

Health, Social, Economic & Cultural impacts of Covid-19  
 on Migrant Essential Workers

# Participant Information Sheet - Interview

**Researchers:** Dr Paulina Trevena, Dr Anna Gawlewicz, Dr Kasia Narkowicz, Dr Aneta Piekut & Prof. Sharon Wright

*You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researchers if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.*

**What is the research about?**

This project investigates varied impacts of COVID-19 on Polish essential workers in the UK and how these might affect their continued stay in the country. While employed across a range of roles and sectors, Polish migrants are currently overrepresented in essential work.

**What does taking part in this study involve?**

Participation involves an interview that will take approximately 1 hour. The interview will take place online - we will provide a secure link to a video call. If you are unable to take a video call, we can arrange the interview via telephone. The interview can be conducted either in Polish or English and will be digitally recorded.

In the interview, a researcher will ask you about your experience of work during the pandemic, your feelings about COVID-19, its impacts on your health, wellbeing and family relations as well as your plans in relation to living in the UK.

**What will happen to the information I provide?**

All data collected will be used for research purposes and only the research team will have access to them. Your identity will be carefully protected: all names and information that is particular to you or any person that you mention will be kept secret so that you cannot be identified. Your anonymity will also be maintained in presentations or publications about the study through the use of a pseudonym. The audio file with your interview will be destroyed upon completion of the study (May 2022) and only an anonymised transcribed version will be retained for 10 years beyond this date. All electronic data will be stored on password-protected drives and printed data in locked cabinets. Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.

**Will I get paid?**

As a thank you for taking part you will receive a £25 shopping voucher at the end of the interview.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation is entirely voluntary. Even if you decide to take part in the interview, you do not have to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable with and may request that recorders are switched off. You may withdraw your consent to take part in the study at any time (until the point of depositing anonymised interview transcripts in the UK Data Archive). Any interview/research material relating to you will be destroyed in that case.

**Why should I do this?**

The findings from the study will be of interest not only to the academic community, but also to policy-makers, voluntary/public sector organisations, service providers and employers working with migrant populations in the UK. Therefore, you will have a say in a larger and highly relevant discussion. In the long run, your participation will help to inform social and institutional awareness of specific issues faced by migrant essential workers.

**Who is doing the research?**

The research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) under the Covid-19 rapid response scheme. It is being conducted by a group of independent researchers from the University of Glasgow, Middlesex University and the University of Sheffield with the support of partner organisations: Centrala, Fife Migrants Forum, Polish Social and Cultural Association, and PKAVS Minority Communities Hub.

**CONTACT (in English and Polish):**

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*This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow. To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston, email:* [*Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk*](mailto:Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk)

**Support & Advice**

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in the research or feel you required further support or advice, the following organisations can be contacted:

**In Polish:**

*Feniks*provide psychological support and counselling to Central and East European nationals (free or donation-based support for clients in difficult situation): <https://www.feniks.org.uk/pl/> TEL: 07510 122 425

*Citizens’ Rights Project*provide free information and advice about settled status and Brexit to EU nationals.

<https://citizensrightsproject.org/pl/> Email: [info@citizensrightsproject.org](about:blank)

**In English:**

*Samaritans*offer a safe place to talk at any time about whatever’s getting to you: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Support line: 116 123

*Citizens Advice* provide free confidential information on money, legal, consumer and other problems: <https://www.cas.org.uk/bureaux> Advice line: 0800 916 9847

*Mind*provide [advice and support](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/) to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/>

If you require urgent care that is not life-threatening you can call **NHS 111** at any time of day.

You can also request an ‘emergency appointment’ when making a booking with your GP to be seen sooner.