

## Participant Information Sheet – forensic marking survey

The College of Policing is the professional body for the police in England and Wales. The College provides those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public, and secure public trust. To enable us to fulfil our purpose we rely on volunteers to participate in research.

For this project, we are working in partnership with researchers from the Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA).

We would like to invite you to take part in a research project. This information sheet tells you why the research is being done, what it will involve for you, what information we will ask from you, and what we will do with that information.

We will in the course of this project be collecting personal information. Under General Data Protection Regulation (2016), we are required to provide a justification (what is called a “legal basis”) in order to collect such information. The legal basis for this project is “task carried out in the public interest”.

### **What is the purpose of the research?**

We want to evaluate a forensic marking intervention to see how effective it is. People who have experienced domestic abuse are provided with products by the police (such as a spray or gel) which can forensically mark a perpetrator to provide evidence that they have been present at a specific location. Perpetrators receive a warning that the victim has received a forensic marking kit, to deter them from offending again.

The research is funded by the Cabinet Office.

### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have received this invitation as you have recently been provided with forensic marking products by the police.

**What will happen if I agree to take part?**

If you agree to take part you will be asked to provide your consent at the start of each survey. Even if you agree to take part at the beginning, you can decide not to complete the surveys, and you can opt out of receiving further surveys.

You will be asked to complete five short surveys, sent to you in a link by text message over the next six months. These will ask about your experience of having the forensic marking products, and about satisfaction and trust in the police. The first survey will be sent to you within a week of receiving the forensic marking kit. The next three will be sent at approximately one-month intervals, with the final survey being sent six months after the initial survey.

The survey will be short and only take between 5-10 minutes to complete each time.

**What are the benefits for me in taking part?**

Your involvement will help us to understand if using forensic marking products is an effective way of providing support for people who have experienced domestic abuse and preventing further harm.

If you complete all five surveys you will receive a £40 voucher to recognise your contribution to the research (you will be given this after completing the final survey).

**Are there any risks for me if I take part?**

The research is unlikely to pose any risk or disadvantage to you. The questions relate only to the products you received, any unwanted contact with the perpetrator and your experience of dealing with the police. If you did find that this causes you any distress, contact details for support services are listed at the end of the information sheet.

If you change your mind about participating in the research you can withdraw your data up to seven days after you have completed the survey by sending your request to [forensic.marking@college.police.uk](mailto:forensic.marking@college.police.uk) and citing the last four digits of your mobile phone number.

**What will you do with my information?**

Any information you provide will be treated as confidential and research participants will be anonymised in any reports of findings from the research. The exception to this is where you tell us something that indicates that you or someone else is at risk of harm. In this instance,

we may need to share this information with a relevant authority; however, we would speak to you about this first.

Anonymised personal data will be gathered from police records from all those who agree to take part in the interviews, to provide information about participants' age, gender and the products received.

At the completion of the project, we will retain anonymised data from the research which will be stored securely on College and Durham University systems for 10 years, in line with College policies.

We will use the data collected in this research to inform policing policy and practice, through the preparation of research reports, presentations, and academic outputs such as books or articles. We will place publicly accessible reports and academic outputs on the College and Durham University websites.

### **What happens next?**

If you agree to take part in the survey, the police will provide the research team with your name and mobile phone number so we can send you the link to the survey by text message. So you can recognise our survey, the text message will be sent to you from

#### **Survey Team.**

If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Erol at [forensic.marking@college.police.uk](mailto:forensic.marking@college.police.uk)

### **Support Organisations**

Victim support: [Home - Victim Support \(www.victimsupport.org.uk\)](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) 08 08 16 89 111

Women's Aid: [Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](http://womensaid.org.uk)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327