

University of Bristol Law School

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## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Project Title: Unlocking the value of statistical court data for public understanding of the justice system**

You are invited to take part in my research project. This information sheet explains the purpose of this research and what it would mean for you to take part in it.

#### **What is the purpose of the project?**

The project explores the potential of statistical court data (court statistics) to help laypeople gain or improve their knowledge of the judicial processes involved in judicial review (JR) litigation. The research aims to identify ways of making statistical court data more accessible and meaningful to non-specialist users so that they can navigate the justice system with greater confidence. Finally, the findings could also contribute to the accessibility and accountability of the justice system.

#### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to participate because of your professional expertise and experience in JR litigation. Your insights into how lay clients understand the JR litigation process and what their specific information needs and challenges are in understanding these processes will provide valuable perspectives for this research. Participation is entirely voluntary.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

No, you can choose whether or not you would like to take part in this research. You are free at any time, without giving any reason, to refuse or withdraw by notifying me via email. You can also decide to withdraw your data from my study without giving a reason until [19/03/2027], 6 months before the planned end of the research project. If you agree to take part, I will ask you to complete a consent form and return this to me via email before we begin.

#### **What will taking part involve?**

If you agree to participate, you will take part in a face-to-face or online interview lasting approximately 60-75 minutes. The interview will focus on your experiences, observations and professional insights in relation to your lay clients' general understanding of the JR litigation and the particular information needs and challenges in understanding court processes.

The interview will be semi-structured, which means that I will have some pre-determined questions to ask, and the spontaneous follow-up questions to explore the particular theme in more depth or to seek additional clarification. Questions will explore such themes as: the level and general features of lay knowledge of the JR litigation process prior to consultation; information considered essential to provide to clients; common questions asked by lay people during consultations; challenges faced by lay people in trying to understand the JR process.

You do not have to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer, and you can stop the interview at any time without having to give an explanation.

I will ask for your permission to audio record the interview. If you would rather not be recorded, I will make notes to record our conversation.

### **Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?**

Yes, your involvement in this research will be kept confidential. Your personal details (such as your name, contact details) will not be shared beyond myself and two supervisors of the research project. The personal data will be anonymised during transcription and never be mentioned in my research. However, the information collected may be used as a summary of what was said or as a direct quote for research purposes, including thesis, research publications and presentations.

### **How will my data be stored?**

The data will be securely stored on a University of Bristol Microsoft One account which requires two factor authentication to access. Once my thesis is submitted, all data, including audio or Teams/Zoom recordings, will be deleted, while the anonymised interview transcripts will be archived and stored in the University of Bristol Research Data Storage Facility (RDSF). The RDSF provides secure, long-term storage for research data and allows other researchers to access it on a case-by-case basis upon request for the purposes of scientific research in the public interest.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks involved in taking part?**

No risks are anticipated for participants in this project.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your participation and provided insights will contribute to research that aims to promote public understanding of the justice system and its accessibility to laypeople.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The project is organised by me (Andrii Koshman) and is funded by the University of Bristol Law School. The supervisors of this research are Professor Gavin Phillipson and Dr Václav Janeček of the University of Bristol Law School.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Bristol School of Law Research Ethics Committee.

### **Further information**

If you have any questions or feedback about the project, you can contact me (Andrii Koshman) by email: [andrii.koshman@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:andrii.koshman@bristol.ac.uk).

If you have any concerns related to this study, please contact the Chair of the Law School Research Ethics Committee: [law-recchair@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:law-recchair@bristol.ac.uk)