

Participant Information Sheet – forensic marking interviews

The College of Policing is the professional body for the police in England and Wales. The purpose of the College is to provide those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public, and secure public trust. To enable us to fulfil our purpose we rely on volunteers to participate in research.

For this project, we are working in partnership with researchers from the Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA).

We would like to invite you to take part in one of our research projects. The information sheet tells you why the research is being done, what it will involve for you, what information we will ask from you, and what we will do with that information.

We will in the course of this project be collecting personal information. Under General Data Protection Regulation (2016), we are required to provide a justification (what is called a “legal basis”) in order to collect such information. The legal basis for this project is “task carried out in the public interest”.

What is the purpose of the research?

We want to evaluate a forensic marking intervention to see how effective it is. People who have experienced domestic abuse are provided with products by the police (such as a hand held spray or gel) which can forensically mark a perpetrator to provide evidence that they have been present at a specific location. Perpetrators receive a warning that the victim has received a forensic marking kit, to deter them from offending again. The research is funded by the Cabinet Office.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have received this invitation as you opted to find out more about taking part in an interview in the survey about your forensic marking products that you were given by the police.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part in an interview. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form saying you agree to participate.

We want to talk to people in each area who have received the forensic marking products to find out what they think about the products and their experience of the police. We would like you to take part in two interviews will be held on Teams or by telephone, the first one approximately four weeks after receiving the handheld spray and/or gel and the second one four or five months later. These interviews will each last between 15-30 minutes. The interviews will be recorded to assist with analysis.

What are the benefits for me in taking part?

Your involvement will help us to understand if using forensic marking products is an effective way of providing support for people who have experienced domestic abuse and preventing further harm.

After the interview you will receive a £15 voucher to recognise your contribution to the research.

Are there any risks for me if I take part?

The research is unlikely to pose any risk or disadvantage to you. The questions relate to what you think about the products you received, whether you have had any unwanted contact with the perpetrator and your experience of dealing with the police. If you did find that reflecting back causes you any distress, contact details for support services are listed at the end of the information sheet.

If you change your mind about participating in the research, you can withdraw your data up to seven days after you have completed the survey by sending your request to forensic.marking@college.police.uk and citing the last four digits of your mobile phone number.

What will you do with my information?

Any information you provide will be treated as confidential and research participants will be anonymised in any reports of findings from the research, so you will not be identified. The exception to this is where you tell us something that indicates that you or someone else is at

risk of harm. In this instance, we may need to share this information with a relevant authority; however, we would speak to you about this first.

At the completion of the project, we will retain anonymised data from the research which will be stored securely on College and Durham University systems for 10 years, in line with College policies.

We will use the data collected in this research to inform policing policy and practice, through the preparation of research reports, presentations, and academic outputs such as books or articles. We will place publicly accessible reports and academic outputs on the College and Durham University websites.

What happens next?

A researcher will contact you using the contact details you provided (either by text or email) to arrange a convenient time for you to take part in the interview.

If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Erol at forensic.marking@college.police.uk.

Support Organisations

Victim support: [Home - Victim Support](#) 08 08 16 89 111

Women's Aid: [Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](http://womensaid.org.uk)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327