

INFORMATION SHEET

Project title: Youth unemployment and civil society under devolution: a comparative analysis of sub-state welfare regimes

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this research project on youth unemployment, labour market precarity, civil society and devolution in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The project will collect data from civil society organisations and policy representatives in the four nations of the UK during 2020/2021.

Before the interview it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information. Then, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or to talk about the study.

Who is the researcher?

My name is Dr Sioned Pearce and I am a qualitative Researcher at the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research Data and Methods (WISERD), Cardiff University. I am running this project on youth unemployment, civil society and devolution over the next two years.

What is the project about?

This two-year project aims to identify, categorise and compare scales and types of civil society involvement in youth unemployment policy between the four devolved nations of the UK. In doing so it will examine the implications of these differences for both youth unemployment provision and devolved policy arrangements. The broader aim is to critique the conventional idea of 'one UK welfare state' and, in doing so, progress our understanding of the impact of decentralisation, devolution and territorial rescaling on welfare state formation across Western Europe.

Who is funding the project?

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of their New Investigator Scheme. Who is being invited to participate? Civil society organisation and policy representatives in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What will the interview involve?

The interview will be semi structured, meaning there will be questions to guide the discussion but equally you are free to discuss whatever you feel is important to the topic of youth unemployment policy and precarious working conditions (zero hours

contracts, part time work, fixed-term, commercial contracts and welfare reforms) and civil society responses to this, in the country in which you are based (England, Scotland, Wales or N. Ireland). Questions will be sent in advance if you prefer.

The interview will take place at a convenient time and over a medium that suits you (Skype, Zoom, telephone) and will last between 45 minutes and 1 hour. With your permission it will be recorded.

What will happen to the interview recording?

The recording will be transcribed and the transcript fully anonymised (the names of yourself and all the other participants, as well as anyone you mention, will be changed so that nobody is identifiable) and kept in a secure place. The recording will then be deleted, and the transcript will be kept safely for no less than five years, or at least two years after the research has been published. These will then be destroyed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

What will we do with the information?

I will send you a copy of the transcript. At this point, you will have the opportunity to take out any part of the interview that you would prefer not to be shared with anyone else. No-one will listen to the interview apart from myself and the professional transcriber. No one will see the anonymised transcripts apart from myself and a Research Assistant familiar with data protection protocol.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

If you decide to take part then this is your voluntary decision, therefore you are also free to withdraw from the study at any point you wish, without giving a reason and with no consequences.

Who can I contact if I want more information?

If you would like more information about this project, please don't hesitate to contact me on pearces11@cardiff.ac.uk or 07580 353 098.

You can also visit the project website here: <https://wiserd.ac.uk/research/research-projects/youth-unemployment-and-civil-society-under-devolution-comparative>

Many thanks again for taking part.

CONSENT FORM

Please delete YES or NO for each statement, as appropriate

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|--|----------|
| 1. I have read the information sheet | YES / NO |
| 2. Someone has explained the project to me | YES / NO |
| 3. I understand what the project is about | YES / NO |
| 4. I have asked the questions that I want to ask | YES / NO |
| 5. I understand that I can choose to take part or not | YES / NO |
| 6. I understand that my participation is voluntary | YES / NO |
| 7. I understand that I can stop taking part at any time | YES / NO |
| 8. I agree to take part in the research project | YES / NO |
| 9. I give my permission for this data to be archived
by the UK Data Service | YES / NO |

SIGNATURE:

FULL NAME:

DATE: