

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

July 2017

Study Title: Self-employment and the Armed Forces Community

Investigator(s): Dr Clare Lyonette, Dr Sally-Anne Barnes and Dr David Owen (IER, University of Warwick); Ms Natalie Fisher and Ms Karen Newell (QinetiQ); Mr Martin Wing (X-Forces)

Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the study about?

Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) has commissioned this piece of research to understand what more can be done to support the Armed Forces Community (ex-Services personnel, spouses and Reservists) in pursuing self-employment and thereby help to maximise their chances of a successful and sustainable transition from the military. This research seeks to fill the current gap in knowledge and contribute to policy-making and service delivery.

Do I have to take part?

It is entirely up to you to decide. Even if you choose to participate, you will be free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason, and this will not affect you or your circumstances in any way.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are happy to take part after reading this information sheet, please click on the link to take you to the survey, which will ask you about your experiences of self-employment. After completing the survey, you may choose not to submit your answers and if you do so, your data will not be used. It is expected that the survey will take around 20 minutes to complete.

What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part in this study?

There are no anticipated risks to you as a research participant. In terms of benefits, it is anticipated that the final report will be made available to all participants: this will provide anonymised data on all participants' experiences of self-employment, highlighting the successes and failures, and so give current and future self-employed ex-Service personnel, Reservists and spouses the opportunity to learn from others.

Expenses and payments

You will not be offered any incentives to take part.

What will happen when the study ends?

Your data will be completely anonymised and the dataset will be made available to Forces in Mind Trust at the end of the project. You will not be identifiable in any way.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be published in a final report and also a peer-reviewed article will be prepared for publication in an academic journal. FiMT is responsible for the

publication of the final report but we would anticipate that all participants will be sent a copy, if they wish.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Yes. We will follow strict ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence. All data will be anonymised and will be stored securely in a password-protected folder at IER. All participants will be given a sequence number for the purposes of reporting, and any identifiers removed to ensure confidentiality. Only the researchers will have access to the data.

Who is organising and funding the study?

Forces in Mind Trust is organising and funding this study, which will be carried out by the Institute for Employment Research (IER) at the University of Warwick, along with QinetiQ and X-Forces.

Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. Please address your complaint to the person below, who is a senior University of Warwick official entirely independent of this study:

Head of Research Governance

Research & Impact Services

University House

University of Warwick

Coventry

CV4 8UW

Email: jane.prewett@warwick.ac.uk / e.c.dight@warwick.ac.uk

Tel: 024 76 522746

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Warwick's Humanities and Social Science Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC): **27/16-17**.

What if I want more information about the study?

If you have any questions about any aspect of the study, or your participation in it, not answered by this participant information sheet, please contact:

C.Lyonette@warwick.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Sheet.