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Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part and you must be over 18 years old to participate.

What is the research about?

This research is being carried out because we are interested in what people perceive the health risks to be from microplastics and whether these perceptions differ across the world. This survey is designed to obtain the opinion of the participants. The questions asked can mostly be answered by selecting one or more answers from a list of answers, such as true or false, on perceptions of microplastics. The objectives of this study are to find out what the population perceive the risks of exposure to microplastics through their food, drink and the air they breathe to be; how those risks are rated relative to other environmental issues and; how concerned the population are about microplastics.

Why have I been asked to participate?

This study requires a representative sample of the general population. Participants have not been selected for any particular reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be taken through to the start of the questionnaire; this should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All the information you provide will be confidential and you are able to leave the questionnaire at any time. You only need to complete the questionnaire once.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

Information received will be going towards continuing research at the University of Southampton into microplastics and their effects on the environment.

Are there any risks involved?

There should be no risks involved in completing this questionnaire.

Will my participation be confidential?

Participation in the questionnaire is entirely confidential. No personal information that can identify an individual from the responses; or that allows the researcher to contact the participant afterwards is required (e.g. address, name, telephone number, email...). The data collected will be handled in compliance with the Data Protection Act and University policy. Information will be stored on the researcher's personal files on the university system up until Christina's PhD is completed (anticipated completion by the end of 2019). Only the researchers and the supervisor will have access to the data obtained throughout this period.

What happens if I change my mind?

You can withdraw at any time of the questionnaire and the responses you provided thus far will not be recorded in any way. After completion of the questionnaire however, due to the full anonymity of the questions asked, data will not be able to be withdrawn.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results will be written up in Christina's PhD and Bethan's Masters' theses on the perceived health risks of microplastics and may be published in the future. The results may also be used in further research from the university. All data collected will be anonymous.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to know more about the research being conducted then please contact the researcher Christina Thiele at c.j.thiele@soton.ac.uk.

Please answer the questions in this survey with your genuine opinion without using search engines.

By continuing you agree to the above and are 18 years or older.