

# Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales follow-up survey: Participant information sheet

**Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh**

You are being asked to take part in a research study that is being undertaken by M.E.L Research (a professional Market Research Company) on behalf of Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Bangor University. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it involves for you. **Please take time to read the following information and decide if you want to take part or not in this study.** You may also contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information - contact details are at the end of this information sheet.

## **1. Why is this study being done?**

Last winter we asked people in the **Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales survey**, which took place during January-March 2022, about their household heating and health. We are now running a follow-up survey about people's ability to keep warm and well at home this winter. This study is important as it will give us information to help inform services and interventions to help people in winter.

## **2. Why have I been chosen?**

You took part in the **Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales survey** last winter (January-March 2022) and agreed to being contacted to take part in future research. M.E.L Research on behalf of Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Bangor University are now inviting you to take part in a follow-up survey. Only people who still live in Wales and that took part in the last survey are being asked to take part in this follow-up survey.

You can take part in Welsh or English. If you require an alternative language, please let M.E.L Research know by email at [phw.survey@melresearch.co.uk](mailto:phw.survey@melresearch.co.uk) and they will do their best to make the arrangements.

## **3. Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Completing the questionnaire is entirely voluntary. You are free to stop at any time, and you do not have to give a reason. A decision to stop will not affect your rights, any current or future health treatment, or any services you receive. You can withdraw your answers to the follow-up survey up until the survey is closed by contacting M.E.L Research (contact details at the end of this information sheet). You are free to withdraw your personal contact information and consent to being contacted from the study at any time.

## **4. Am I suitable to take part?**

You are suitable to take part in the study if you still live in Wales and took part in the **Housing warmth and health and well-being survey** last winter (January-March 2022).

## **5. What will happen if I take part?**

Participants who agreed to be contacted for further research when taking part in the **Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales follow-up survey** will be contacted by M.E.L Research via their preferred contact method (either via telephone or by email) and invited to take part in a short survey.

If telephone was your preferred contact method, you will be contacted by telephone by a trained interviewer from M.E.L Research who will invite you to take part and if you say yes, will complete the survey with you over the phone. If you provided a mobile number, you will receive a text notification

about the survey prior to receiving a phone call. The survey usually takes less than 20 minutes to complete. If you are unable to answer, M.E.L may text or email you (if these contact details have been provided) to provide you with a chance to take part.

If email was your preferred contact method, you will receive a personal invitation via email from M.E.L Research to complete the online survey; please do not share this link with anybody else. If you are unable to respond, M.E.L will send another email invitation and may also telephone or text you (if these contact details have been provided) to remind you of the survey closing date.

At the end of the questionnaire, you will be asked if you would be willing to be contacted again at a later date to take part in future research relating to housing warmth in Wales. If you say yes, Public Health Wales will continue to securely store your name and contact details (telephone number and/or email) and will hold this information separately to the answers you provide to the survey.

You are free to withdraw your personal contact information and consent to being contacted from the study at any time by contacting M.E.L Research (contact details at the end of this information sheet). If the contract with M.E.L Research has expired, contact will be sent to Public Health Wales.

#### **6. What questions are asked?**

The follow-up questionnaire contains most of the questions you answered as part of the last **Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales survey** (January-March 2022). This includes questions about your household heating use and indoor temperature, your level of thermal comfort, health and health-related behaviours and for some general information about you. There are **no** right or wrong answers.

#### **7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You may not receive any direct benefits as a result of taking part in this study, but your answers will help to improve our understanding of people's ability to keep warm and well at home in winter. This will give us information to help inform services and interventions in winter.

#### **8. What are the possible harms of taking part?**

You may find that some of the questions asked are personal in nature. If you feel uncomfortable in answering a question then you do not have to answer that question. You may also find that some of the questions about being able to heat your home may lead to worry or discomfort. At the end of the questionnaire every person who takes part will be directed to an information sheet which has information about financial, housing and health services which you might find useful, including contact details for Advice Link Cymru, Citizen's Advice, StepChange, MIND, National Energy Action, Warm Wales, Nest and more.

M.E.L trained researchers will treat you fairly and with respect. However, if you have any concerns about the study, including the way you have been approached or treated, please contact M.E.L Research. Alternatively, you can contact the Public Health Wales research team or Public Health Wales' independent complaints department. All contact details are at the end of this information sheet.

#### **9. Will my taking part in the study be confidential?**

Your honest answers are important to us and the information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. The researcher will not tell anybody that you have taken part and your answers will be pseudonymised and linked to your previous survey answers using a personal identifier code; that is, a special number that only the research team can identify you from. If you choose to be contacted about future research, we will keep a record of your name and contact details, which will be stored separately to the answers you provide to the survey questions and held until all future research has been completed. Public Health Wales may share your personal contact details with another research company conducting future research on behalf of Public Health Wales. You may then be contacted at

a later date to ask if you would be willing at that time to take part in future research. Your personal contact details will be destroyed at the earliest opportunity in line with Public Health Wales policy or if you decline to be contacted again. You can also withdraw your personal contact information from the study at any time by contacting M.E.L Research (contact details at the end of this information sheet).

All information is treated as confidential and will be stored securely. Only authorised individuals from Public Health Wales and M.E.L Research will have access to your contact information. Bangor University will hold pseudonymous data files but do not have access to the personal data. No individuals will be described or identified in any reports or papers which may result from this study. Public Health Wales' privacy notice is available at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/use-of-site/privacy-notice/>

**Your answers will not be shared with anyone beyond the research team, UNLESS you reveal an intention to harm yourself or somebody else, information indicating somebody may pose a serious risk of harm to you or the public, or the intention to commit an act of terrorism. This would be discussed with you before telling anybody else.**

You can find out more about how we use your information by sending an email to [PHW.Warmth@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:PHW.Warmth@wales.nhs.uk) or [john.lawson@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:john.lawson@wales.nhs.uk).

#### **10. How will the information I give be used and what will happen to the results of the study?**

The findings from the study will be publicly available and published on the Public Health Wales website: [www.phw.nhs.wales](http://www.phw.nhs.wales). Alternatively, if you would like a copy of the findings, please contact us using the contact details below. It is expected that the findings will be available by the end of 2023.

#### **11. Who is organising the research?**

The research is organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being at Public Health Wales and Bangor University.

#### **12. Who is funding the research?**

The research is funded by Public Health Wales.

#### **13. Who has reviewed the study?**

Bangor University Healthcare and Medical Sciences Academic Ethics Committee have provided ethical approval for this study (reference 2022-17239). A Research Ethics Committee is a group of independent people who review research to protect the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of participants and researchers. The project has also been reviewed by the Public Health Wales Research and Development Office.

#### **14. Contact Details**

##### **M.E.L Research**

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##### **The Research Team**

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**Independent contact for complaints:** [Complaints.publichealthwales@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Complaints.publichealthwales@wales.nhs.uk)

**Thank you for your time!**