

Work, Pay and Stress – Task selection

Study contact – Professor Keith Bender 01224 273411, kabender@abdn.ac.uk

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if you would like more information. Take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

Research in economics suggests that people's health is related to how they are paid for the work that they complete. It is possible that this is because workers paid in a particular way may experience more pressure and stress than others. This study aims to find out how people's preference for different payment contracts relates to how stressful they find work tasks.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited to participate because you are registered on the Department of Economics database of people who are interested in taking part in research studies.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will still be free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Should you have questions at any stage, don't hesitate to contact a member of the research team.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to attend a 40 minute practice session in the morning and 75 minute laboratory session in the afternoon in the Scottish Experimental Economics Laboratory (Room F06 Edward Wrights Annexe, University of Aberdeen). During the practice session you will be asked to complete two short computerised work tasks (performing simple calculations). During the second session you will be asked to choose how you would prefer to be paid before completing the work task a third time. Before and after this task, you will be asked to rate your current stress level and to provide several saliva samples so that we can test your saliva for a stress hormone called cortisol. Saliva samples are provided by chewing on a sterile swab for 60 seconds and then placing the chewed swab into a collection tube. **As cortisol measures are affected by many activities, it is important that you do not eat anything, use nicotine products or caffeine or drink alcohol in the 12 hours prior to the second session. You also need to refrain from brushing your teeth and intense physical activity in the 120 minutes before the second session.**

Are there any risks or benefits of taking part?

There is no direct risk in taking part. As we aim to explore how payment affects your perception of a work task, you will be paid for the tasks you complete during the study. Participants will earn a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £20 for the two sessions. You will get paid after attending the afternoon session.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All information collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. All data gathered during the study will be labelled with an anonymous participant ID code and as such will not be identifiable as yours, although the codes used would allow the research team to link them back to you. You can ask for any data collected from you to be destroyed at any point, even after the study is finished.

Who is responsible for looking after my data?

The University of Aberdeen is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Aberdeen will keep identifiable information about you until the study is finished. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible. You can find out more about how we use your information <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/privacy> and/or by contacting Iain Gray, University Data Protection Officer.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions: Professor Keith Bender, kabender@abdn.ac.uk or Dr Julia Allan, j.allan@abdn.ac.uk. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can contact the University of Aberdeen Research Governance Team, researchgovernance@abdn.ac.uk or 01224 554362.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be written up for publication in an academic journal. Your data will not be identifiable in any study outputs. If you wish to find out about the outcomes of the study, you can ask for a written summary of the findings to be sent to you via email.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The work is organised at the Scottish Experimental Economics Laboratory, University of Aberdeen and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed by the University of Aberdeen's College of Life Sciences Ethics Review Board (CERB/2019/12/1831).

Who are the research team?

Professor Keith Bender (Economics) will be leading the project along with Dr Julia Allan (Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology), Dr Daniel Powell (Lecturer in Health Psychology), and Professor Ioannis Theodossiou (Economics). The project researcher is Dr Nicole Andelic (Research Fellow in Economics).

COVID-19 INFORMATION!

The COVID-19 virus currently poses a threat towards public health. The safety of staff and students is the first priority of the University. In this study you will provide saliva samples. To allow for social distancing only 8 participants can take part at the same time and each desk will be separated by screens. You will need to use the provided hand sanitiser between each task/sample collection. You will not be able to wear a face mask during the study (but please wear one when entering/exiting the lab). **If you belong to a vulnerable group or have experienced any of the listed symptoms in the past 14 days, you should not participate in this study.** This study has been reviewed by the (INSERT REF) at University of Aberdeen.

Please do not take part in the study if you have experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 14 days:

- A high temperature/fever
- A new cough
- New shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- New loss of, or change to sense of smell or taste

And/or

- If you have ever received a letter advising you to Shield.