



Participant Information Sheet

The Edinburgh Study Participant Information Sheet

1. Purpose of this letter

We are inviting you to take part in the latest phase of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime. Before you decide to do so, it is important you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information, you can contact us using the details at the end of this document. Your participation in the Edinburgh Study is extremely important to us, so thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

2. What is the Edinburgh Study and what is its purpose?

The Edinburgh Study involves around 4,300 people who started secondary school in 1998. We interviewed the same group of people every year while they were at school, and continued to follow them up periodically over the last 20 years.

The purpose of the study is to look at how people's lives change over time and how this influences their experience of crime and victimisation. To do this, we have looked at things such as:

- People's personal development and changing behaviour over time.
- The neighbourhoods people live and grew up in.
- People's contact (if any) with the police and other official agencies (e.g. social work and the children's hearings system).

This new phase of the study will build on the earlier research and aims to find out how people's experiences in their teenage years have influenced their lives now that they are adults. Funding for this phase of the research has been granted by the Nuffield Foundation.

3. Why have I been chosen?

We are writing to you because you are one of the people who took part in the Edinburgh Study during your teenage years and we would like to find out about how your life has changed since then. By being a member of the study, you have already helped make many positive changes to the lives of young people growing up in Scotland today (as you will see from the enclosed leaflet).

4. What will happen in this phase of the Edinburgh Study?

There are 3 parts to the latest phase of research:

1. In the past, we sought permission to collect information about any criminal convictions that study members might have received. This helped us to identify key factors from people's lives that influenced their likelihood of receiving a conviction or not. In this phase we will be updating information on criminal convictions since 2011, where relevant, from police records for all study members.
2. In the past, study members completed paper questionnaires about various aspects of their lives. This helped us to understand how different life experiences and personal histories influenced people's behaviour, experiences, opinions and outcomes. All study members will be sent a link to an online survey which will ask about key aspects of what their lives are like now.
3. In previous phases of the study, we interviewed a small number of study members in person. This helped us to get a deeper understanding of the sorts of things that shape people's lives. We will contact around 200 study members to take part in a telephone or video call interview with one of our interview team.

5. What do I need to do now?

If you are happy to take part in this phase of the study, **please complete** the secure online Contact Form by going to <http://edin.ac/edinburgh-study>.

6. What will happen next?

You will be sent a link to the online survey mentioned above.

If you are selected to take part in an interview, one of our interview team will contact you and arrange to speak to you on a day and at a time that best suits you. The interview will take around 1 hour and you will be given a high street gift card worth £30 to thank you for your time.

7. What type of questions will I be asked?

We will ask you very similar questions to those that you answered in previous phases of the study. This will include general questions about your life (e.g. your family, your job, your hobbies and leisure activities, and the neighbourhood you live in) and some broad questions about your experience of offending and victimisation. We will also ask for your views and opinions about things that may have influenced the direction of your life. You can refuse to answer any question that you do not want to.

8. How will my information be kept confidential?

Our first priority is to ensure that the Study is conducted safely and that your information is safe and secure. We conform fully to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) principles and the 2018 Data Protection Act. Any information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

You will not be identifiable in any reports or publications. Data collected will be stored on a secure University of Edinburgh server which has strict access restrictions and is encrypted with strong passwords. The survey software used by the Study automatically records the user's IP address, however this information will be deleted once the online survey is closed.

As is standard for publically funded academic research, data collected by the study may be shared, but only in an anonymised form, to allow reuse by other researchers (e.g. through the UK Data Archive). However, special procedures are put in place to restrict access to these anonymised data and they will always be released in a format that does not allow any individuals to be identified.

9. How important is my participation in this research?

Your participation in the study in previous years has already changed policies, laws and practices in Scotland (see our website at <https://www.edinstudy.law.ed.ac.uk>). Findings from this new phase of the study will identify the impact that events in childhood can have on adult life, and be used to improve ways of helping and supporting people at an early stage to ensure they have positive outcomes. By taking part again, **you will be continuing to help improve the lives of people right across Scotland.**

10. What will happen to the results of the research?

Once this phase of the research has been completed **we will use the results in a number of ways.** The findings will be published in a range of academic papers, books, and journal articles. They will be used by the research team to influence Scottish Government and other organisations to develop more effective policies and practice. In addition, information about the study, including its findings,

will be used to support teaching and wider research activities within the University of Edinburgh and across other academic institutions. **We will also share the key findings of the study with you.**

11. Are there any risks to taking part?

This project has received ethical approval from the School of Law's Research Ethics Committee. Our first priority is always that the study is conducted safely, your information is held securely and your identity is protected. We do not expect that taking part in the research will cause you any disadvantage or discomfort; however, on our website you will find a list of organisations that can offer advice and support.

12. Do I have to take part?

If after reading this information sheet you would prefer not to take part in this phase of the study, you can decline this invitation to participate. If that is the case, please contact us by email (edinstudy.law@ed.ac.uk) stating that you wish to withdraw from this phase of research. Please include your full name and the reference number provided. If you do take part in this phase of the study, you are still free to withdraw at any point in the future.

13. Questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about this phase of the study, or you wish to express any concerns, you can contact a member of the study team using the contact details below. If, after contacting the study team, you feel your questions or concerns have not been handled to your satisfaction please follow the guidance given at the following link: <https://edin.ac/2Raeyyz>.

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. We hope that you will take part again in this important study and help us make a positive difference to people's lives in Scotland.

Edinburgh Study Contact Details

Website	Twitter/Facebook	Email
www.edinstudy.law.ed.ac.uk	@EdinStudy	edinstudy.law@ed.ac.uk
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