**Participant Invitation and Information Sheet**

We invite you to participate in a research study examining mental, neurological and substance use disorders in Guyana’s jails to see how they are experienced and managed by prisoners, prisoners’ families and prison staff.

This information sheet has been created to inform you about the research, so please read the information below very carefully.

**Who are we?**

We are researchers from the University of Leicester and University of Guyana, conducting work funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council.

**Purpose of the research?**

The research wants to learn from the families of prisoners and prison staff about their experience and management of mental, neurological and substance use disorders in Guyana’s jails. These include things like depression and anxiety, learning disabilities, and addiction to drugs and alcohol. The aim is to help develop a better understanding of mental, neurological and substance use disorders in Guyana’s jails among both prisoners and prison staff.

**What will the research involve?**

We are inviting you to participate in an interview. The interview will take approximately **60-90 minutes** to complete.

Questions will be asked regarding your experiences of working in jail with overcrowding, unrest and prisoners suffering from mental, neurological and substance use disorders including those often deemed unmanageable. Questions will also be asked about your own mental health and substance use. Anything you say during this interview will be confidential.

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time without giving a reason. The details of your participation are outlined in the consent form.

Before starting the interview, you will need to read and sign the two participant consent forms outlining the details of your participation in this research. One is for you to keep and the other will be kept by the research team. Please keep your consent form safe in case you would like to withdraw from the research.

**Help and support?**

While it is unlikely that this interview will cause any more distress than is experienced in your everyday life, if it does raise issues that affect you then you can contact the following for help, support, information and/or counselling: The Ministry of Health Mental Health: 252 Quamina Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana

**W:** [m.me/MentalHealthUnit.MoPH](https://m.me/MentalHealthUnit.MoPH) **T:** 226 1407

**Do you have any questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Clare Anderson (ca26@leicester.ac.uk)