

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

‘Housing warmth and health and well-being in Wales’ Survey

You are being asked to take part in a research study that is being undertaken by M.E.L Research on behalf of Public Health Wales NHS Trust. 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. Our contact details are at the end of this information sheet.

Why is this study being done?

This survey will help to develop our understanding of how households in Wales keep warm in winter. Currently, there is little information available on what household temperatures are achieved in Wales and any links between indoor temperature and health and well-being. This information is important to ensure that guidelines on minimum indoor temperatures in Wales are appropriate, to keep people comfortable and safe.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been randomly selected for inclusion in the study. Only people who are aged 18 years and over, who live in Wales, are being asked to take part in the study. You can take part in Welsh or English.

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. As the questionnaires are anonymous and we will not be able to identify your personal answers after completion, it will not be possible to withdraw from the study once the questionnaire has been submitted.

Am I suitable to take part?

You are suitable to take part in the study if you are aged 18 years and over and you live in Wales.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part in this research, you will be asked to complete a short telephone survey, which usually takes less than 20 minutes to complete. A trained researcher from M.E.L Research will complete the survey with you over the phone. At the end of the questionnaire, you will be asked if you would like to take part in future research. If you say yes, we will record some contact details from you which will be stored separately to your responses. We may then contact you at a later date to see if you would be willing at that time to take part in future research.

What questions are asked?

You will be asked questions about your home, indoor temperature, thermal comfort and heating use. You will also be asked some general information about you, your health and health-related behaviours. There are **no** right or wrong answers.

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 responses will help to improve our understanding of the links between indoor temperature, housing conditions and health and well-being in Wales. This will help ensure that guidelines on minimum indoor temperatures in Wales are appropriate.

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.

Our 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 on the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

Will my taking part in the study be confidential?

Your honest responses 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 anonymous.

All information is treated as confidential and will be stored securely. Only authorised individuals from Public Health Wales will have access to the information. 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/>

If you choose to be contacted about future research, we will record some contact details from you which will be stored separately to your responses.

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 presented in the form of a report with accompanying infographic and at least one peer-reviewed journal article. All findings will be publicly available. It is expected that the findings will be available by June 2023. A summary of the findings will be available on the Public Health Wales website: www.phw.nhs.wales. Or alternatively, if you would like a copy, please contact us using the contact details below.

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.

Who is funding the research?

The research is co-funded by Public Health Wales and Welsh Government.

Who has reviewed the study?

Bangor University Healthcare and Medical Sciences Academic Ethics Committee have provided ethical approval for this study (reference 2021-17050). 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.

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Thank you for your time