

# Royal Society for the Support of Women of Scotland Study

## Participant Information Sheet

You are invited to take part in a study for The Royal Society for the Support of Women of Scotland (RSSWS). Taking part is entirely up to you. To help you decide, this sheet tells you why the research is taking place and what it will involve if you take part. Please take the time to read this sheet carefully. Feel free to ask the researcher a question if something is not clear. Please keep this sheet for future reference.

### What is the study about?

The study will gather information from women approaching the age of 50 or over who are or have become single and experience financial hardship. This research sets out to understand the issues they face, discuss the support that is already available and identify potential opportunities the Society could respond to.

### Who are we?

Iconic Consulting has been asked to carry out this research for RSSWS. We are a social research company based in Edinburgh. Ian Clark, Briege Nugent and Amber Imran will be carrying out the research.

### Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been asked to take part because we want to hear from women directly the challenges faced and support available.

### What are the possible benefits from taking part?

The study will help the research team understand the emerging issues single older women face and to develop suggestions for the Society for their future development.

In addition, everyone who takes part will receive a £20 voucher for a retailer of their choice. This is a small token of our appreciation for participants sharing their time and experiences with us.

### **What will taking part involve?**

We will arrange an interview to ask you questions about you and your situation, any support you receive and ways this could potentially be improved in the future. The interview should take approximately 30 minutes and can be undertaken in-person or by telephone, whichever you prefer, and at a time that suits you, including weekends or evenings. You do not have to answer a question if you do not want to and you can end the interview at any time. Please let the researcher know if you would like to stop at any point.

The researchers will take written notes during the interview. They will also ask you at the start of the interview if they can audio record the discussion. You can say no to this if you want. The only reason they ask is so they can listen back to the interview afterwards in case they have missed anything in their notes.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. If you do not want to take part in the study you do not have to and this will not affect you in any way. Also, it is ok if you agree to take part but then change your mind as you can leave the study at any time without giving a reason.

### **Will anyone be able to find out what I say during the interview?**

The interview will be totally confidential. This means only the researchers will know exactly what you say. The report will not include your name or any other way of identifying you or your answers.

If we are concerned that you or someone else is at risk of serious or immediate harm we do have to report our concerns and we would speak to you about how we can help connect you to appropriate support.

### **What will happen to the information collected during the interview?**

The information collected will only be used for this study. During the study, data will be stored in locked cabinets or secure password protected servers with access limited to the research team at Iconic Consulting.

After the interview the notes and the recording (if you agree to one) will be stored securely by Iconic for up to 24 months. They will then be permanently destroyed.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

We will write a report based on the answers given by all of the people taking part in this study. No names will be used in the report and it will not be possible for anyone to link anything in the report to you. We may use some direct quotes from what you say in the report; where we do this, we will make sure we do not include names or any identifying information.

### **Do I have to provide any personal information?**

Your name and contact details will be kept confidential and managed securely throughout the study. We will not ask for any other personal information such as your address or date of birth.

### **What if I want to find out more or have a complaint about this study?**

If you have any questions about this study, or if you are not happy about something and want to complain then please contact Ian Clark from Iconic Consulting who is leading the study team. His contact details are as follows:

Ian Clark, Director  
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**Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering taking part.  
Please retain this sheet for your records.**