**Infant Feeding, Maternal Well-Being and Paid Work**

Researchers at the University of Reading are undertaking a research project on ‘Maternal Well-Being, Infant Feeding and Return to Paid Work Decisions’ which is being funded by the Nuffield Foundation. We want to understand the well-being, opportunities and experiences of new mothers who want to continue to breastfeed on return to paid work. For more information about the project please see the [project page](https://research.reading.ac.uk/accommodating-diversity-in-the-workplace/current-projects/maternal-well-being-infant-feeding-and-return-to-paid-work-decisions/) on our website. As part of this project we want to conduct a survey of mothers based in the UK who have given birth since 2017.

If you agree to take part in the project all information will be strictly confidential and used only for research purposes. This project has been subject to an ethical review, in line with the University of Reading’s procedures and conforming to its [Code of Good Practice in Research](https://www.reading.ac.uk/discover/-/media/discover/files/pdfs/91500efa014549468f32367974aede7e.pdf), and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct by the Head of the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations. If you have any questions about the survey or wish to receive more information about the survey or the research which it is going to inform, please e-mail Sarah Jewell: [s.l.jewell@reading.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.jewell@reading.ac.uk).

Further details about the survey and about how your data will be processed can be found in the rest of this document.

**Who is the survey aimed at?** Our target sample our mothers who have given birth since 2017 in the UK. We are interested in all experiences so are happy to hear from anyone that meets the criteria regardless of how you fed your baby or whether you did paid work or not.

**What questions will be asked and what information will be collected about me?** We will ask questions about your birth, how you fed your child, work and your experiences in the workplace, your well-being, your views and some demographic questions. The characteristics of your birth provide important information as they may have impacted how your child was fed. If you had a difficult birth we appreciate that asking about your birth maybe distressing and for more sensitive questions there is an option of ‘prefer not to say’. We will ask some demographic questions, as we want to capture a range of experiences, and understand how experiences may vary across different groups. The survey is entirely anonymous so no personal information that could identify you will be collected.

**How long will the questionnaire take to fill in?** We estimate the questionnaire will take around 20-25 minutes, depending on your responses to the questions.

**What is in it for me?** We encourage you to take part in the project because your participation will help us better understand the realities faced by new mothers, and will help inform policy and practice to improve the working lives and well-being of new mothers.

**How will my responses be stored and who will have access to the data?** The responses you provide within in the survey will be downloaded and given a new identifier to ensure it is fully anonymous; at this point it will not be possible to identify a survey response. Anonymised data will be stored in a folder with secure permissions where only members of the research team will have access. The research team will work in accordance with the University data protection policy, the General Data Protection Regulation (2016), the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and all applicable Data Protection laws. Please refer to the University of Reading [Data Protection Policy](http://www.reading.ac.uk/data_protection) for more information. At the end of the project, the fully anonymised data will be deposited in a data archive for other researchers to use in the future and will comply with all rules under the Data Protection Act.

**How will my responses by used?** Any statistical analysis will be undertaken at an aggregate level and any results published will be at an aggregate level, so it will not be possible to identify any individuals. We may use some quotations from any free text boxes but these will be entirely anonymised and will be carefully chosen to ensure there is no possible identifying information. You can find out more about the questions we are interested in answering from our website.

**Can I withdraw my consent?** You can withdraw your consent, without detriment up to the point the data is fully anonymised. After this point it will not be possible to identify a survey response. You can withdraw your consent by contacting Professor Sarah Jewell ([s.l.jewell@reading.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.jewell@reading.ac.uk)) and quoting your completion receipt number which you receive on completion of the survey.

**How do I find out about the project’s findings?** For project updates see our [website](https://research.reading.ac.uk/accommodating-diversity-in-the-workplace/current-projects/maternal-well-being-infant-feeding-and-return-to-paid-work-decisions/), follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/people/Infant-Feeding-and-Return-to-Paid-Work/100086584955947/)and Twitter [@accom\_diversity](https://twitter.com/accom_diversity) for project updates. You can also sign up to our mailing list through our website. We will publish our key findings as they come available throughout the project (due to finish in March 2025) and these will be published on our website.

*The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance social well-being. It funds research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare, and Justice. It also funds student programmes that provide opportunities for young people to develop skills in quantitative and scientific methods. The Nuffield Foundation is the founder and co-funder of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, the Ada Lovelace Institute and the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. The Foundation has funded this project, but the views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily the Foundation. Visit*[*www.nuffieldfoundation.org*](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/) 