

Are you a qualified and practising lawyer undertaking legal aid work in England and Wales?

I am undertaking this research in my capacity as a PhD student, alongside my research team at Birkbeck, University of London, comprising Professor Almuth McDowall and Dr Kevin Teoh.

What is the purpose of this study?

My research aims to identify specific work-related characteristics which are important to legal aid lawyers. Important characteristics may touch upon the nature of work and the working environment.

The study also aims to understand how work characteristics differ across practice contexts and I have also interviewed lawyers practising in large commercial law firms.

Why does this research matter?

There has been an increased awareness around mental health and wellbeing in the legal profession over recent years. We know several characteristics of work and the work environment are important for wellbeing; however, we currently know very little about which of these are important, to a greater and lesser extent, for lawyers working in different sections of the legal profession.

Who can take part?

I am particularly interested in speaking to qualified and practising lawyers working in law firms in England and Wales, who primarily undertake criminal or civil legal aid work.

What will participation in this research involve?

I will arrange an online, one-to-one, interview between yourself and I via Microsoft Teams, at a time that suits you. I envisage interviews to last between 60 and 75 minutes.

Will my responses and information be kept confidential?

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. Interviews will be strictly confidential and any information you share will be treated on a fully anonymous basis.

How do I take part?

If you are interested in taking part, please contact me by email (L.Soon@bbk.ac.uk) to arrange a convenient time for interview.

Thank you for your interest.

Lucinda Soon
PhD Student
Birkbeck University of London