# **Understanding the role of alcohol consumption in football cultures (Alcohol FC)**

# **Participant Information Sheet – Focus Groups**

Researchers from the Universities of Stirling, Loughborough and Edinburgh are running a research project called Alcohol FC. It is asking football fans about the relationship between alcohol and football and what role alcohol plays for those who attend or watch football matches on television in England and Scotland.

We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group to discuss the role of alcohol for those who watch and attend football matches in Scotland and England.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you are a football fan who regularly watches football matches on TV or attends football matches in Scotland or England.

**What will it involve?**

The focus groups will last around 90 minutes and will cover discussion about the importance and role of alcohol consumption for those attending or watching a football match on television. We will also ask your thoughts about the existing regulations concerning football and alcohol. You will have the chance to raise any issues that you think are important.

Before taking part, you will be asked to sign a consent form to say that you agree to participate and understand that the conversation will be audio recorded so the researchers can make sure that they represent your views accurately.

The focus group will be face-to-face and will take place at a local community venue or hotel.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. Taking part is voluntary, but we hope fans will want to take part to get their views heard on this really important topic. If you agree to take part, you can choose not to answer questions and you are free to stop taking part in the focus group at any time. It is unlikely to be possible to remove anyone’s focus group answers from the study, since it will be difficult to identify someone within the audio recording andremoving one person’s answers might make it very hard to understand what others have said.

**Are there any potential risks in taking part?**

There are no foreseeable risks to taking part in the focus groups.

**Are there any benefits in taking part?**

You will not have any direct benefit from taking part. However, the results will be used to: provide evidence of the impact of watching football on drinking practices in a wider group of football watchers; explore differences in England and Scotland; and inform discussion of potential regulatory change. You will receive £30 worth of high street shopping vouchers for taking part.

**Are the focus groups confidential?**

Strong measures are in place within the Universities to keep your answers confidential. The only time we might have to tell someone else what you say is if:

* We believe that someone could be seriously hurt or there is a serious risk to security.
* We have specific information about serious crimes.
* We are required by law to share information.

Audio recordings and typed up focus groups will be stored on password-protected computers at the Universities of Stirling and Loughborough, following our strict university guidelines. All paper copies of the data, including any which might identify you, will be stored in a locked cabinet or locked individual rooms. All Alcohol FC data will be destroyed 10 years after the study ends.

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

The findings will be published in reports, research articles and/or presentations. Summaries of the results will be made available to the Scottish and UK Government. No names will be included in outputs.

The University of Stirling is committed to making the outputs of research publically accessible and supports this commitment through our online open access repository STORRE. Unless funder/publisher requirements prevent us this research will be publicly disseminated through our open access repository. The project funder requires that all data created during the study must be deposited with a suitable data service provider within three months after the study finishes.

**Where can I find out more about how my focus group answers will be handled?**

You can find out more about how your answers will be handled by the researchers by reading the separate ‘Privacy Notice’.

If you wish to use any of the rights listed in the Privacy Notice or complain about how we have handled your personal data, please contact: [redacted].

**Who is funding the research?**

This research project is funded by a Research Grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (Grant number ES/R008485/1).

**Who has reviewed this research project?**

This project has been ethically approved via The University of Stirling’s General University Ethics Panel.

**What if you have any more questions?**

You can contact the researchers involved in this study [redacted]

If you would like to speak to someone else not involved with this research or pursue any complaint, you can contact:

[redacted]

**Thank you for your participation.**