

Information on the focus group and option for consent:

The focus group will be voice-recorded on a portable device, this will then be transferred to the University drives on a password protected computer. The data will then be transcribed and all data will be deleted upon completion of the final write-up of my dissertation.

It is important to be aware that I will be following a pseudo-anonymous procedure. This means that if I choose to document any information or particular quotes by specific participants within the group, I will do so in a way that will protect their identity. i.e. using a alternative name, location, age etc.

For example:

“Counselling really helped me to cope” (Fiona, 32, Glasgow)

- *This is a fake name, age and location.*

Once the focus group begins, you can no longer choose to withdraw your data from the research. As this part of the research is voice recorded, it would be difficult to filter the information gathered between those that chose to withdraw and those that did not. You are; however, free to cease participating at any point.

Respecting each other:

It is likely that some sensitive information may be shared within the focus group, based around individual experiences. Therefore, it is vital that each member respects one another and the information shared today is not used against anyone – this includes not disclosing any sensitive information about another participant outwith the focus group.

It is also advised that each member of the focus group should not share any information that may put them at risk of harm i.e. home addresses.



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