

## Assessing Hearing Loss and Comorbidities Adult Participant Information Sheet

### Investigators Details:

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We would like to invite you to take part in our online survey. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve for you. Talk to others about the study before making a decision if you wish.

### What is the purpose of the study?

*This study is to assess the extent to which hearing difficulties might be related to other health issues and lifestyle factors. Hearing difficulties are very common, particularly amongst older adults. However, younger adults are also at risk of hearing difficulties due to lifestyle behaviours (e.g. listening to music too loudly). The results of the study will help to inform future research that aims to understand and prevent health conditions associated with hearing loss.*

### Who is doing this research and why?

*This study is part of a PhD project supported by Loughborough University. M. Goodwin will be conducting the research, supported by D. Maidment and E. Hogervorst who are supervisors for the project and overall PhD.*

### Are there any exclusion criteria?

*Children and adolescents under 18 years of age are not eligible to take part in this project.*

### What will I be asked to do?

*You will be asked to complete an online survey that will ask you questions about your hearing and other health issues and behaviours. The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes.*

### Once I take part, can I change my mind?

*After you have read this information, you will be asked to complete an Online Consent Form. However, if at any time, before or during the survey you would like to withdraw, you can do so by closing the web page. If you wish to withdraw after you have completed the survey, please contact the main investigator. You can withdraw at any time, for any reason and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing.*

*However, once the results of the study have been published, it may not be possible to withdraw your individual data from the research.*

### **Will I be asked to attend any sessions and where will these be?**

*The survey will be carried out online, you will not be required to travel.*

### **How long will it take?**

*The whole survey should take around 15-20 minutes. However, this may vary from person to person and is only an estimate.*

### **Are there any disadvantages or risks in participating?**

*Some of the survey questions will ask about your health or behaviours, such as hearing, weight or mood, that may cause you some concern or distress. Though the likelihood of distress is low, if you feel concerned about any of the subjects in the survey you should contact your GP to arrange an appointment. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Samaritans (116 123), or other charities for support.*

*Please also note that the questions included in the survey are not clinical or diagnostic tools. As a result, we are not permitted to share your responses with you.*

### **What are the possible benefits of participating?**

*Participation in this research will help us to understand how different aspects of health to hearing.*

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

Loughborough University will be using information/data from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

### **What personal information will be collected from me and how will it be used?**

*During the study you will be asked for information about your age, sex, occupation, as well as health behaviours. The information will only be reported as a pooled dataset and not individually. The information you provide will be used to examine the associations between hearing ability and other aspects of health.*

## **What is the legal basis for processing my personal information?**

Personal data will be processed on the public task basis. Individuals' rights to erasure and data portability do not apply if you are processing on the basis of public task. However, individuals do have a right to object.

*Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), some of the personal data which will be collected from you is categorised as "sensitive data". The processing of this data is necessary for scientific research in accordance with safeguards. This means that study has gone through an ethical committee to ensure that the appropriate safeguards are put in place with respect to the use of your personal data*

## **How long will my personal information be retained?**

Identifiable personal information will only be kept after the study completion if you provide a contact e-mail address at the end of the survey. We will this information about you until we have recruited for the next related study (12-18 months on completion of this survey).

## **Will my personal information be shared with others?**

*Your information will not be shared with others.*

## **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

*Your information will be confidential and stored anonymously on a password protected database.*

## **How will the anonymised data/results collected from me be used?**

*The data will be used as part of a PhD project. The findings from the survey will be written up as part of a PhD thesis and may be submitted for journal publication and presented at national/international conferences.*

## **How long will the anonymised data/results be retained?**

*Anonymised data will be retained for one year following thesis submission (expected to be October 2022).*

## **I have some more questions; who should I contact?**

*Maria Goodwin; [m.goodwin@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:m.goodwin@lboro.ac.uk)*

## **What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?**

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Secretary of the Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee, Research & Enterprise Office,

Hazlerigg Building, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 222423. Email: [researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk)

The University also has policies relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing which are available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/> .

If you require any further information regarding the General Data Protection Regulations, please see: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/privacy/research-privacy/>.