



F3 Study

Participant Information Leaflet

Women's Health Survey

(Female Fertility in the Forces Study)

www.ed.ac.uk/centre-reproductive-health/female-fertility-in-the-forces-study

MoDREC Application No : 885/MoDREC/18

This leaflet tells you about the Female Fertility in the Forces study. If you would like more information please go to our website [website address TBC] or contact a member of the study team using contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Invitation to Take Part

We would like to invite you to take part in this research study investigating women's reproductive health in the forces (armed forces and police force), and how it may differ from those not serving.

Before you decide to take part, you may want to understand why the study is being done and what taking part will involve. Please take time to read this information carefully.

Why Have I Been Invited to Take Part?

All women in the regular Armed Forces, officers in the Metropolitan Police Service, and all their sisters (biological, step, half or adopted) over 18 years old are invited to take part.

What is the Purpose of the Research?

The purpose of the study is to review women's fertility in each of the groups and identify factors which may affect this. This information may help the organisations understand the nature and extent of reproductive health problems, support women and try to reduce any risks if necessary.

Who is Doing This Research?

The study is being conducted by a team of researchers from the University of Edinburgh, University of Cardiff and the Ministry of Defence. The team includes specialists in infertility, epidemiology and military medicine.

Do I Have to Take Part?

Participation is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part in this survey.

Will My Taking Part or Not Taking Part Affect My Career?

No. Choosing to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. The survey is confidential, so there will be no way of linking your responses to you. No one from your work or Chain of Command will see your completed survey.

What Will I Be Asked to Do?

You will be asked to complete the "Women's Health Survey" either online or by post, which will take you 10 - 40 minutes to complete, depending on your circumstances. The survey asks questions about you, your job, your lifestyle, medical history, pregnancies, and fertility.

Please still fill out the survey even if you have never tried to have children, been pregnant or had no problems with either.

If you are in the MPS or Military and have a sister (biological, step, half or adopted), you will be asked to forward her the survey link to her, as sisters are making up the comparison group.

What are the Benefits of Taking Part?

The main benefit of the study is for women joining the Armed Forces and MPS in the future.

What are the Possible Disadvantages and Risks of Taking Part?

There are no physical risks or disadvantages of taking part. As the survey asks some personal questions, it may bring up both happy and sad memories, should this occur there are details provided within the questionnaire of where to access support.

Can I Withdraw from the Research and What Will Happen If I Withdraw?

You can withdraw from the study by not completing the survey. Once you have submitted your questionnaire, it will not be possible to withdraw your response as the survey is anonymous.

If you choose not to complete the questionnaire you will not be disadvantaged in any way.

Are There Any Expenses and Payments Which I Will Get?

If you are within the first 2500 women in your group to respond, you will be offered a £5 Amazon e-voucher, as compensation for making time to respond quickly. You do not have to accept the voucher, but if you do you will need to provide us with an email address you want the voucher sent to. This email will be deleted once the voucher code has been sent to you. You will not know at time of submission if you are within the first 2500 women in your group.

Who Do I Contact If I Have Any Questions?

Please contact the research team, or independent medical advisor if you have any questions. Contact details are listed below.

Who Do I Contact If I Have a Complaint?

If you wish to make a complaint or raise concerns about the study, please contact the independent medical advisor in confidence:

The Independent Medical Advisor:

Name: Dr Kat Peebles
Address: DPHC Pirbright Medical Centre,
Alexander Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey GU24 0QQ
Tel No : 01483 798 020
E-mail katrina.peebles100@mod.gov.uk

What Happens If I Suffer Any Harm?

If you suffer any harm as a direct result of taking part in this study, you can apply for compensation under the MoD's 'No-Fault Compensation Scheme'.

Will My Records Be Kept Confidential?

Yes. The WGCC research team are the sponsor for this study and based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The research team will keep any identifiable information about you for up to two years after the study has finished. Anonymised data may be held securely for up to 50 years.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained, since there is no way of identifying it as yours. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting the research team.

Who is Organising and Funding the Research?

The research is being organised by the WGCC Research group on behalf of the UK government. The WGCC Review has received ministerial support and tri-service funding to undertake this study.

Who Has Reviewed the Study?

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MoDREC).

Further Information and Contact Details

The researcher:

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Compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki

This study complies, and at all times will comply, with the Declaration of Helsinki as adopted at the 64th WMA General Assembly at Fortaleza, Brazil in October 2013.

