**ESRC Addressing inclusivity in the spatial and social impacts of COVID-19 on the self-employed in the UK Research Project**

**Face-to-face interview structure**

Interviews will follow a semi-structured form, and will address the following range of topics:

***Experience and background prior to Covid-19 crisis (context)***

What was the nature of your self-employment activity prior to the onset of the Covid-19 crisis at the beginning of 2020?

What, at that time, were your aspirations for your business or self-employed activity?

How long had you been in self-employment?

Is your activity home-based/based at external premises/not based in any one location?

***Experience during the initial weeks of the lockdown***

What has happened to your self-employment activity during the Covid-19 crisis?

Were you able to continue working during the main ‘lockdown’, and if so what changes did you have to make?

In what ways did you adjust your “business model” in order to try and maintain your activity? (Did you innovate? i.e. go online)

What happened to your business turnover/self-employment earnings levels?

Are there any particular restrictions as a result of where you live/your business operates that have or are impacting you?

***Other challenges***

Did your household circumstances (for example ‘shielding’, caring or home-schooling responsibilities) during the main lockdown (the period between 23rd March and non-essential retail reopening) affect your self-employment activity?

To what extent have you continued since to juggle other responsibilities? (Have your hours of work had to change?)

How have these circumstances affected your self-employed activity?

***Support***

*(Important to stress anonymity – our test: is there anything that could be used to identify the person? If so, personal details redacted – identify only know to me/Andy)*

Have you taken advantage of the UK government support scheme for the self-employed? If so, how did you find that experience?

How important was/is that support to your household financial circumstances and your ability to keep your business/activity going?

What other levels of support have you been able to access from, for example, your bank, professional advisors, business networks and associates, local community etc.?

To what extent have you been able to make use of on-line training and support?

***The future - you and your business activities***

How difficult has it been to rebuild your business/self-employed activity as the main lockdown began to ease?

What factors have supported or constrained this?

What, if anything, have you learned from the experience of the crisis which might make you do things differently in future?

What do you think the biggest challenges will be going forward?

What areas of continued support do you think that local/devolved (if relevant) or national government needs to consider for the self-employed?

*Are you happy with the interview and is there* ***anything else you would like to add****?*