

Water Quality Monitoring Application

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study aims to improve the usability and functionality of a web-based application focused on monitoring environmental pollutants. The application supports better decision-making for compliance with environmental standards and presents pollutant data in an interactive and user-friendly way. This research is part of a group coursework project for the COMP2811 User Interfaces module at the University of Leeds.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part, and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

About the research

Who will conduct the research?

The research will be conducted by a group of undergraduate students in the School of Computing, University of Leeds, as part of a coursework project.

What is the purpose of the research?

The purpose of this research is to collect feedback on the functionality and usability of specific pages within the pollutant monitoring application, including the Dashboard Overview and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) page. The feedback will be used to improve the user interface and features of the application.

Participants were chosen because they represent potential users of the application, such as students, professionals, and environmentally conscious individuals. Approximately 4–5 participants will be involved in this study.

Am I suitable to take part?

You are welcome to participate if:

- You are aged 18 or over.
- You consent to providing feedback on the application's design and usability.

Will the outcomes of the research be published?

The findings from this research will be used solely for the completion of the coursework module. The results will be anonymized and may be presented to module instructors for assessment purposes.

Who has reviewed the research project?

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Leeds Research Ethics Committee as part of the COMP2811 module requirements.

What would my involvement be?

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

1. View and interact with specific pages of the application.
2. Answer a series of pre-defined questions about the usability, design, and functionality of the app.
3. Provide any additional feedback or suggestions for improvement.

The interview will last approximately **20–30 minutes** and will be conducted online via Zoom. Participation is voluntary, and you may skip any question you do not wish to answer.

Will I be compensated for taking part?

Participation is voluntary, and no compensation will be provided.

What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You may choose not to take part or withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to give proper consent. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, Once your feedback has been anonymized, it will not be possible to remove your data.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

What information will you collect about me?

In order to participate in this research project we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “personal identifiable information”. Specifically we will need to collect:

- Your name (optional).
- Your feedback and suggestions during the interview.

Your feedback will be anonymized before analysis, and no identifying information will be included in the final submission.

Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example you can request a copy of the information we hold about you.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Leeds is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

- **Confidentiality Measures:** Participants will be assigned an ID number known only to the research team. This pseudonymised ID will replace your name and any identifying details during the analysis.
- **Anonymisation:** All data will be anonymised as soon as the research objectives are met, and any key linking your ID to your identity will be destroyed at that point.
- **Data Storage:** Data will be stored securely on University of Leeds servers and accessed only by the research team.
- **Retention Period:** Anonymised data will be stored for five years after the completion of the study, in accordance with University guidelines, after which it will be securely deleted.
- **No Third-Party Sharing:** Your identifiable data will not be shared with any third parties. Anonymised data may be included in coursework submissions but will not include information that can identify you.
- **Potential Disclosure:** In rare cases where safety concerns arise, confidentiality may need to be breached to inform appropriate support services or authorities (e.g., if there is a risk of harm to you or others).

Your data will be processed in compliance with the **Data Protection Act** and the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**. You have the right to request access to your data, and further details on your rights are available in the **University of Leeds Privacy Notice for Research**.

Please also note that individuals from The University of Leeds or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any concerns or complaints about the research, please use the following contact details:

Module Leader:

Full Name: Julian Brooks

Email: j.brooks2@leeds.ac.uk

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences research ethics committee (EPS FREC):

EPSResearchEthics@leeds.ac.uk

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal i](#)

[dentifiable information](#) Tel 0303 123 1113

