**SCC Undergraduate Ethics Form**

1. **Basic information**

**Name of Student**: Elliot Byrne **Student ID: 38001446**

**Course**: MSci Computer Science (with industrial placement)

**Name of Supervisor**: Adrian Friday

**Project Title**: Wornn recycle: a platform for users to take part in the collecting and sorting of textiles for recycling

**Aim(s) of the research project**. I am exploring the role of an app designed to promote extended use and recycling of clothing. It allows users to collect together and send their old clothes to be recycled. I am looking into whether this kind of service would firstly be used by the general public, and if It would be helpful for recyclers.

To comply with GDPR you also need to have something about the ‘lawful purpose’ of the research.

This usually means a sentence in the ‘aims’ or the 'introduction' along the lines of “In line with GDPR the lawful purpose of this research is a ‘*task in the public interest*’*or 'for scientific research in accordance with safeguards’*.” And then include a link to the University website  <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/participate-in-research/data-protection-for-research-participants/>

1. **Proposed research methods and analysis**

Provide details about:

* the research design (e.g.’ questionnaire, interview, observation…),
* the procedure (e.g. what participants will be asked to do)
* the analysis that will be undertaken:

I will be conducting interviews with participants where they will firstly be asked if they have used traditional recycling services before. They will then be given a demo of the app. Then they will answer questions on what they thought about the UI and whether they would personally use it.

I will conduct a thematic analysis of their responses.

1. **Information about Human Participants**

If applicable, provide details about:

What type of participants will be used in the study?

Young adults – digital natives

What age range is to be used?

19-24

What characteristics (if any) are to be used in selecting participants?

None.

How many participants will be involved?

6

How will participants be recruited?

Opportunity sample

Does the research involve deception, trickery or other procedures that may contravene participants’ informed consent, without timely and appropriate debriefing, or activities that cause stress, anxiety or involve physical contact?

N

Access to records of personal or other confidential information, including genetic or other biological information, concerning identifiable individuals, without their knowledge or consent?

N

Does the research project & associated experiments potentially risk the physical safety of yourself or the participants?

N

Does the research involve travel to areas where you might be at risk?

N

1. **Information about non-human participants such as animals**

If applicable, provide details about:

Does the research involve animals?

N

1. **Data handling**

Provide details about:

What type of data will be collected?

Qualitative in the form of interview answers. There will also be some likert scale questions.

How will this be stored?

Will be written up about in the report and possible stored in my university one drive.

What steps will be taken to ensure the anonymity of the data collected?

Yes – none of the participants will be named in the report.

What steps will be taken to ensure the confidentiality of the data collected? State how individual identifying information will be removed, where the data will be stored and who will have access to the data.

None of the participants will be named in the report – simply referred to as numbers (for example participant 6 said…) I will record the interviews with their permission and these will be transcribed. I will only keep the transcriptions – they are not named in the transcriptions. Only I will have access to the transcripts.

1. Please complete all sections by ringing the appropriate answer.

**1. RISKS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Do any aspects of the study pose a possible risk to participants’ physical well-being (e.g. use of substances such as alcohol or extreme situations such as sleep deprivation)? | Y | N |
| Are there any aspects of the study that participants might find embarrassing or be emotionally upsetting? | Y | N |
| Are there likely to be culturally sensitive issues (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity etc)? | Y | N |
| Does the study require access to confidential sources of information (e.g. medical, criminal, educational records etc.)? | Y | N |
| Might conducting the study expose the researcher to any risks (e.g. collecting data in potentially dangerous environments)? | Y | N |
| Does the intended research involve vulnerable groups (e.g. prisoners, children, older or disabled people, victims of crime etc.) | Y | N |

**2. DISCLOSURE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the study involve covert methods? | Y | N |
| Does the study involve the use of deception, either in the form of withholding essential information about the study or intentionally misinforming participants about aspects of the study. | Y | N |

**3. DEBRIEFING**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do the planned procedures include an opportunity for participants to ask questions and/or obtain general feedback about the study after they have concluded their part in it? | NA | Y | N |

**4. INFORMED PARTICIPATION/CONSENT**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Will participants in the study be given accessible information outlining: a) the general purpose of the study, b) what participants will be expected to do c) individuals’ right to refuse or withdraw at any time? |  | Y | N |
| Will participants have an opportunity to ask questions prior to agreeing to participate? |  | Y | N |
| Have appropriate authorities given their permission for participants to be recruited from or data collected on their premises (e.g. shop managers, head teachers, classroom lecturers)? |  | Y | N |

**5. ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Is participation in the study anonymous? |  | Y | N |
| If anonymity has been promised, do the general procedures ensure that individuals cannot be identified indirectly (e.g. via other information that is taken)? |  | Y | N |
| Have participants been promised confidentiality? |  | Y | N |
| If confidentiality has been promised, do the procedures ensure that the information collected is truly confidential (e.g. that it will not be quoted verbatim)? |  | Y | N |
| Will data be stored in a secure place which is inaccessible to people other than the researcher? |  | Y | N |
| If participants’ identities are being recorded, will the data be coded (to disguise identity) before computer data entry? |  | Y | N |

**7. SUMMARY OF ETHICAL CONCERNS**

**If any of the boxes below require ticks, more detail may be required to get ethical approval. If none of the boxes require ticks, then it is reasonable to expect approval.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| If you have answered ‘YES’ to any of the questions in Section 1 (risks), please tick the box |  |
| If you have answered ‘YES’ to any of the questions in Section 2 (Disclosure/covert methods), please tick the box |  |
| If you have answered ‘NO’ to any of the questions in Section 3 (debriefing), please tick the box |  |
| If you have answered ‘NO’ to any of the questions in Section 4 (consent), please tick the box |  |
| If you have answered ‘NO’ to any of the questions in Section 5 (confidentiality), please tick the box | × |

1. **Declaration**

I confirm that this is an accurate record of the project to be undertaken.

Student signature Date

Elliot Byrne 06/06/2024

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I confirm that I have read this proposal and agree that it is a clear and accurate assessment of the project to be undertaken. I have emailed a copy of this ethics form to the teaching office.

Project supervisor Date

Adrian Friday 6.6.2024

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