

Oral consent script:

**Introduction:** Hello, my name is [REDACTED] I'm currently doing a PhD at the University of Bristol Law School.

**Project details and aims:** In my study, I want to investigate what changes would make working in the UK [REDACTED] better. I'm interested in how we can improve working conditions and labour rights, and hearing about your experiences working in the industry and is a very important part of this. If you choose to be a part of this project, here is what will happen:

**Task description:** You will be involved in a small group discussion with other [REDACTED] (between 3 and 5 other people.) This discussion will take place online. I will ask a range of questions, and you will have a conversation with the other members of the group about your thoughts on them. For example, I might ask how you compare your experience working in the [REDACTED] to your experience working in a [REDACTED] job. Different members of the group will have a chance to raise their hands and have their say, as well as to ask questions of and respond to each other.

**Data sharing:** The answers that you give will form the basis of my PhD thesis. The researcher (me) and my supervisors will have access to this data. Following the focus group, you will receive a copy of what has been said. I will remove any identifying information you have mentioned, such as other peoples' names, place names, and workplace information. I will share this script with you via email, and you can remove or change anything that you have said that you do not want to be involved in the project. This includes removing all the data if you want to. Once 2 weeks has passed, all identifying information will be deleted (this means that the data is anonymous.) Your involvement in the research project will be kept

confidential. The only exception to this is where I am concerned that you are in significant and immediate danger, in which case I must report this to the University of Bristol.

**Data storage:** I will store your data safely and confidentially. Immediately following the focus groups, what you have said will be separated from your name and contact details. These will be stored in separate password-protected folders on the university's OneDrive (a secure server.) Once you have had the opportunity to review the script, your personal details will be destroyed, leaving anonymised research data behind. In line with University of Bristol guidelines, I will keep the research data for 3 years after publication. After 3 years, the data will be destroyed. With your permission, I would like to be able to use your anonymous data in future studies.

**Recording:** With your permission, I would like to make an audio recording of the group discussion to make sure I'm getting an accurate record of what everybody is saying. This will only record what you say, it will not record a video of you speaking. Instead of recording you, I can take notes in my notebook. Which would you prefer?

**Keeping contact details:** I would also like your permission to keep your contact details for two weeks following the group discussion so that I can send you a transcript of what you have said in the group discussion so you can amend it.

**How identifiable you will be:** You will not be mentioned by name in any research output relating to this study. There will be no description of any of your identifiable personal characteristics. Any mention you make of other people, places of work, or locations will be deleted from the script. Any personal details will be deleted by the researcher 2 weeks after the group discussion has taken place. Therefore, you will not be identifiable in any outputs relating to this research.

**Risks:** The following risks are involved in taking part.

- You might find the discussion time-consuming and tiring (it will last between 1 hour and 1.5 hours.) In order to reduce this risk, we will have a 5-minute break after 40 minutes.
- You might find aspects of this interview difficult as I will be asking about your experience of working in the [REDACTED], which may involve relaying negative, frustrating, or upsetting experiences. In order to reduce this risk, you can choose not to answer any question you do not want to, even if other people want to answer. If you do not feel comfortable talking about anything out loud, you can use the 'chat' function to contribute. You can also leave the group discussion altogether at any time. I will remind everybody of this at the beginning of the focus group.
- Lastly, whilst I (the researcher) am required to protect your confidentiality, I have no control over what other participants say to people following the discussion. At the start of the group, I will remind everybody that the discussion is supposed to be a safe space for people to share their experiences. You may keep your camera off if you do not want your face to be shown. You can also ensure that only your first name appears on your Zoom or Microsoft Teams account.

**Rights:** It is important to remember that you have the following rights. You do not have to take part in this research. You can stop being involved at any stage without giving a reason. You can ask me any questions you want before or throughout the discussion. After the discussion, you will have the opportunity to review, amend, or completely remove your data from the project.

**Publication plans:** This project will be published in a thesis and, in keeping with my university's requirements, a copy of this will be deposited online in the University of Bristol dissertation repository. This project may also be the subject of future research and might be

published in an academic journal. I may also discuss the data and findings in conference presentations. The same standards of anonymity discussed before apply.

**Concerns:** If you have any complaints or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email:

[REDACTED]

**Ethics review details:** This research project has been reviewed and approved by a Bristol University ethics committee. The ethics reference is [xxxx]. If, after contacting me with a concern, you're still unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the ethics committee. Their email address is [law-recchair@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:law-recchair@bristol.ac.uk).

**Data protection statement:** The University of Bristol is responsible overall for ensuring the safe and proper use of any personal information you provide, solely for research process. Further information about your rights to information you provide is available from the University's data protection website, <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/>.

**Questions:**

Do you have any questions?

Do you give your permission for me to involve you in a group discussion?

Do you give me your permission to audio-record this discussion?

Do you give me permission to re-contact you, so you can receive a script of your contribution?

Do you give me permission to quote you directly without identifying you?

Are you happy to take part?

OK, thank you. We're ready to start.

