

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study title: Treasure Room: A website which allows the public in the UK to find their lost items.

Invitation Paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the project is to evaluate the success of the website using questionnaires which will be developed in this project which may help people find their lost belongings within the UK by making use of simple online posts. The project aims to produce a website which solely serves the purpose of helping the public find their lost items which cannot be covered by the police in the UK due to the recent law changes regarding lost and found in February 2019. The duration of this study will be till 26/03/2021.

Why have been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate in this research as there is a need for public to try the website being built in this project and give their honest feedback using anonymous questionnaires as it will allow the researcher to evaluate the project and understand the key improvement points. Participants above the age of 18 can take part in this project.

Do I have to take part?

As participation is entirely voluntary, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and you may be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to not take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time up until 26/03/2021 and without having to give a reason. Furthermore, there will be anonymous questionnaires which you can opt to fill in or not. If you decide to fill in the questionnaire, you will not be able to withdraw as they will be anonymous.

What will happen to me if I take part?

After you have decided to take part in the project, you will be able to use a website called 'Treasure Room' which focuses on letting users post about lost items they have found and also search for lost items based on location, item type and images. If you decide to post for a lost item you have found, you will need to give out your first name, last name and email address which will be stored in addition to the item's specifications you will be putting in the

post. You will not be required to give out any personal information like your address or phone number. Furthermore, if a person whose lost item you have posted about on the website finds it, that person will put a request to retrieve it and if the answers to the product's specification questions match with yours, you will get an email from the website with the information of the person trying to retrieve it including first name, last name, email address as a way for contact for which you can decide to contact. You are free to request to remove any posts you have published, and you are free to request to remove your personal data any time before 26/03/2020 which you used to publish the post. Lastly, there will be anonymous questionnaires including simple usability and success questions which you can fill in if you wish to as it is voluntary.

What do I have to do?

There are no lifestyle restrictions when participating in this project. The only criteria is to be above the age of 18 to be a participant.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no anticipated disadvantages or risks associated with taking part in this study.

What if something goes wrong?

The ethical guidelines and procedures put in place will ensure that there is very little that can go wrong and if it did, it would have minimal impact on any participant.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Any information about you which leaves the University/hospital/surgery/local authority premises, etc., will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be identified from it.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The sole purpose of the research study is to understand the success of the project for evaluation with the use of questionnaires and the results of the research study will not be published anywhere.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is not funded. The research is organised by Mr Aryan Dang (student) in conjunction with Brunel University London.

What are the indemnity arrangements?

Brunel provides appropriate insurance cover for research which has received ethical approval.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by:

Brunel University London Research Ethic Committee

College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Chair – Professor Hua Zhao (Hua.Zhao@brunel.ac.uk)

Contact for further information:**Researcher**

Mr Aryan Dang (1721964@brunel.ac.uk)

Researcher's Supervisor

Ms Rumayna Neykova (Rumyana.Neykova@brunel.ac.uk)

Brunel University London Research Ethic Committee

College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Chair – Professor Hua Zhao (Hua.Zhao@brunel.ac.uk)

Every individual participating in this study will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed consent form to keep.

Thank you for taking part in this study!