

Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing (DesHCA) Project - Passive Home Sensing

Participant Information Sheet

Background

The Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing (DesHCA) project aims to identify housing designs that can support older people, including those living with cognitive change, to live well at home for longer. Improved housing design can enable better lives, by helping to postpone the impact of cognitive change, improve quality of life, and prevent admission to care settings.

Over the three-year lifespan of the DesHCA project, we will invite older people, including those living with cognitive change, to participate in a wide variety of research activities. These activities will include home mapping exercises to help us to better understand how people's homes work for them; using virtual reality to test potential design solutions; and creating demonstrators to test how the designs might be implemented.

The DesHCA project is led by a team of researchers at the University of Stirling, alongside partners including local authorities, building companies, and games developers, who are all helping to inform the research and implement the resulting design solutions.

We are also building a team of at least ten peer researchers to support the project. We want this group to include people living with cognitive change, as well as people who provide support or care for them. The peer researchers are working alongside the DesHCA project team to design the research, to collect and analyse data, and to share the study's findings.

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in research that involves installing passive sensors to monitor the environment in your home, including light levels, temperature, and air quality. The sensors will also use heat mapping to determine whether or not someone is present in a room.

Collecting this information will help us to better understand the different environmental factors in your home, and it may help identify potential changes to your home that could make it better suited to your needs. It may also help to inform better ways of designing housing for older people.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are an older person living in Scotland, who has expressed interest in taking part in the DesHCA project.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. You may also be invited to participate in other aspects of this study; however, you are not obliged to accept this or any other research invitations, even if you have participated in another part of the project.

If you decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time, without needing to explain, and without penalty. You only need to tell the research team of your decision. The passive sensing devices can be removed easily and quickly by the research team, should you wish to withdraw.

If you decide to withdraw, we will not collect any more data from you. Any data collected up until the point that you withdraw will be kept and used in the data analysis. You may also withdraw any data that we have collected about you within the preceding 30 days. You can request to withdraw from the research simply by contacting the research team, quoting your participant number.

You will be given a copy of this information sheet to keep, and if you choose to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form and/or asked to confirm your consent orally before taking part in the research.

Please note that choosing not to take part in this aspect of our research will not affect your ability to contribute to other parts of the study.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part, a number of small passive infrared sensing devices will be installed in your home for up to one year. The sensors are similar to the size of a smoke alarm, and look like this:



These sensors will collect anonymised data about the temperature, light, air quality, and use of space within your home. These sensors will be installed and removed by the research team, using an adhesive such as Command Strips.

Information about how your data will be managed, and your rights under GDPR legislation, can be found in the Data Management Information Sheet you have been given.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

There is a small risk that the installation of the sensors may lead to discolouration of paint on the ceilings of the home; however, we do not anticipate that this will be an issue over the relatively short duration of the project.

If you live in rented accommodation or social housing, we ask that you seek permission from your landlord or housing provider before agreeing to participate in the study.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct benefits from taking part in this research. However, we hope that you will find it an enjoyable experience, and your contribution will be of great value to our work.

Will the research be published?

The research may be published in a variety of formats including journal articles, conference presentations, the project website, policy briefs, and professional training materials. The data we collect will be anonymised to protect your identity; however, some photos and/or videos of your home may be used in research presentations and/or publications. This makes it possible that people you know might be able to identify you as a participant. If you would prefer that your photos or videos are not used in such publications, you may opt out when signing the study consent form.

The University of Stirling is committed to making research publicly accessible. So, unless funder/publisher requirements prevent us, this research will be shared publicly through our open access repository, known as STORRE

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is funded by the UKRI Economic & Social Research Council, as part of their Healthy Ageing Challenge funding stream.

Who has reviewed this research project?

The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via the University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel.

Who do I contact if I have more questions about the study?

If you would like to discuss the research with someone, please contact the DesHCA research team at deshcaresearch@stir.ac.uk to receive more information.

Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?

If you have concerns or wish to complain about this research you may contact Professor Liz Forbat, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, by email at elizabeth.forbat1@stir.ac.uk.

Thank you for your interest in this project.