



## Participant Information Sheet

### *Questionnaire*

#### **Food System Impacts of Covid-19 in the UK**

**Researcher names:** Michael Winter, Matt Lobley, Tim Wilkinson and Steven Guilbert

**Invitation and brief summary:** This survey is part of a research project exploring the impacts of Covid-19 on the food system in the UK. The outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic caused a massive shock to the food supply chain and the pandemic has many ongoing consequences for food businesses. We want to better understand these impacts and the strategies being implemented in response to them. The results from this survey will feed into policy requirements for up to date intelligence on business and supply chain resilience. To find out more about the project please see our website: <http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/foodsystemimpactscv19/>. Please take time to consider the information carefully and to discuss it with family or friends if you wish, or to ask the researcher questions.

**Purpose of the research:** In this short survey we are exploring how prepared the businesses in the UK felt they were for the lockdown that started on 5th November 2020, the economic impacts of the pandemic over the last 6 months and how businesses are currently viewing the future.

**Why have I been approached?** You have been approached as someone who can provide an insight based on your experience of being part of the food supply chain during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**What would taking part involve?** Taking part involves completing an online questionnaire, which will take approximately 2 minutes. If you want to opt-in to future research, you can do that at the end of the survey.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?** We cannot promise specific benefits, but results from the project feed into policy requirements for up to date intelligence on supply chain issues. If you would like to receive our monthly project bulletin by email, or a report on the results of the survey, you can do that at the end of the survey. Alternatively, you can sign up to our bulletin on our website: <http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/foodsystemimpactscv19/>

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?** There are no foreseeable disadvantages in taking part.

**What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?** Your participation is voluntary and you are free to stop completing the questionnaire at any point, without needing to give a reason. If you feel uncomfortable answering particular questions, then please skip these. Your responses will only be recorded once you complete the survey.

If you wish to withdraw from the research before you complete the survey, you do not need to do anything, except close the survey webpage. If you wish to withdraw from the survey after you submitted your responses, please contact [t.j.wilkinson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.wilkinson@exeter.ac.uk). As your responses are anonymous, once you submit the survey, you may be unable to withdraw your data, but we will do our best to help you. You may wish to keep a record of the date and time when you submitted the survey. You can make a request for your data to be withdrawn until 26th April 2021, after that it will

not be possible to withdraw your data. All individual responses to the questionnaire will be deleted by 26th August 2021 but anonymous, aggregated results will be stored indefinitely in the UK Data Archive (an online data repository).

**How will my information be kept confidential?** The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The university will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the university's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the university's Data Protection Officer by emailing [dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk) or at [www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection)

You will be made anonymous in reporting of the results of the survey, for instance in academic papers, conference proceedings or our monthly project bulletin. Where we want to use direct quotes from any written answers you give in the survey (e.g. in 'other, please specify' boxes), we will use ID tags that reference the food sector of your business or supply chain stage, e.g. 'Food Processor 1', 'Retailer 2'. Any identifiable information you might have mentioned will be removed from the quote so that neither you, nor the business you work for, can be identified.

Where you have consented, the research team will keep your contact details for the purposes of future research. If you change your mind about participating in future research, please contact us to request that your contact details are removed. Your contact details will be stored separately from survey data in a secure, encrypted database accessible only to the research team.

**Will I receive any payment for taking part?** No, there is no payment for taking part.

**What will happen to the results of this study?** Anonymised results will be disseminated in the project's monthly bulletin, academic publications, conferences and in public engagement. The bulletin will be available on our website <http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/foodsystemimpacts19/>.

**Who is organising and funding this study?** The Centre for Rural Policy Research are conducting the research, funded by the Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC) via the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) open call for research and innovation ideas to address COVID-19.

**Who has reviewed this study?** This project has been reviewed by the College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter (Reference Number 201920-144).

#### **Further information and contact details**

If you have queries about the project, please contact:

Name: Dr. Timothy Wilkinson

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If you are not happy with any aspect of the project and wish to complain, please contact: The University of Exeter, College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee, [ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk).

Thank you for your interest in this project.