Information sheet for participants

Justice to Youth Language Needs: Human rights undermined by an invisible disadvantage

This research is part of COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). The ethics approval arrangements for this study have been handled by the University of Greenwich.

COST is a funding organisation for research and innovation networks. This study is being undertaken by researchers involved in the COST action *Justice to Youth Language Needs: Human rights undermined by an invisible disadvantage*, who have experience of language and the criminal justice system.

Who is undertaking the research and what is it about?

The study seeks to raise awareness of the need to assess the language abilities of children aged 10–17 involved in criminal justice proceedings. We want to develop assessment tools that could be used during police investigations and interviews with child suspects.

Who can take part?

We want to obtain information from solicitors, including duty solicitors, and accredited police station representatives who have experience of advising or representing children aged 10–17 during police investigations and interviews.

The questionnaire aims to establish an initial baseline of awareness of children's language and communication needs, particularly during police interviews. The findings will inform recommendations developed through the COST action.

If you would like to take part, please complete the questionnaire using the following link:

https://gre.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Tp4NLDv2079dWu

What will taking part involve?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire which should take no more than 20 minutes.

All comments received from the questionnaire will be anonymised. You are not being asked for any information that could identify you. Participation in this study is not linked to any career progression or career pathway.

Will anyone know that I have taken part?

Your responses to the questionnaire are confidential and anonymous. Participation is entirely voluntary, and the existing study arrangements provide for withdrawal from the research up until 1 January 2027, before responses are analysed.

If you wish to withdraw, please contact Dr Louise Hewitt, Associate Professor in Law at the University of Greenwich, who is part of the COST action's Ethics Group: Louise.hewitt@greenwich.ac.uk.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to confirm your consent within the online questionnaire before answering the survey questions.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact Dr Louise Hewitt at Louise.hewitt@greenwich.ac.uk.