# PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

## Losing Hearing as a Working Age Adult

My name is Susan Coan, I’m a Research Fellow at Leeds Beckett University and I am doing this research as part of my PhD.

Please read this information and I’m happy to answer questions if you do not understand something or would like any more information.

## What is the purpose of the research?

This research is to find out about people’s experiences of losing their hearing as a working age adult (aged 18-65). The research aims to look at how losing hearing affects health and wellbeing and use of health services.

## What does taking part involve?

I’d like to speak to you either in a one-to-one conversation (a research interview) or in a group of people who have also lost hearing as adults (a focus group discussion).

They will last around 60 minutes (although this depends on how much people have to say 😊).

Ideally, the focus group discussions will be face-to-face in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The interviews can be in person or through a video call.

## What sort of questions will I be asked?

In these conversations, I would ask about general experiences of being diagnosed with hearing loss, what support you received/would have liked to receive, and the effect of hearing loss on your life and health. There are no right or wrong answers, and there is no pressure to answer any of the questions.

## What about confidentiality?

I’d like to record the conversations and then transcribe them (type up what everyone has said) but I will not use names or information that identifies anyone.

All recordings, notes and information that you provide will be stored securely and data will be stored securely in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation.  Only my project supervisors and I will have access to the transcripts and recording, and the information obtained will be used only for the purpose of this research.

Leeds Beckett University processes data in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To understand how we collect, look after and share your data you should read this [Research Participant Privacy Notice](https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/-/media/files/policies/information-governance/upig_research_participant_privacy_notice.pdf)

## What will happen to my contribution?

What you say will be combined together with other information collected during the research and I will look for patterns across people’s experiences. It will be used to write my PhD thesis and may also be used to produce a range of academic publications. All contributions will be anonymised before use (your name will never be used).

## Can I withdraw from the research?

With your agreement, I would like to digitally record the interview/focus group so that I can remember everything that is said.  In individual interviews, you have the right not to be recorded or stop the recording at any point without having to explain why.  In addition, if you change your mind about taking part afterwards, you can also withdraw what you have said up until 2 weeks after the interview by contacting me (contact details below).  This is because it becomes very difficult to separate everything out after that point.  The audio file will be deleted.

In the focus group discussion, you have the right to stop taking part at any point if you want to and you do not have to give a reason why. In addition, if you change your mind about taking part afterwards, you can also withdraw what you have said up until 2 weeks after the focus group by contacting me (contact details below).  This is because it becomes very difficult to separate everything out after that point.   You will need to give information about what your contribution was so I can identify it and exclude it.

## What happens now?

If you are willing to take part, I will arrange a time/date with you for you to share your experiences.

## Who has reviewed the study?

The research has been reviewed and approved through Leeds Beckett University Research Ethics procedures to protect your well-being, rights and dignity. There are no risks involved in taking part in the research but if you have a concern about any aspect of this research you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you would like to speak to someone independent from the study, you can contact:

Dr Jenny Woodward, the Local Research Ethics Coordinator: [j.l.woodward@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.woodward@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

For further information about the research contact the research lead:

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