



UK Research
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Participant Information Sheet for Interview Participants of DRT Connecting People to Opportunities Study

You are invited to take part in a research study on public transport in the area you live. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any queries or would like more information please contact the project manager, Dr Eda Beyazit, of the Centre for Transport and Society, UWE Bristol (email: Eda.Beyazit@uwe.ac.uk)

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is being funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). It is being conducted by the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) and the University of Leeds who are working with the following local authority partners: Essex County Council; Gloucestershire County Council; and Nottinghamshire County Council.

The study is being led by Professor Kiron Chatterjee of the Centre for Transport and Society, UWE Bristol (kiron.chatterjee@uwe.ac.uk).

What is the aim of the research?

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) is a flexible public transportation service that adjusts routes and schedules based on passenger demand rather than following fixed routes and timetables. This project is evaluating the impact of DRT and other public transport on unlocking educational, employment, social and other opportunities for residents in low-density areas not served well by conventional buses. We are carrying out a questionnaire survey of residents and DRT users living in areas served by DRT and neighbouring areas not served by DRT. We are also carrying out interviews of DRT users.

The results of our study will be used to estimate the benefits of DRT schemes to communities, explore their role in reducing inequalities, and to inform policy on future public transport services.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You participated in the questionnaire survey and gave consent to be contacted for further research. You have been invited to take part in these interviews because you indicated that you have used the local DRT service and we are interested to understand in more depth how DRT has enabled journeys to be made otherwise not possible and the wider impact of being able to access opportunities.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to be involved. You have been provided this information sheet and a

privacy notice to help you decide and will be asked to provide consent before starting the interview.

You can withdraw before or during the interview with no consequences, without any need to state a reason. You can similarly withdraw your data from the study, without explanation, after the interview for a 14-day period following the interview. In exceptional circumstances, withdrawal after this period can be considered. If you want to request to withdraw from the study, please contact the project manager, Dr Eda Beyazit, using the details near the top of this document.

What will happen to me if I take part and what do I have to do?

If you agree to take part in an interview you will have the option of doing it in person, on the phone or online. An interview is likely to take between 45 and 60 minutes. The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed for analysis.

What are the benefits of taking part?

By taking part, you will help us understand public transport needs in your area and how DRT can contribute to meeting those needs. This information will inform transport policy making and planning at different levels of government.

You will also receive a £30 thank-you Love2shop gift voucher as a token of appreciation for your time. This will not be provided if you withdraw from the interview part of the study.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate any significant risk to you in taking part in this study. If you feel uncomfortable at any time during an interview you can ask for it to stop. The research team are experienced in conducting interviews and are sensitive to the subject area.

What will happen to your information?

All the information we receive from you will be treated in the strictest confidence. The only circumstance where we may not be able to keep your information confidential is in the case where a participant discloses information that would legally need to be reported to relevant authorities, for example, if it represented a risk to someone's safety.

Any contact details we obtain from you for managing the research process will be stored in password protected files on a secure server. It will only be utilised by research team members from UWE Bristol allocated to this project, and only used for contacting you about the research. It will be destroyed by the end of the project (31st April 2025). Hard copy research material will be digitised, stored and destroyed in the same way.

The information you provide as part of the interview will be anonymised at the earliest possible point in the research process. This includes any personal data included in interview transcripts. Audio recordings will be destroyed securely immediately after anonymised transcription. Your anonymised data will be analysed together with other interview data by UWE Bristol and University of Leeds researchers allocated to this project, and we will ensure that there is no possibility of identification or re-identification from this point.

Within three months of the end of the project (31st July 2025) anonymised data created during the project will be deposited with a responsible data repository such as the UK Data Service. The UK Data Service manages the access of data to other researchers who may not have been involved in the original research but who might be interested in the topic.

Before the data is archived interview transcripts will undergo additional checks to ensure that there is no identifiable information in the text (e.g. very specific place names like streets, dates, or very specific travel times or distances). Once archived this data will be classified as 'safeguarded' data meaning only registered researchers can access it (not openly available to anyone).

Where will the results of the research be published?

We will produce a report, policy briefing and other outputs containing our research findings. Research outputs will be made available via the project website: <https://www.drtconnecting.co.uk>. The outcomes of this research will also be published in academic open access academic journals and may be presented at conferences and seminars. Research outputs may include anonymous quotes or experiences.

Who has ethically approved this research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by the College of Arts, Technology and Environment Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England. Any comments, questions or complaints about the ethical conduct of this study can be addressed to the Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England at: (Researchethics@uwe.ac.uk)

What if I have more questions or something goes wrong?

If you would like any further information about the research, or have concerns or a complaint to make, please contact project manager, Dr Eda Beyazit, using the details near the top of this document.

Thank you for considering taking part in this study.

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