

INFORMATION SHEET

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Dissertation Title:

Are all victims equal? The police response to male victims of domestic abuse.

I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. Before you decide I would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to explore the police response to male victims of domestic violence and establish if male victims are treated comparably with female victims.

Why have I been invited?

I approached Mark Brooks the Chairman of Mankind Initiative to facilitate the recruitment of willing participants and consent was given to publish a request for potential interviewees via the Mankind Initiative Statistics and Research web page.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide to join the study. I will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, I will then ask you to sign a consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part in this study I will contact you to discuss the requirements in more depth and to answer any initial questions. If you agree to continue with the process I will then arrange a mutually convenient date and time to conduct the

telephone interview. The length of the interview will vary from one person to another, however it is not expected to exceed one-hour duration.

It is expected that the semi-structured telephone interviews will be audio recorded with the participants' full consent. Consent will be orally recorded at the start of the interview and the audio records kept in digital files as proof. The researcher will read the terms of consent to the interviewee and then ask them to confirm they agree with these terms. On completion of the interview there will be an opportunity to clarify any points or ask any questions.

The information gathered from the interview will assist my research into how the police respond to male victims of domestic abuse. It is only a small part of the study ,which will be based on both primary and secondary data. Any direct quotes or information gathered from participants will be completely anonymous.

Expenses and payments

There are no expenses payments for participating in this research. Although there will be a time cost to the participant there should be no financial cost.

What will I have to do?

Be available for a telephone interview for approximately one-hour duration.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There may be a time inconvenience in taking part in this study. There may also be the potential to become emotionally impacted due to the sensitive nature of the subject.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The purpose of the study is to have a greater understanding of how the police respond to male victims of domestic abuse and provide a basis for improving services to victims.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Participation will be confidential and it will not be necessary to name participants. The information gathered will be anonymised.

The information will be audio recorded and saved as an audio file on an encrypted folder on a password protected computer used only by the researcher. Once the data has been analysed and the study completed the files will be deleted.

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

You have a right to withdraw from the study without explanation. However, it may not be possible or desirable for data to be extracted and destroyed. Whilst a

participant can clearly withdraw in the course of an interview, once the interview data has been analysed it might prove impossible to withdraw any individual's personal contribution.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researcher or their supervisor, who will do their best to answer your questions (contact details above). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the University Complaints Officer on 023 9284 8484.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The information gained from the interviews will be analysed and recorded as part of my research. Direct quotes may be used to highlight a specific issue but these will be anonymous.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being undertaken as a part of study for a Dissertation.

Who has reviewed the study?

Research in the University of Portsmouth is looked at by independent group of people, called an Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the University of Portsmouth's Ethics Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. If you decide to participate you will be given a copy of the information sheet to keep and your written consent will be sought.

