

# Participant Information Sheet

The purpose of this study is to investigate methods of matching individuals together to play games, in order to reduce their social isolation. The study will be assessing the effectiveness of matching participants to play a game which is considered as 'casual', 'approachable' and 'easily available'.

The investigators of this study are the following:

- Jacob Poulton ([jp1808@york.ac.uk](mailto:jp1808@york.ac.uk))
- James Walker ([james.walker@york.ac.uk](mailto:james.walker@york.ac.uk))

No funding was used or will be used for this study.

## Participation

Participation will involve the following:

1. The participant will create an account on the website, using an email and a password.
2. Upon account creation, the participant will fill out a questionnaire designed to assess their personality traits.
3. The participant will also be asked to specify a method of contact for other participants.
4. Participants will then be matched into groups based upon the personality trait data, where they will be given the methods of contact for their matches, so that they may contact each other.
5. Matched participants will then be intended to play a game together, potentially multiple times.
6. At the end of the study, participants will be able to fill in a second questionnaire regarding their experience.

Benefits from participating involve a potential reduction in social isolation, as well as the potential for forming new social connections with other participants.

The primary risk of participating, is that a malicious user may also participate, and then act nefariously once matched into a group. If this occurs, the participant may contact an investigator to resolve the issue.

### **Participation within this study is voluntary.**

Participants may withdraw consent at any time during the study, and within two weeks of the study ending.

Participants may withdraw for any reason, without negative consequences.

To request withdrawal, participants may email either of the specified investigators.

# Data Protection

The study will collect the following data regarding the participant:

- Email address.
- Personality trait information resulting from filling in a questionnaire.
- A method of contact allowing participants to communicate with other participants.
- The groups that the participants are matched into during the study.
- Responses to a questionnaire regarding participants' experiences.

No future phases of study will contact participants.

Data collected will be treated with full confidentiality and will be stored in a secure database on computers controlled by the University of York. Only the specified investigators will access the data.

## Data Anonymisation

Any data that is analysed or publicised will be anonymised, meaning that it will not be identifiable as belonging to the participant.

The method for anonymisation is as follows:

1. Any personal data that is stored, will be stored within a specified table in the database. A copy of the data will be made, which excludes this table.
2. Any open-ended answers on questionnaires will be inspected to ensure no personal data is included. Any personal data found will be immediately redacted.

After the study and the window for withdrawal have both ended, the data will be permanently anonymised, by performing the procedure above, but deleting the original database. No remaining copy will exist containing personal data.

## UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018

The data controller is the University of York.

The Data Protection Officer may be contacted at [dataprotection@york.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@york.ac.uk) for any data protection questions, comments or complaints.

The legal basis for this research is GDPR Article 6 (1) (e).