

Dr Simon Stewart

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University of Portsmouth

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Project: **Homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic: homeless migrants in a global crisis**

Name and Contact Details of Researcher(s):

Principal Investigator: Dr Simon Stewart (University of Portsmouth)

Contact: XXX

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Ethics Committee Reference Number: FHSS 2020-053.

1. Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you, before you decide, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. I will go through this information sheet with you, to help you decide whether or not you would like to take part and answer any questions you may have. I would suggest this should take about 10 minutes. Please feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. Do ask if anything is unclear.

2. Study Summary

The project is about migrant homelessness during the coronavirus crisis. People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This project, involving researchers from University of Portsmouth, University of Sussex and St Mungo's, the homelessness charity, will produce study of migrant homelessness during the crisis. A particular focus of the study will be the experience of non-UK nationals. Government efforts have helped provide emergency accommodation for thousands of homeless people during the crisis, but concerns remain about how homeless migrants can be supported in the longer-term. Our project is funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

3. What is the purpose of the study?

The study will research the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on homeless migrants. Based on its findings, and working with St Mungo's, the homeless charity, our project will make recommendations for measures that can be taken across the UK and elsewhere to support migrant groups facing homelessness, during times of crisis and beyond.

4. Why have I been invited?

We are looking to interview non-UK national research participants who have experienced homelessness during the COVID-19 crisis. In advance of these interviews, we like to interview you for our project because of your experiences working with the homeless. Your interview will inform our framing of the project and, at a later stage, the project's findings.

When will the interview take place?

The interview will take place at a time that is convenient for you. In total, we will interview 30-40 clients and 10-15 support workers/stakeholders.

5. Do I have to take part?

No, taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to volunteer for the study. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign the attached consent form.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

The interview will take place at a time of your convenience and will last for approximately 1 hour. The location of the interview will be arranged through St Mungo's, the homeless charity. We will record the interview using a digital device. We will use the interview data when we write up the project findings. We may include verbatim quotes from your interview, but when we do so, we will not provide any information that would reveal the identity of the participant. Where it is not possible to anonymise the data, we will not make this data publically available as it would be unethical to do so.

7. What data will be collected?

The data from your interviews will be collected using a digital device.

8. What are the possible disadvantages, burdens and risks of taking part?

There are no significant disadvantages, burdens or risks associated with participation.

9. What are the possible advantages or benefits of taking part?

Your participation will enable us to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on those experiencing homelessness and we will be in a stronger position to make recommendations – in the publications that we produce - for beneficial measures that can be taken at a national level to improve the situation of homeless migrants during this crisis and in future crises.

10. Will my data be kept confidential?

The raw data, which identifies you, will be kept securely by the project team. It will be password protected and stored in a file that is only accessible to the project team, on Google Drive via the

University of Portsmouth system. It will then be anonymised so that it cannot be traced to you or your identity, and at the end of the project, it will be submitted to a UK Data archive where it can be accessed by researchers and members of the public. Its use will be limited only to non-commercial ventures.

The data, when made anonymous, may be presented to others at academic conferences, or published as a project report, academic dissertation or in academic journals or book.

The raw data will be retained for a minimum of 10 years. When it is no longer required, the data will be disposed of securely.

11. What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

As a volunteer you can stop your participation in the interviews at any time, or withdraw from the study at any time before February 1st 2021, without giving a reason if you do not wish to. If you do withdraw from a study after some data have been collected, you will be asked if you are content for the data collected thus far to be retained and included in the study. If you prefer, the data collected can be destroyed and not included in the study. Once the research has been completed, and the data analysed, it will not be possible for you to withdraw your data from the study.

12. What if there is a problem?

If you have a query, concern or complaint about any aspect of this study, in the first instance you should contact the researchers. Failing this, please contact the Principal Investigator with details of the complaint. The contact details for the Principal Investigator are detailed on page 1.

If your concern or complaint is not resolved by the researcher or the Principal Investigator, you should contact the Head of Department:

The Head of Department	Dr Catherine Carroll-Meehan
Department / School of.....	023 92845241
University of Portsmouth	catherine.carroll-meehan@port.ac.uk

If the complaint remains unresolved, please contact:

The University Complaints Officer
023 9284 3642 complaintsadvice@port.ac.uk

15. Who is funding the research?

This research project is funded the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Grant number: ES/V011081/1. Project duration: July 24th 2020 to January 23rd 2022.

16. Who has reviewed the study?

Research involving human participants is reviewed by an ethics committee to ensure that the dignity and well-being of participants is respected. This study has been reviewed by the Humanities and Social Science Faculty Ethics Committee at University of Portsmouth and been given favourable ethical opinion (TBC).

Thank you

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for considering volunteering for this research.