**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: HR/DP-21/22-27205

You will be given a copy of this Information Sheet.

**Title of project**

What were people’s experiences of the winter power cuts?

**Invitation**

I would like to invite you to be part of my research project which forms part of my PhD research. Before you decide whether you want to take part, I’d like to explain why I’m doing this research and what would be involved if you took part. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you want. Ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. If you read it and decide you would like to take part, please see **‘How to take part’** in **blue** at the bottom of this document.

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

I am doing this research as part of a team that works on improving how prepared we are for disasters and the way we respond to them. We want to find out about people’s experiences during the winter storm-related power cuts. Did you have any difficulties during these periods? What support would be better in future power cuts?

We hope that we will be able to learn lessons from these events about what did and didn’t help. In particular, we want to look at how people with a range of different needs experienced the power cut(s) so that we can assess whether people’s disabilities and/or health conditions affect the needs they have in these situations.

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

You are being invited to take part because you may have experienced a winter storm-related power cut for two or more days, in which case we would like to hear what your experiences were.

**Who can take part?**

Anyone who aged 18 or over, who can speak (or sign) English fluently and who was affected by the winter power cuts for two or more consecutive days can take part in the project. You must also be able to understand information so that you can freely consent to taking part.

**What will happen if I take part?**

If you choose to take part in the project you will be asked to tell us about your experiences in a one-to-one interview. This will happen via an online video call or, if you prefer, via a telephone call. The interview will last roughly 45-90 minutes, with additional comfort breaks. You can communicate with us via the chat function if you prefer this to speaking.

During the interview you will be asked questions about your experiences of the power cut(s), for example whether you had any disabilities and/or health conditions that were affected by the power cut(s), and anything that made the power cut(s) more or less easy to cope with.

The session will be audio recorded, once you have given consent for this to happen.

**Reasonable adjustments**

If you have any access needs, such as viewing questions in advance, receiving questions in an alternative format, having questions provided in writing at the same time as being spoken, having a sign language interpreter, having captions or subtitles, typing your answers instead of speaking them, taking breaks or having videos switched off for our call, please do let us know and we can do this. If you would like to have someone with you to help with communication, this is fine. If you have any other requests to make the interview process easier, please let us know.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely optional. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have read this Information Sheet, please tell us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide to take part we will ask you to sign a consent form; if you complete a form you will be given a copy of it to keep.

**Incentives**

You will be given £30 for taking part. This will be as an Amazon or other shopping voucher or a charity donation to the British Red Cross if you would prefer this. If you need a carer to be with you for the interview, they will also be given a £30 gift voucher for their time. This will be emailed to you (or posted, if you do not have email) within 2-3 weeks of the interview. You will also be given a copy of the report, if you would like one.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

If you have a disability or health condition which was affected during the power cut(s), we may ask you questions about this. If you find remembering the power cut(s) distressing, or discussing your disability/health condition to be a sensitive topic, you may feel uncomfortable during our discussion. If you feel at all uncomfortable during our interview, please let us know and we can take a break or skip those questions entirely if you prefer. If you disclose any urgent mental health risks during our interview we will give you advice on where you can seek help and can provide a letter to take with you if it would be helpful. We do not think there will be any other risks associated with taking part.

**Data handling and confidentiality**

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018).

The interviews will be audio recorded in order to ensure accuracy. The recordings, any additional notes and contact information for you will be held in a secure online repository and will be shared with the research team and a company who will type-up the recordings into writing, with your consent. At this point, apart from the Consent Form which will have your signature, all data will be anonymised, with ‘pseudonyms’ (fake names or ID numbers) used if necessary. We may include quotes from you in the report, in order to illustrate the points that we are making. This will be completely anonymous and we will make sure that any quotes used cannot be traced back to you. After analysis is complete, we may still make research data (e.g. anonymous quotes from our interviews) available to other research teams and third parties who are also working in this area, to help with their research or policy making. If we do this, we will ensure that you cannot be identified.

The anonymised data will be the responsibility of Professor James Rubin, who is supervising the project, and will be retained for up to 7 years following the completion of the study before being destroyed or deleted.

**Data Protection Statement**

If you would like more information about how your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection laws please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>. Please let us know if you would like this posted to you as a printed document instead; this can be sent on coloured paper and/or in large print if you would prefer this.

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

You are free to withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. If you do not want to take part in an interview after giving consent, please let us know and we can cancel our appointment with you. If, after taking part in an interview, you decide that you would like to withdraw your data from the study, please let us know before **Friday 27th May, 2022**, or **1 week after your interview** takes place (whichever date is later),after which withdrawal of your data will no longer be possible because the data will have been anonymised or committed to the final report.

If you do choose to withdraw from the project we will not keep the information you have given thus far. As mentioned above, we will ensure that there is no personally identifiable information about you included in the publication.

**How is the project being funded?**

This project is being funded by King’s College London. For more information about our funding and research, please visit <http://epr.hpru.nihr.ac.uk/>

**What will happen to the results of the project?**

The results of the project will be summarised in Poppy Ellis Logan’s PhD thesis, which will be published after 2024 and accessible via the King’s Research Portal. Poppy will also try to publish it in a peer reviewed journal. If you’d like a copy of any published reports, please let us know via any contact method you find appropriate.

Any information you provide will be completely anonymised before publication.

**How to take part:**

Please email Poppy Ellis Logan (she/her) at poppy.ellis\_logan@kcl.ac.ukto say “I would like to take part”, and we will arrange a date and time to meet with you.

If you would like any adjustments, please also ask via email.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact us using the following contact details:

Poppy Ellis Logan (she/her)

Email address: poppy.ellis\_logan@kcl.ac.uk

Postal address: Poppy Ellis Logan, Department of Psychological Medicine, KCL Weston Education Centre, 10 Cutcombe Road, London, SE5 9RJ

**What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?**

If this project has harmed you in any way, if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project, you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Professor James Rubin (he/him)

Email: Gideon.rubin@kcl.ac.uk

Telephone: 07748 542270

Postal address:  Professor James Rubin, Department of Psychological Medicine, KCL Weston Education Centre, 10 Cutcombe Road, London, SE5 9RJ

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in our research.**