

Participant Information Sheet

Scottish Cities and Local Authorities in the Era of COVID-19: Data Needs, Capabilities and Uses

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researchers if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Thank you for reading this.

About the study

The study aims to examine Scottish cities & local authorities (LAs)' engagement with data in response to Covid-19. It focuses on local authorities' existing and arising data uses, their data needs, and capabilities, as well as on emerging forms of collaborations. The study sets out four objectives as follows:

1. To identify and assess, within the context of COVID-19, existing and arising data uses, capabilities and needs of Scottish cities and LAs;
2. To investigate whether Scottish cities and LAs' responses to the crisis have reshaped data governance, strengthened existing collaborations and networks and/or generated new forms of collaboration;
3. To analyse arising opportunities for public data sharing and citizen engagement at local government level;
4. To examine whether data applications/practices have informed decision- making and improved outcomes related to the management of COVID-19.

Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by Professor Simon Joss and Dr Justine Gangneux who are based in the *Urban Big Data Centre* at the University of Glasgow. The study is part of the Centre's workstream on urban governance which has been jointly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the University of Glasgow.

What does taking part in the study involve?

You will be invited to take part in **an online survey which takes approx. 20 minutes to complete**. Instructions will be given for each question and a progress bar will appear on the top of the screen to allow you to monitor your progress. Questions will cover themes ranging from local authorities' data uses and capabilities in response to Covid 19, the data opportunities, challenges and needs that have emerged from the crisis, to existing and emerging data collaborations and initiatives at local level.

Do I have to take part?

It is your own decision to take part or not in this study. Participation is **completely voluntary**, and you are **free to withdraw your contributions at any point during the research without giving any reason**. You can share as much as you want, and you don't have to answer a question if you don't want to.

What will happen to my answers?

Information provided by you in this survey will be used for research purposes. The survey data **will be used in an aggregated form** to identify existing and emerging trends and obtain an overview of Scottish local authorities' data practices without singling out specific local authorities. **Your name will not be used** in any of the publications and outputs arising from the research and any **element allowing direct identification (e.g. email addresses) will be deleted. Specific job titles (indirect identifiers) will be replaced by generic occupational categories (e.g. 'data officer') and/or policy domains (e.g. 'officer in transport department')**. These generic categories are important, as they will provide essential contextual information for the analysis and interpretation of the research data.

****** Please note that local authorities as well as specific initiatives and collaborations discussed will be identified in the online and print outputs arising from the research which may limit anonymity. ******

The data collected will be used in academic publications and reports as well as presentations at conferences. **Anonymised survey data (i.e. excluding direct identifiers) will be made available open-access in Enlighten, the University of Glasgow's research data repository for the purpose of future research.**

This study has been approved by the College of Social Sciences Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow. For further information about the study or if you would like to receive a written summary of the research findings, please contact Simon Joss by email at **Simon.Joss@glasgow.ac.uk** or by phone at **0141 330 5618** or Justine Gangneux by email at **Justine.Gangneux@glasgow.ac.uk**. If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of the study, you can also contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer; Dr Muir Houston by email at **Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk**.