

## Information about the Online Sperm Donation

### Public Involvement Consultation Process

A major study at Leeds Beckett University has been launched which aims to better understand online sperm donation, including the experiences of [people who use websites to source sperm to become pregnant](#). This work has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and builds upon our previous work on people's experiences of online sperm donation and is led by Dr Rhys Turner-Moore.

The research has two aims:

1. First, we want to explore who and what influences sperm donation journeys and how
2. We would also like to explore the imagined ideal futures of those involved in online sperm donation and work with them to facilitate personal, professional, and social change

We are therefore inviting people who have experience of [using websites to source sperm to become pregnant](#) to share their views and perspectives on the research we are hoping to undertake. You might also have the opportunity to work with the research team to co-facilitate research workshops, interpret the research findings, and present the research findings, such as at a national conference or in the form of an academic research paper. **You will not be expected to share your own experiences of online sperm donation, but to give us feedback on the for plans for the direction of the research that we are planning to undertake, to discuss our analysis and dissemination strategies.**

We hope that around 4 people who have experience of [using websites to source sperm to become pregnant](#) will join the team as public contributors and be part of the Public Involvement group.

#### **What will being a Public Involvement group member involve?**

This project will run for 4 years in total, and we estimate that there will be five Public Involvement group meetings during this time. There will be two Public Involvement group meetings in Year 1. The first of which will take place face-to-face in Leeds on 17th June 2022 and the second online via video call (date tbc). There will then be one online meeting each year for the remainder of the project. Each meeting will be approximately 1.5 – 2 hours long. During these meetings we would like to get your feedback on things such as:

- Our research questions and methods
- How we can navigate ethical and recruitment issues
- Our interpretation of the research findings
- How we can best share our findings with the public

We might occasionally send you a few things to look at before the meeting or in between meetings.

We will also invite you to attend five, one-day, project development days with the research team. These project development days will take place in-person in Leeds. The first project development day will take place on 16th June 2022. On these days, we will share academic and non-academic knowledges and networks, and develop and practise research skills. The first development day will

take place at the start of the project, the day before the in-person Public Involvement group meeting. The development days will then take place annually.

In the final year of the project, you may also be invited to help facilitate research workshops as a co-facilitator alongside members of the research team. These workshops will involve reflecting on themes from our research on sperm donation journeys and thinking about what we would like the future to look like for online sperm donation and how we can make it happen.

**We really want you to guide and inform the research that we're planning. All your opinions are really important to us!**

Please read the 'Role Description' document on our website: [www.theosdproject.com/current-research](http://www.theosdproject.com/current-research) for more information on what will be required from you as a Public Involvement Group member in this project.

**As a thank you for taking part, we will:**

- Pay each of you £20 per Public Involvement meeting and provide tea, coffee, and biscuits at the first in-person meeting.
- Pay each of you £40 per development day and provide tea, coffee and lunch on the day.
- Pay each workshop co-facilitator £80 per workshop day

**In addition:**

- We will cover travel costs for the first in-person Public Involvement group meeting and for each of the development days (up to £100 per trip). If helpful, we can book and pay for the travel for you, or you can supply receipts and we will reimburse you.
- We will cover accommodation costs for a one-night stay in Leeds for each Public Involvement group member attending the first development day and in-person Public Involvement meeting (up to £80). If you need to stay for 2 nights (e.g., due to location), we may be able to support you with the costs. If helpful, we can book and pay for the accommodation for you, or you can supply a receipt and we will reimburse you.
- If you need to use childcare to enable you to attend, we can offer you up to £30 per Public Involvement Group meeting, and up to £60 on development and workshop days, to contribute towards the costs of this for your child or children (receipts are required).

**You would be very welcome to bring a partner or another member of your family or friend with you to the in-person meetings, however, we cannot reimburse them for their travel and participation. We can of course provide refreshments for them.**

**If you require an accompanying person for accessibility reasons, then we will cover their travel costs (within the limits outlined above).**

**Who can I contact if I have further questions?**

If you have any further questions about contributing to this public involvement consultation process, you can contact the public involvement lead Lucy Frith using the contact details below.

Email: [lucy.frith@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.frith@manchester.ac.uk)

**What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?**

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting the project lead, Rhys Turner-Moore, [r.turner-moore@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:r.turner-moore@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) or **0113 812 6013**, and we will try to help.

If you have read the above information and the role description document and are interested in being a part of this project as a Public Involvement Group member, please contact Lauren Smith, to arrange an informal telephone call or online meeting with a member of our public involvement team to talk about your interest: [l.m.smith@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.smith@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).