

## **Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title:** Evaluation of Economy-Tagged Tweets

**Researcher:** Nicholas Christopher Bennett  
**ERGO number:** 45418

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

### **What is the research about?**

My name is Nick Bennett, a third-year PhD researcher at the University of Southampton sponsored by Ordnance Survey. I have collected a large quantity of tweets and, with HM Treasury, have tagged them as relating to the economy. I am interested in your opinion on these results and whether you have any further comments that would improve the experiment.

### **Why have I been asked to participate?**

You are working in HM Treasury or other interested parties and have an interest in new ways of collecting economic data.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will take part in an interview, either as a group or individually depending on availability, and shown results from my experiment on which to comment. Your responses will be recorded on an audio device and later transcribed with the audio recording being deleted. None of your personal data will be part of this study and nothing about you will be published aside from acknowledging your place of work.

### **Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

You will be contributing towards a PhD thesis studying real-time economic indicators through Twitter, taking the role of an expert in the field. Your feedback will help to evaluate the results.

### **Are there any risks involved?**

There are no risks. The interview will be in your workplace and the only equipment in the room will be a laptop and an audio recording device.

### **What data will be collected?**

Audio recordings of the discussion will be collected using an audio recording device, by me, and later transcribed. No personal information will be collected and the only reference to you will be as part of a panel of experts. The collection will take place in a closed room, analysed on my local laptop and the recording deleted once transcribed.

### **Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

In keeping with previous sections, the only data collected will be an audio file. This file will be transcribed and deleted. All transcription will be done by me, using headphones, on my private laptop.

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 0 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

### **Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. If you wish to withdraw from the study, contact [n.bennett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.bennett@soton.ac.uk)

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent. The results of the study will be kept by the University as part of the thesis submission process. The aggregated evaluation may be published in future academic conference or journal papers. As no personal data is retained, nothing aside from the evaluation will be published.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information, email [n.bennett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.bennett@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

The lead researcher is Nick Bennett ([n.bennett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.bennett@soton.ac.uk)) supervised by David Millard ([dem@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:dem@ecs.soton.ac.uk))

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and participating in the study.**