



## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

You are being invited to take part in research on your experiences as a member of the Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) community with Police Scotland. Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith at the University of Edinburgh is leading this research. Before you decide to take part, it is important you understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?**

The purpose of the study is to provide more data and information on Police Scotland's understanding of ASC and how satisfied members of the ASC community are with their interactions with police in Scotland.

### **WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?**

You are invited to participate in this study because you are an adult with ASC who has a formal diagnosis of Autism in Scotland.

### **DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?**

No – it is entirely up to you. If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet and complete the Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to participate. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect the standard of care you receive.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DECIDE TO TAKE PART?**

You will be asked a number of questions regarding your experiences when having come in contact with members of Police Scotland and the quality of the encounter. The questionnaire will take place online at any time that is convenient for you. Your name will not be recorded in this study. This means that your answers will be completely anonymous. The questionnaire should take around 20 - 30 minutes to complete.

### **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?**

By sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping Asa Kerr-Davis and Ria Doherty, the University and potentially Police Scotland to better understand the satisfaction with level of awareness of, and interactions with, Police Scotland by the ASC community across Scotland. The findings may be used to



improve future policy and practice to improve the quality of interactions which ASC individuals have with the police.

### **ARE THERE ANY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING PART?**

There are no significant risks associated with participation. We recommend not completing the survey if you still experience feelings of distress concerning an interaction with the police. If you do feel distress or are affected in any way by any of the questions asked, you can find more information and/or support through multiple support services. Contact details and website links for these services will be available on the debriefing sheet. Also please remember that you can always go to your own GP if you feel you need further support.

### **WHAT IF I WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY?**

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason before selecting 'yes I wish to take part in this study'. After selecting 'yes I wish to take part in this study', you will have 'opted in' to the study, and your data will be automatically anonymised meaning that you cannot withdraw your data at a later date.

### **DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your data will be anonymised in our records, so we will **not** be able to identify and remove your survey responses after you have submitted it. Your data will only be viewed by the research team, and the findings of the study may be shared with Police Scotland to inform future policy and training practices. All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY?**

The results of this study will be written up as an MSc dissertation project, may be presented at a conference and may be written up as an article for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

### **WHO CAN I CONTACT?**

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher:



Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith

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If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact:

Professor Matthias Schwannauer

Room 2.14, Doorway 6, Medical Quad, Teviot Place

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[headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk](mailto:headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk)

In your communication, please provide the study title and detail the nature of your complaint.

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us.

Please contact us at [ASCP@exceed.ac.uk](mailto:ASCP@exceed.ac.uk) and quote reference: ASC Police

For general information about how we use your data go to:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/privacy-notice-research>