

National housing study: Evaluation of the Selective Licensing Scheme for the private rented sector

What is this?

This leaflet provides information about a study on housing and health. We want to know what a range of people think about private rented housing: tenants, landlords, people from government, voluntary and community organisations. We want to know what people think about landlords paying a licence fee to fund housing inspections and housing regulation. We are interested in a licensing scheme run by some local authorities called 'selective licensing.' We are now recruiting people who might be willing to share their views about the private rented sector and landlord licensing.

In another part of the study we will use government statistics and other data to assess health and social impacts of selective licensing schemes across England.

Who are we?

We are researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working with colleagues from the Universities of Liverpool, Lancaster, Bristol and Greenwich. We are funded by National Institute for Health and Social Care (NIHR).

How are we recruiting for interviews?

We are interested in talking to tenants, landlords, people from government, voluntary and community organisations. We hope people will express an interest in participating. If so, we will have a brief chat to explain the study and see who is eligible to take part. It will involve asking some questions about who you are. All your answers will be confidential.

What is involved in the interview?

If you agree to take part and are eligible we will arrange a convenient time to interview you. We will also find out what way of conducting the interview is most convenient – phone, online call, or face to face. We will ask you to sign a consent form and the interview itself will take up to an hour. We will ask for consent to audio record the interview. We will ask about your views and experiences of private rented housing and selective licensing. We will ask landlords what it is like from their perspective. We will ask local authority and non-government workers about how the scheme is being delivered. We want to know how selective licensing works and also how it impacts on people's lives. We will ask if you are willing to be contacted again – and you can say yes or no.

Can I decline to be involved?

Yes you can. At any point.

Is the research confidential?

Yes. Any information that you share with us will be kept confidential and will only be seen by members of the research team. All information will be stored securely in line with UK Data Protection legislation.

Will I be identified in any outputs?

You will not be named in any research outputs such as reports, presentations or research papers in academic journals.

Am I being personally assessed or evaluated?

No. This study is not assessing the performance or behaviour of any individuals and none of the information that identifies you that we collect will be seen by anyone except the members of the research team. This means that no-one will be told about specific events you are involved in, nor will specific comments you make be attributed to you.

What are the benefits of taking part?

You will contribute to a study that will inform national and local housing policies, particularly those policies affecting the private rented sector – its landlords and tenants.

How will the research be used?

The findings of the study will be reported to practitioners and policy-makers working in the areas of local housing and public health, to our research partners at other universities, and to the funder (NIHR). We will publish the research in the form of working papers, practitioner reports, and peer-reviewed journal articles and present findings at academic conferences.

What happens next?

Please keep this information sheet if you agree to participate. Should you agree, the research team will be available to talk through this information and answer questions. We will also make sure that you have a copy of the consent form to keep.

If you have decided that do not want to take part or change your mind at any time, please just let the researcher know as soon as possible in the best way for you (telephone or email).

Further information

If you have any questions that are not answered here, would like any more information or to discuss the study in more detail please contact us:

Maureen, Seguin, Assistant Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 15-17 Tavistock Place London, WC1H 9SH Email: maureen.seguin@lshtm.ac.uk	Debbie Humphry, Research Fellow London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 15-17 Tavistock Place London, WC1H 9SH Email: debbie.humphry@lshtm.ac.uk
---	--

Thank you for reading this. Your help will be very valuable.