**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study Title**

Exploring the impact of shielding on junior doctors during the COVID-19 pandemic: interviewing junior doctors and their supervisors.

**The study team**

Dr Amy Martin; Specialty Trainee in Public Health, Yorkshire and the Humber School of Public Health

Dr Ian Hunter, Director of Medical Education; NHS Lanarkshire

Catie Paton; Associate Director of Medical Education; NHS Lanarkshire

Professor Susan Jamieson; Professor of Health Professions Education; University of Glasgow

**Invitation to take part**

You are being invited to take part in this study. Before agreeing to take part, it is important that you understand what this will involve. Please read the following information carefully, discuss with others as you wish, and contact the study team if anything is unclear. If you agree to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet and a consent form to keep for your own records.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

This study aims to explore the experiences of junior doctors who have experiences of shielding during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a Scotland-wide study which follows on from a small pilot study in one Scottish health board.

We believe that this study will offer valuable insight into the medium-term implications of shielding on junior doctors with respect to factors such as health and training. More broadly we hope to develop understanding of the experiences of support for junior doctors who take leave from the clinical environment for health reasons. Interviewing supervisors will help to understand the dimension of support provision.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

1. You are a junior doctor in Scotland (or were during the pandemic response)
2. In a training or non-training post
3. And you have experience of shielding during the COVID-19 pandemic

**OR**

1. You are a post-CCT doctor in Scotland (e.g., a consultant or GP trainer)
2. And you have experience of supervising junior doctors who were shielding (e.g., Educational/Clinical Supervisor, Training Programme Director)

**Do I have to take part?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be given an opportunity to ask further questions and asked to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any point without giving a reason.

**What does taking part involve?**

You will be asked to read this information sheet and sign a consent form stating that you agree to participate.

You will be contacted by a member of the study team (Dr Amy Martin) to arrange a 30– 45-minute interview. This is expected to take place in August - October 2022, at a time that is convenient for you.

The interview will be carried out by Dr Martin (or another member of the study team) over Microsoft Teams. A hyperlink will be sent to your email address inviting you to join the Microsoft Teams call at a time of your choice.

This interview will be video recorded over the Microsoft Teams platform in order for the investigators to understand non-verbal communication present during the interview. There is an option for this to be audio-recorded as an alternative.

**What is required to take part?**

The interview will be carried out over Microsoft Teams and a hyperlink will be sent to your email address inviting you to join the Microsoft Teams call at a time of your choice. Therefore, taking part requires access to a computer, use of the Microsoft Teams application, and an active email account.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Taking part will involve spending 30-45 minutes to complete the interview.

Interviews will discuss experiences of shielding, and this may involve sensitive topics that some participants may find upsetting.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study. The information collected will contribute to understanding of the implications of shielding on junior doctors. This is a topic where there is currently limited investigation and information.

**Will taking part be confidential?**

All information collected from your participation in this study will be kept in a

confidential manner according to data protection regulations. You will be identified with an ID number and any identifying information will be removed so that you cannot be recognised from your data.

All data will be stored electronically on a secure password protected file. No-one outside of the study team and secure transcription service will have access to this.

**What will happen to my data?**

Investigators will manage and store your personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018). We will be collecting and storing identifiable information from you as part of this study. We may keep this identifiable information about you for up to 10 years after the study has finished. After this point your data will be destroyed in accordance with relevant procedures. Personal identifiers will be stored securely and separately from the interview data.

We need to store your information in specific ways to make sure the study is as reliable and accurate as possible. Therefore, if you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information collected about you up to that point.

Identifiable information about you may be shared with others to check the study is done properly. The interview recordings will be shared with a specialist transcription service specialising in the transcription of confidential data.

Your data will be included in the findings of this study that may be published in scientific journals, grant report summary, and conference presentations. Your name will not appear in any of these publications or presentations.

If you have any questions or would like further information about how we use your information, please contact Dr Amy Martin at: shieldingresearch@gmail.com.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The findings of this study intend to be published and presented at conferences.

Anonymous quotations from interviews may be used in the presentation of findings. Identifying information will be removed.

**Who is organising and funding the study?**

This study is part of a grant received by Dr Martin from SMERC (Scottish Medical Education Research Consortium).

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Research and Development team in collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire Research and Development team.

**To participate or for further information:**

Please contact Dr Amy Martin: shieldingresearch@gmail.com.

**Thank you for considering taking part.**