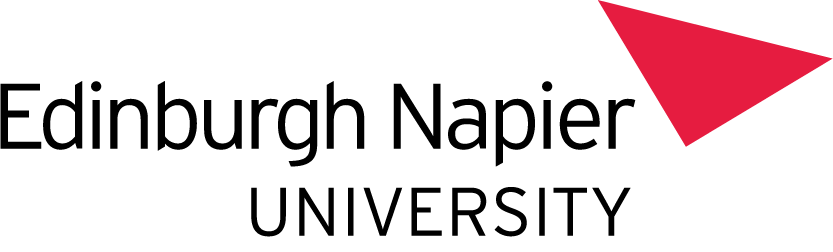
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**Participant Consent Sheet**

**(Individual Interviews)**

**Locked Down, Locked Out? Local Partnership Resilience in the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Dr Jamie Buchan (Principal Investigator)  
Associate Professor Andrew Wooff**

**Dr Katrina Morrison (Co-Investigator)**

**Ms Carmen Nogales (Research Assistant and interviewer)**

Edinburgh Napier University’s codes of practice require that all persons who participate in research studies give their written consent to do so. Please read the following and sign it if you agree to these terms; there are also three questions which ask you to answer by deleting as appropriate. Given the current circumstances, **we are happy to accept a typed signature and return by email**.

1. I freely and voluntarily consent to be a participant in the research project ‘Locked Down, Locked Out? Local Partnership Resilience in the Covid-19 Pandemic’, to be conducted by the team named above, who are members of research staff at Edinburgh Napier University.
2. The goal of the study is to investigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated ‘lockdown’ measures on local partnership working arrangements in Scotland, with a focus on how these partnerships have adapted and on identifying areas of successful and/or innovative practice.
3. I understand that I will be taking part in an online, semi-structured interview which should take no longer than ***one and a half hours***.
4. I understand that my responses will be anonymised using a code letter. My real name will not be linked with the research materials, and I will not be identified/identifiable in any research output. I understand that the utmost care will be taken to ensure my anonymity, including (if necessary) the research team removing or changing details of locations or events. I understand that my name and contact details will be known only to the research team. I understand and approve the retention of my name and contact details until completion of the project (October 2021) and then deleted, unless I ask to be contacted with updates on the project.
5. I understand that the research team want to ensure that my participation in this study and talking about my experiences of partnership working in the Covid-19 pandemic does not cause me physical or psychological harm or discomfort. To that end, I understand that I have been advised to decline their invitation to be involved with the project should I feel that I may suffer harm as a result. If I do become involved but subsequently, at any time, find the experience harmful or uncomfortable, I have been advised to withdraw immediately from the process.
6. I understand that should I not wish to answer any question or questions, I am free to decline to answer without providing a reason. I also understand that if at ***any time*** during the interview I feel unable or unwilling to continue, I am free to leave. That is, my participation in this study is ***completely voluntary***, and I may withdraw from it without any consequences at any point before 1st August 2021 or two weeks after this interview (whichever is later), by emailing the Research Assistant or Principal Investigator ([C.Nogales@napier.ac.uk](mailto:C.Nogales@napier.ac.uk); [J.Buchan@napier.ac.uk](mailto:J.Buchan@napier.ac.uk)). After this period, it is expected that data will have been analysed so it will not be possible for my data to be removed.
7. I agree to my name and email address being kept on file in case of needing to contact the research team to trace my data in order to remove it, in the event of my withdrawing from the study.
8. I understand that the data generated in the interview will be stored securely on university-controlled storage systems and held in its anonymised form for up to 10 years after the study has been completed, in line with Edinburgh Napier University’s Data Management Policy and in accordance with GDPR/the 2018 Data Protection Act. I have been provided with a privacy notice covering data protection on the project.
9. I also understand that the data in this interview – once fully anonymised – will be shared with other researchers through the UK Data Service, under ‘open data’ principles and to meet the requirements of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the funder of this study, which is a signatory to the statement on ‘Sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak’.
10. If the researchers move to another higher education institution, I consent/do not consent to the transport of my anonymised data to the destination institution. **(please delete as appropriate)**
11. I consent/do not consent to the recording of my interview for the purpose of transcription and analysis. (**Please delete as appropriate)**
12. I consent to the use of my anonymised data in the production of research outputs (e.g. articles, book chapters, blogs, case studies, conference presentations). (**Please delete as appropriate**)
13. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the interview process and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
14. I have read and understand the above and give my fully informed and freely given consent to participate in this study. My consent is not a waiver of any legal rights. Furthermore, I understand that I will be able to keep my own written copy of the interview transcript and of this consent form for my records.

Participant’s Signature Date

I have explained and defined in detail the research procedure in which the respondent has consented to participate. Furthermore, I will retain one copy of the informed consent form for my records.

Researcher’s Signature Date