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## Information Sheet for Potential Participants in qualitative interviews

**An assessment of the DSM and its application within the criminal justice system.**

My name is Amanda Smith and I am an undergraduate student from the School of Life, Sport and Social Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University. As part of my degree course, I am undertaking a research project for my Honours dissertation. The title of my project is: An assessment of the DSM and its application within the criminal justice system.

This study is about the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 (DSM) in the forensic field. The study will investigate the idea that the use of the DSM in the forensic field has the potential to remove responsibility of those who have committed crimes. The research also aims to investigate the level of training given to individuals working in the criminal justice system on the use of the DSM.

I am looking for volunteers to participate in the project. Adults who are able to provide informed consent will be included. This research project will not be including vulnerable groups that are unable to provide informed consent. I am looking for individuals that have experience of working with people with mental disorders within the criminal justice system.

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to take part in an interview which will focus on the ways in which the DSM 5 is used by individuals working within the criminal justice system. The whole procedure should take no longer than 1 hour. If you would like to take part in the interview, the researcher will arrange a mutually suitable time for a telephone or Internet (Skype) interview. All interviews will be recorded and transcribed. If you feel uncomfortable with this arrangement, at any point, do not hesitate to make the researcher aware. If you decide to take part in the interview and there are questions that you are uncomfortable answering, you have the right to refuse to answer these. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any stage, you would not have to give reason, and it will not affect your treatment.

All data will be anonymised as much as possible. Your name will be replaced with a participant number, and it will not be possible for you to be identified in any reporting of the data gathered. It may be possible to identify your voice from recordings/Skype videos; however these recordings will only be available to the lead researcher, Amanda Smith, and will be destroyed at the end of data collection and examination. All data collected will be kept in a secure place, electronic files will be stored on a password protected computer and hard copies will be kept in a locked filing cabinet. The lead researcher, Amanda Smith, will be the only person with access to these. These will be kept till the end of the examination process, following which all data that could identify you will be destroyed.

The data collected may be disseminated in the form of a workshop, conference paper and/or academic article.

If you would like to contact an independent person who knows about this project but is not involved in it, you are welcome to contact Dr Barbara Neades, email: B.Neades@napier.ac.uk or alternatively, the project supervisor Dr Salma Siddique, email: s.siddique@napier.ac.uk.

If you have read and understood this information sheet, any questions you had have been answered, and you would like to be a participant in the study, please email a copy of the attached consent form to the lead researcher (Amanda Smith, email: 05006573@live.napier.ac.uk). If you choose not to take part in the study, please delete this email, and it will be understood that you have ‘opted out’ of the research project.

Contact details of researcher:

Name of researcher: Amanda Smith

Address: Undergraduate Student, Criminology, School of Health, Life & Social Sciences

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Contact details of supervisor:

Name of Supervisor: Dr Salma Siddique

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