

Study Title: A small scale study examining the impact of the 2007 smoking ban in England on the behaviour of smokers, non-smokers and ex-smokers.

Principal Investigator: Joanna Frost

Participant Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in this research study. Before you decide it is important for you to read this leaflet so you understand why the study is being carried out and what will be involved.

Reading this leaflet, discussing it with others or asking any questions you might have will help you decide whether or not you would like to take part.

What is the Purpose of the Study?

The general aims for this study include discovering the thoughts, feelings and attitudes of smokers, non-smokers and ex-smokers around the smoking ban in general. Also aiming to gain knowledge around the impact of the smoking ban on participant's thoughts, feelings and attitudes towards smokers, non-smokers and ex-smokers as appropriate to them, for example how does a non-smoker feel/think about a smoker or ex-smoker post-ban. Another aim of this study is to gain insight into whether the smoking ban had any significant impact on participants interactions with their friends/family and wider society in public places.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are a self-nominated smoker, non-smoker or ex-smokers who has showed interest in this study and fit the criteria well. The researcher is aiming to obtain six participants, four of whom will be interviewed and the other two being kept as reserves in case any of the four interviewees drop out.

Do I have to take part?

You are under no obligation to take part in the study and you are free to withdraw at any point. You will not experience any loss of benefit or penalty if you choose not to participate.

What will happen if I take part?

The researcher will arrange to talk with you directly either: over the phone or by email to agree on the interview date and time suitable to you, and you will be allowed to ask any questions concerning what will be expected of you. The interview will be conducted over the phone with you which will be voice recorded. After completing the interview the researcher will debrief you explaining the nature of the research, including information regarding receiving the results of the research and withdrawal of your data if you wish. It is estimated that the interview will take no longer than thirty minutes, with the whole study taking up no longer than 45 minutes of your time.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

Participating will involve no physical or psychological discomfort/exertion.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This study hopes to identify information about the impact of the smoking ban on smokers, non-smokers and ex-smokers. Your knowledge, thoughts, feelings, attitudes and personal experiences within this field will be a valuable part of the data collection process, which seeks to provide an evidence base to the impact of the smoking ban. You will not receive any financial rewards/travel expenses for taking part in the current study.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential and anonymous?

Yes. You will be allocated a participant code that will always be used to identify any data that you provide. Your name or other personal details will not be associated with your data. Only the researcher will have access to any identifiable information; paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and electronic information will be stored on a password-protected computer. This will be kept separate from any data and will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

How will my data be stored?

Any information and data gathered during this research study will only be available to the researcher identified in this information sheet. Should the research be presented or published in any form, then that information will be generalized (i.e. your personal information or data will not be identifiable).

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results will be used in the formation of a thesis that will be examined as part of an undergraduate degree programme. Occasionally, some results might be presented at a conference or published in a journal but they will always remain anonymous. All information and data gathered during this research will be stored in line with the Data Protection Act and will be destroyed after a maximum of 3 years following the conclusion of the study. During that time the data may be used by members of the research team only for purposes appropriate to the research question, but at no point will your personal information or data be revealed.

Who is Organizing and Funding the Study?

This study has not received any funding.

Who has reviewed this study?

The study and its protocol has received full ethical approval from the Northumbria University ethical approval system. If you require confirmation of this please contact the chair of postgraduate ethics using the details below and stating the full title and principal investigator of the study:

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Contact for further information:

Researcher email: joanna-frost@northumbria.ac.uk

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Name of another person who can provide independent information or advice about the project: lan4.robson@northumbria.ac.uk