



Civic Sage

Participant Information Sheet

Ref & Version: Version 1

Ethics ID: **61911**

Research Project Title:

- What does my MP think? Enhancing access to localised political information via a multi-method approach
- Otherwise identified as 'Civic Sage' (artefact name)

What is the purpose of the research/questionnaire?

- This research is being completed, in partial requirement of a student Bachelor's Degree dissertation project for Bournemouth University, Faculty of Science and Technology. This project aims to develop an AI and data-analytics driven web-service that anyone can use to query information about their local Member of Parliament (MP.)
- Participants will be asked to spend 15 minutes using this service. Data is then collected (via the survey) to understand participants engagement with the service: where they find it useful, pain points, general comments, and so forth. Participants will take part in a survey based on their technical expertise.

Why have I been chosen?

- Participants for this project have been chosen based on two groups:
 1. **Non-technical users** who we are interested in understanding how they use the project artefact or 'service'.
 2. **Technical users** (or 'professionals') who we are interested in understanding professional insight into the technical design aspects of the service.
- Your participation will be modelled dependent on which group you belong to. This will be clearly labelled to you prior to participation, and at first when originally approached to participate in this study.

Do I have to take part?

- It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part – it is not mandatory in any way. You can withdraw from participation at any time and without giving a

reason, by exiting the survey webpage. Please note that once you have completed and submitted your survey responses, we are unable to remove your anonymised responses from the study. Deciding to take part or not will not impact upon you in any way.

How long will the questionnaire/online survey take to complete?

- It should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete the survey.

What are the advantages and possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?

- Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will enhance understanding of public engagement with political communication, and their general preferences for political engagement.

What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project's objectives?

- You will be asked questions relating to your experience using the service. This will help us to understand user feedback and more accurately gauge the relevant political use cases of the service to a general audience.

Use of my information

- Participation in this study is on the basis of consent: you do not have to complete the survey, and you can change your mind at any point before submitting the survey responses. We will use your data on the basis that it is necessary for the conduct of research, which is an activity in the public interest. We put safeguards in place to ensure that your responses are kept secure and only used as necessary for this research study and associated activities such as a research audit. Once you have submitted your survey response it will not be possible for us to remove it from the study analysis because you will not be identifiable.
- The anonymous information collected may be used to support other ethically reviewed research projects in the future and access to it in this form will not be restricted. It will not be possible for you to be identified from this data.

Contact for further information

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

- James Vine at s5311105@bournemouth.ac.uk (student, project author) or;
- Dr. Vegard Engen at vengen@bournemouth.ac.uk (academic, project supervisor)

In case of complaints

- Any concerns about the study should be directed to Professor Tiantian Zhang, Deputy Dean for Research & Professional Practice, Faculty of Science & Technology, Bournemouth University by email to researchgovernance@bournemouth.ac.uk.