**Participant Consent Form**

This research examines the 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. MNS disorders means things like depression and anxiety (mental health), learning disabilities, and addiction to alcohol and drugs.

This consent form has been created to inform you about your participation in the research, so please read the information below very carefully before signing the form.

**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.

**CONSENT STATEMENT:**

1. I have read and understood the information leaflet and agree to be interviewed.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time without giving a reason, up until [INSERT DATE] by contacting the researcher and citing my individual ID code. If I withdraw, I understand my data will be destroyed/deleted immediately.
3. My responses are to be anonymised and held confidentially. Only Professor Clare Anderson and the research team will have access to them.
4. My data will be kept securely either on a password protected computer or in a locked filing cabinet for a period of at least ten years after the appearance of any associated publications. Any aggregate and meta-data will be kept in password protected electronic form for at least ten years after any associated publications after which time they will be deleted. Unless it contains sensitive information, all data will be anonymized, deposited and published on the UK Data Archive (<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/> ).
5. My name and other identifying details will not be shared with anyone or included in any reports or publications. Everything I say will be confidential.
6. I have been provided with a point of contact and support in case of psychological distress.
7. The overall findings will be used for a as the basis for a public lecture, training workshop for prison officers, and 2 policy documents but may also be submitted for publication in a scientific journal and presented at scientific conferences.
8. All personal data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1988 and its 2018 extension) and General Data Protection Regulation (2018) protocols.
9. I understand this research has received ethical clearance from the University of Leicester ethics committee.

I agree to take part in this study and can confirm (please tick):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I am over 18 years old |
|  | I understand I can pause or stop he interview at any time either to take a break or withdraw from the study |
|  | I understand my participation is voluntary and I can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and know how to communicate my withdrawal |
|  | I agree for this interview to be digitally recorded[[1]](#footnote-1) |
|  | I have had the opportunity to ask questions and all questions that I have about the research have been satisfactorily answered and I know what my participation will involve |

**I agree to participate in this research**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participants Signature: |  |
| Participants Name (PRINT): |  |
| Date: |  |

**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)

1. If the participant refuses, the researcher should leave the box empty and instead take manual notes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)