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An Ethical Framework with Internet of Things company

University of Bristol PhD student Sam Collier is leading a collaboration with Bristol-based start-up Homelync. The team will review landlord and tenant responses to internet of things technology in the social housing sector and create an ethical framework for the company.

The internet of things is the network of digitally connected devices such as smartphones, appliances and sensors, as well as the data that is generated and analysed to monitor and predict events.

Sam Collier, University of Bristol says 'We'll look at Homelync's data from more than 100 households, along with real-time data from eight social landlords, to understand how users engage with these systems and what they really want from them.'

Luke Loveridge, CEO of Homelync says 'It's important for us to know what users think about the information that's collected, how it's collected and how much detail is needed. We're excited to have Sam on board to help develop any recommendations for changes needed or adaptations to individual devices, and in the development of our user app.'

Recommendations will then be made for the implementation of an ethical framework for Homelync and the wider social housing sector, including technology manufacturers and installers, social landlords, and utility and service companies.

Additional information

Project title: Recommendations for an Ethical Framework for Internet of Things company Homelync; use in Social Housing

Funder: this project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council Accelerating Business Collaboration fund.

People:

- Jack Nicholls, from the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, is an early career researcher working on energy democracy, public participation and the politics of transition to a low carbon and inclusive economy.
- Sam Collier, PhD student in the School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol, is a sustainability researcher with a focus on technology's role in the transition to a low carbon future.

Company information: Homelync Ltd. <https://homelync.io>

For more information about the project contact: sam.collier@bristol.ac.uk

About the University of Bristol

The University is ranked within the top 10 universities in the UK and top 60 in the world (QS World University Rankings 2021); it is also ranked among the top five institutions in the UK for its research, according to analysis of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014; and is the 4th most targeted university by top UK employers.

The University was founded in 1876 and was granted its Royal Charter in 1909. It was the first university in England to admit women on the same basis as men. The University is a major force in the economic, social and cultural life of Bristol and the region, but is also a significant player on the world stage. It has over 20,000 undergraduates and over 7,000 postgraduate students from more than 100 countries, and its research links span the globe.