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**Online survey of mental health patients with suicidal thoughts and/or behaviours and who use the Internet**

**Participant Information Sheet (PIS)**

You are being invited to take part in a research study that aims to gain insight into thoughts and/or behaviours of suicide in people who have been in contact with secondary mental health services\* within the past 12 months and who use the Internet.

\*Examples of secondary mental health services are hospitals, community mental health teams (CMHTs), crisis resolution and home treatment teams (CRHTs), assertive outreach teams and early intervention teams.

Before you decide if you want to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

**About the research**

* **Who will conduct the research?**

Lana Bojanić, Dr Isabelle Hunt, Dr Sandra Flynn, Dr Saied Ibrahim, and Dr Pauline Turnbull who are all researchers at the Centre for Mental health and Safety at the University of Manchester.

* **What is the purpose of the research?**

We are carrying out this research to help create safer online environments for patients and other internet users who may be suicidal. This research aims to provide an in-depth investigation into thoughts of suicide and suicide attempts in people who have been in contact with secondary mental health within the past 12 months and who use the Internet. Knowing the characteristics of patients and their use of the internet in the context of suicidality can help create safer online environments and more targeted interventions.

We are recruiting participants online using both mental health and non-mental health related websites and social media. We aim to recruit at least 200 participants.

* **Am I suitable to take part?**

You can take part if you are:

a) aged **18 or above**,

b) have been **in contact with secondary mental health services within the past 12 months**,

c) have experienced **suicidal thoughts/behaviours/attempts in the past 12 months**,

d) **use the internet**,

e) **live in the UK**, and

f) have a good command of English language.

* **Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

Findings will be published in academic journals and form part of the lead researcher’s thesis; they will also be presented at national and international conferences. The research might be used to inform and improve patient safety and care. All data will be presented in an aggregate format and it will be impossible to identify individual participants.

* **Who has reviewed the research project?**

This research has been reviewed by members of a patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) group at the University of Manchester; the PPIE group involves people who use services, carers, and other community members. [To indicate that the project has been reviewed by The University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 1/2/3/5/, Proportionate Research Ethics Committee or the name of the Division/School Ethics Committee.]

**What would my involvement be?**

* **What would I be asked to do if I took part?**

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to complete an online survey. The survey should take no longer than **15 minutes** to complete.

After consenting to take part and starting the study, you will have three days to complete it, after which an incomplete response will be recorded.

You will be asked to tell us a bit about yourself, such as your age and gender, your recent mental health history (any contact with secondary mental health services, your treatment, etc.) and your experiences with thoughts of suicide and/or suicidal behaviours. You will not be asked for any identifiable information such as your name or address; therefore, your responses will be completely anonymous. You can opt out of this research at any point without any consequences.

The researchers acknowledge that talking about suicidal thoughts and/or behaviours could be distressing for many. You do not have to complete the survey in one go; you can take your time, stop and re-start the survey if you wish to. You will have three days to complete the survey once you consent to participate and start the survey. When asking about suicidal behaviours, the survey will not be asking questions about details such as ‘methods’. In case you experience any distress please refer to the resources below (help in a crisis, online help, phone helplines) that are also signposted throughout the survey, should you need this at any stage. Your participation is much appreciated and your time greatly valued. Your contribution will help to inform interventions for other mental health patients.

* **Will I be compensated for taking part?**

No, there is no compensation for participating.

* **What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, completing the survey will be taken as consent to participate in the research. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been submitted as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further, just exit your browser window.

**Data Protection and Confidentiality**

* **What information will you collect about me?**

In order to participate in this research project we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “special category personal identifiable information”. Specifically, we will need to collect:

* Ethnicity
* Sexual orientation
* Information about your mental health
* **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

* **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. However, as we are not collecting any identifiable data, you cannot request a copy/removal of your data once submitted.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095).

* **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

* + The data you provide to us is fully anonymous (the researchers will not be able to identify the participants)
  + Data will be held on a secure University storage
  + Data will be retained for a minimum of 5 years after the publication, according to the University regulation
  + Data might be used for secondary research purposes that fall within the scope of the research described here
  + No data will be archived

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned.

**What if I have a complaint?**

**Contact details for complaints**

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact: DR **ISABELLE HUNT at** [**isabelle.m.hunt@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:isabelle.m.hunt@manchester.ac.uk) **or 0161 275 0706**

**If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact**

TheResearch Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: [research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk)  or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email [dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk) or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner’s Office](https://ico.org.uk/concerns) about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information Tel 0303 123 1113

**Contact Details**

If you would like more information on the study or how to complete the survey, please contact **LANA (lana.bojanic-2@manchester.ac.uk)**