

College of Social
Sciences

Exploring Fines for Women in Scotland

Researcher: Amy Cullen

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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 researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

The study

Fines are the most common punishment for women in Scotland, but there is little research available that addresses the experience and impact of fines on women's lives. The purpose of this research is to better understand how fines affect women's lives by gathering the views of women who have been fined and organisations that support women who have been fined, as well as engaging with the criminal justice service to better understand why fines are such a common punishment for women.

Taking part in the study

You are being invited to take part in an interview about your experiences of fining for women in the area in which you work; its impact on women you support, as well as your views on the economic context of the lives of the women you work with. The interview will last approximately 1 hour and take place via phone call or video conference at a time that is convenient for you, including evenings.

You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to, and you may stop the interview at any time. You can also change your mind and decide not to take part at any time without giving a reason.

After interview

If you agree to the interview, the discussion will be audio recorded (sound only, video will not be used) and the recording will then be used to type up a transcript of the discussion. Prior to meeting for interview, you will be asked to choose a pseudonym or, if you prefer, one will be chosen for you. During transcription, any identifying details will be removed, including your name and the name of the organisation you work for but not your general job title. During the lifetime of the project, only the members of the research team will have access to the information you provide.

All of recordings and notes will be stored securely until the end of the project, in July 2024, when we will destroy all personal data collected. Anonymised research data (interview

transcripts) will be deposited in Enlighten, the University of Glasgow's research data repository, and stored securely for a further 10 years (until July 2034). Other authenticated researchers may have access to this data only if they agree to preserve the security of the data as specified.

At the end of the study, the researcher will write a thesis which will be submitted to the University of Glasgow as part of her degree requirement. She may also publish findings in a range of journal articles and book chapters. What you tell the researcher may be referred to in these publications, but it will be written in a way that tries to conceal your identity. Please note that your identity may be difficult to conceal as a result of your professional position and the small number of interviews that the study is based on. Every effort will be made to protect your identity through reference to respondents in general (i.e. 'a support worker in an organisation in the West of Scotland') but if it still seems possible that you might be identified then the researcher will contact you to discuss the relevant sections of the publication.

If you wish to read the thesis once it is finished or any subsequent publications, please contact the researcher. She will also provide a written summary of the results if requested.

Please also note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the researcher may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

Further questions or concerns

The study has been approved by the College of Social Sciences Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow. If you have questions about the research you can contact the researcher, **Amy Cullen**, or her supervisor, Dr Susan Batchelor, using the details below:

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If you have any concerns about the conduct of the research you can contact, Dr Muir Houston, College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, using the details below:

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