

INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS

November 2016

HOUSEHOLD FLOOD PROTECTION - ONLINE SURVEY

Dear Participant,

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and ask us (using the contact details supplied below) if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study will examine the adoption of a variety of flood protection measures, together with information on flood experience, questions asking about your general outlook on life and finally some background information on your household. The findings from the research will help to establish when and how people make decisions about protecting their homes and belongings from possible flood damage, which in turn will inform guidance for those people whose homes are likely to be at risk in the future.

Why have I been invited to participate?

We are inviting people who have joined a community flood group to complete this survey. This is because we are interested in contacting householders who live in areas that are at risk of flooding (whether they have already had floodwater in their homes or not) and, when deciding whether to protect their home from flood damage, people often turn to local flood groups for information and advice.

For this reason, please do not share this survey link with people who do not belong to your own flood group (even if they live in the same area and have been flooded) as this questionnaire has not been designed for them.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part in the study you can use the link provided to complete an on-line questionnaire. Most of the questions simply need a box to be checked, so it should not take up too much of your time. **All the information collected is anonymous** - names and addresses are not needed, just postcodes. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part - you may choose not to continue with the survey at any point during the completion process without giving a reason. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to check a box confirming you are giving your informed consent.

What are the benefits of participating?

By participating in the project you will be helping other people who live in areas at risk of flooding, both now and in the future, by improving our understanding of how people make decisions about flood risk.

Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?

Your responses will be kept confidential and only the researchers will have access to the information. Any information which could identify you will be removed from published results of the study. Research data will be stored until it has been deleted by the primary investigator at the University of the West of England (typically around 5 years).

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be used to recommend how guidance on flood protection can be improved. The results will be published in:

- Papers in refereed journals
- PhD thesis
- Academic books; and
- Conference papers

Who is organising and funding the study?

The study is part of a doctoral research programme, supported by the University of the West of England. It developed from a project called 'Community Resilience to Extreme Weather' funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council between 2008 and 2011. No insurance companies have funded this survey, nor will they have direct access to the results (other than the summaries included in the publications listed above).

Contact for further information

For further information, please contact the lead researcher:

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information.