13. What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

As a volunteer you can withdraw your participation at any point during the interview. Interview participants can withdraw up until such time as the data is analysed.

**14. What if there is a problem?**

If you have a query, concern or complaint about any aspect of this study, in the first instance you should contact the researcher who interviews you. If your concern or complaint is not resolved by the researcher, you should contact the Principle Investigator:

Principle Investigator: Dr Sarah Charman ([sarah.charman@port.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@port.ac.uk))

Institute of Criminal Justice Studies 023 9284 3064

University of Portsmouth

St George’s Building

141 High Street

Portsmouth

PO1 2HY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Ethics Committee – [ethics-fhss@port.ac.uk](mailto:ethics-fhss@port.ac.uk)

If the complaint remains unresolved, please contact:

The University Complaints Officer 023 9284 3642 [complaintsadvice@port.ac.uk](mailto:complaintsadvice@port.ac.uk)

**15. Who is funding the research?**

This research is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation. None of the researchers will receive any financial reward by conducting this study, other than their normal salary as an employee of the University.

**16. Who has reviewed the study?**

Research involving human participants is reviewed by an ethics committee to ensure that the dignity and well-being of participants is respected. This study has been reviewed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Ethics Committee and been given favourable ethical opinion.

**Thank you**

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for considering volunteering for this research. If you do agree to participate your consent will be obtained via the completed electronic consent form that has been sent to you via email.