



College of Social  
Sciences

## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Trans and non-binary experiences of sex**

My name is George Burrows. I am inviting you to take part in a research study. Please take time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. You can ask me if anything is unclear or if you need more details. My contact details are at the end of this information sheet. Take time to decide if you want to take part or not. Taking part in the study is voluntary.

#### **Why carry out this study?**

Most research about sexual activity and relationships excludes trans people. Studies lack detail about what trans people want and need to enjoy sex. Some trans studies have only looked at physical aspects of sex or have asked questions written for cisgender (non-trans) people.

In this study I aim to explore what trans people want and need to enjoy sex, including the emotions, sensations, relationships, social and physical aspects. I will ask about: positive experiences of sex, and what stops you enjoying sex; how experiences of sex are affected by partners, friends, professionals and society; if common terms and definitions of sexual problems fit your experiences.

#### **Who can take part in this study?**

This study is for people who:

- Identify as transgender (including trans, non-binary or having a transsexual history)
- Are at least 18 years old
- Normally live in the UK
- Have experience of sexual activity

#### **What does it involve?**

The interview will be about 1 hour long, or a maximum of 2 hours if you have lots to say. About 30 people will be interviewed. You and I will agree an interview venue. This could be your home, an office in central Glasgow or another place in the UK. We can discuss other interview options (phone or online) if needed. The interview will be audio recorded, then typed up (transcribed) by me or a professional service. You can claim back travel costs if you have used public transport or need to travel by car for a face-to-face interview. Please keep any travel tickets. You will be offered £15 Love2Shop vouchers after the interview.

#### **What are the risks and benefits of taking part?**

The study is not expected to directly benefit participants. Understanding trans people's experiences and needs may help trans communities more generally. Some people may find it helpful to talk about their experiences of sex. Sometimes talking about sex can bring up difficult emotions and memories. If that happens, I can give you details of some places to get support.

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

No, you can choose to take part or not. If you decide to take part, I will ask for your email address and/or phone number so I can arrange an interview. You can choose not to answer questions, if you wish. You can withdraw from the study. You do not have to give a reason if you withdraw or do not want to take part. I will use the data very soon after the interview. If you withdraw after this, I will need to keep any work I have already done, but will not do any more work with it. At this stage, your data will need to be stored and I will keep a short note of your withdrawal. Archiving data is necessary as part of good practice in scientific research.

### **Is it confidential?**

Your interview is confidential. You can ask for a pseudonym (false name) to be used for you in the study. You can also ask me to use your real name. I may still decide to use a pseudonym for you if it is needed to protect someone's privacy or safety. Names of other people and places will be changed. The trans population is small. People who know you may still be able to identify you from interview quotes in any talks, reports or published work. I will have to tell someone if I think you or others are at serious risk of harm.

### **How will the data be used?**

I will store all study data in a secure cabinet and on a password-protected computer for at least 10 years. A decision will be made every 10 years about whether the data are still needed. I will regularly discuss the study and transcripts with my supervisors. Rarely, other people may need to check the study procedures and data. If suitable, transcripts may be held in a data archive.

You can choose to agree for the transcript to be used in other research and teaching. Other researchers are those not involved in this study who want to research the same topic. They would be able to use the transcript if they agree to the same confidentiality rules as in this study. Transcripts will not be shared until this study finishes. You can get a copy of your personal data. Ask me for more details or see [www.gla.ac.uk/dpfoioffice/gdpr/datasubjectrights](http://www.gla.ac.uk/dpfoioffice/gdpr/datasubjectrights).

I will write a PhD thesis (long report) and send it to the University of Glasgow. A small number of people will read the thesis and ask questions to test me. A short report of the study will be written. You can get a copy of the short report when it is ready. The thesis and short report may be available online and shared with people who ask to see it. I may also tell others about the study through publications and conference talks.

### **Who funds this study?**

I am a PhD student at the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU) at the University of Glasgow. I am funded by the Medical Research Council [Grant number MC\_ST\_U16005].

### **Ethical approval**

This study has been considered and approved by the College of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow.

### **Concerns and complaints**

For more information or to complain about the study contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston. Email: [Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk)

### **Researcher**

- George Burrows: [G.Burrows.1@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:G.Burrows.1@research.gla.ac.uk)  
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Mobile (phone or text): 07912 778 294

### **Supervisors**

- Kirstin Mitchell [Kirstin.Mitchell@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Kirstin.Mitchell@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Lisa McDaid [Lisa.McDaid@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Lisa.McDaid@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Craig Donnachie [Craig.Donnachie@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Craig.Donnachie@glasgow.ac.uk)

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