

Markers of Everyday Life Listening Intentions and Outcomes (MELLIO) WP1

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study that will help us understand 'listening intentions' in everyday life. What we mean by this is finding out what you are trying to hear or listen to at any point in time.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

About the research

➤ **Who will conduct the research?**

Dr Gabrielle Saunders, Professor of Audiology, Division of Psychology, Communication & Human Neuroscience, University of Manchester

Dr Scott Bannister, Research Associate, Division of Psychology, Communication & Human Neuroscience, University of Manchester

Helen Whiston, Senior Research Audiologist, Division of Psychology, Communication & Human Neuroscience, University of Manchester

What is the purpose of the research?

To find out what you are trying to hear or listen to at any point in time.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you:

- Are over 45 years old
- Have mild to moderate/severe hearing loss
- Use your hearing aid/s daily
- Are happy to have a new app installed on your smartphone for study data collection. (Note: your phone will require operating system iPhone IOS 14.0 or later; or Android 5.0 or later)

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

Data obtained from this study may be published in academic journal articles, professional magazines and/or may be presented at professional conferences. All data will be anonymised (i.e. your name will not be disclosed in journals or at presentations). We will also publish a summary of the results on the BRC Hearing Health website: <https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/hearing-health/>

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

This Project Has Been Approved by the University of Manchester's Proportionate Research Ethics Committee 14/01/2026 [Ref: 2026-24162-45298]

➤ **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check**

The researchers involved in this study have undergone satisfactory DBS checks for working with vulnerable adults.

➤ **Who is funding the research project?**

This project has been funded by William Demant foundation.

What would my involvement be?

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

If you agree to take part, you will be invited to visit our Hearing Research facility in the Ellen Wilkinson building, of The University of Manchester, where we will explain the study to you and answer any questions you may have. If you agree to take part, you will sign an informed consent form.

We will then work with you to install the study app (Avicenna) (<https://avicennaresearch.com/>) on your smartphone. You will use this app to answer questions about your listening intentions as they happen over the next week. The app has been approved because it stores all data securely.

You will continue to use your own hearing aids as you normally would during the study.

You will be asked to describe every listening intention you have for two randomly selected days within a 7-day period. We will let you know at the beginning of the study which days they will be. We can offer you some flexibility in this selection that suits your personal circumstances. You will have the choice of typing or voice recording your responses and will be encouraged to take a photograph of your environment using your smartphone to help enrich the description of each situation.

We will provide you with guidance regarding taking photographs, for example we will ask you to avoid taking photographs in which someone's face (particularly that of stranger) is easy to see and identify but if you did wish to, you would need to ask for their permission before doing so. You can ask people to take a photograph of you, should you wish to.

After 1 week we will contact you either by video or telephone call to confirm we have all the data you have provided through the app, ask how you have found the experience of taking part and let you know how to remove the app from your phone.

The data from this experiment will be used to understand what people want to listen to on a daily basis so in the future hearing aids can be improved.

➤ **Other**

At the end of the study you will be offered an optional questionnaire to complete that collects information about you such as age, gender, occupation, and other protected characteristics. The purpose of this form is to collect anonymous information about the people who consent to take part in our research studies. The NIHR BRC is committed to ensuring that its research projects are

accessible to everyone regardless of race, gender, ability, religion, sexual orientation, or age. The information you give on this form will help us comply with our policy of ensuring equality in our work. **This form is optional, and you do not have to complete all/any of the questions if you do not want to. The responses are completely anonymous, so we won't know who has completed or not.**

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

You will be compensated for your time both for attending the University and the time you spend each day answering the survey. This will be based on a daily rate and providing responses in the study app, up to a maximum of £50 per day. You will be reimbursed by electronic bank to bank payment when you have completed the study through the University of Manchester's finance department.

➤ **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, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still 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 anonymised 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.

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 "personal identifiable information". Specifically, we will need to collect:

- Name
- Age
- Gender
- Contact details
- Voice recordings - optional in the study app (voice only if you choose to give your responses verbally rather than typing them)
- Photographs - optional in the study app (for example images of your surrounding environment, yourself or other individuals during your daily life)

As mentioned above, we will also ask to collect some demographic data in order for us to monitor inclusion, equality and diversity of our participants. It is entirely optional as to whether you wish to provide the following information to us:

1. Ethnicity
2. Religion
3. Employment status

4. Educational level
5. Sexual orientation
6. Disability

➤ **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”.

The additional demographic data is optional for monitoring purposes and is not a requirement in order to take part in our research.

➤ **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. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about you. Sometimes your rights may be limited if it would prevent or delay the research. If this happens you will be informed by the research team.

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](#). This can be found using the following link (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095>) or a hard copy can be provided should you wish.

➤ **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:

To ensure confidentiality, as soon as possible, your study data will be pseudo anonymised, meaning your name and any other identifying information will be removed and replaced with a random ID number. Only the research team will have access to the key that links this ID number to your personal information, and when the study is complete this key-link will be destroyed.

We will retain your anonymised study data for 5 years. Your study data will be safely stored on UoM servers in a digital folder, only accessible to the study team and used only for the purposes described above. If you have consented for us to keep your contact details, study researchers may contact you about future participation in research that relates directly to this study. Your contact information will be retained on UoM servers until the study ends in July 2027 unless you request us to remove it sooner.

Any voice recordings will be transcribed by the researchers as soon as possible and the original recordings deleted.

We will edit any photographs provided through the study app so that the face is no longer identifiable. We will do this by placing a coloured circle over the identifiable face(s).

The data collected during this research may, in future, be used for secondary analysis in combined anonymised form. This means that your data is gathered together with everyone else's, with all personal identifiers removed to ensure your privacy and confidentiality. This work could support further research projects or educational activities (including training and capacity building), conducted by our research team or by others who have received our permission to use the data for their projects.

At the end of this project we will deposit a fully anonymised dataset in an open repository where it will be permanently stored. We will use Figshare at the University of Manchester Library. Researchers at other institutions and others will be able to access the anonymised data directly from the repository and use it for further research or to check our analysis and results.

Paper copies of data, including your signed informed consent forms will be retained in a locked filing cabinet for 5 years on UoM premises for audit purposes.

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. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

Dr Gabrielle Saunders

Gabrielle.saunders@manchester.ac.uk

Helen Whiston

Helen.whiston@manchester.ac.uk

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:

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: 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 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](#) about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Tel 0303 123 1113

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part, then please contact the researcher(s)

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07543 228856

This Project Has UREC Approval.