

Participant Information Sheet

Research Study Name	Exploring attitudes, experiences, and needs of social work data & intelligence.
Research Study ID	J867
Lead Researcher	Jonathan Synnott
Research Date	June/July 2024

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this research. Big Motive is a digital design agency. We are conducting this research on behalf of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council. This information sheet provides further details about the purpose of this research, and what is involved. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Synnott (Big Motive Lead Researcher) using the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

Please note: by participating in the research, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in the consent form at the end of this document. Any data collected from you will remain anonymous. Your personal details will be removed from all analysis before reports are published. The survey includes an opportunity to sign up for follow up discussions led by the Big Motive research team, which includes providing your contact details. This information will be held securely by the research team and used solely for the purpose of engaging with you in these discussions.

Why is this research taking place?

The Department of Health has commissioned work to improve, expand, and standardise the collection, management, and presentation of data and intelligence on the current state of the social work workforce. A key aspect of this work will be the consolidation of data across various social work employers and systems.

It is envisioned that this will provide a range of benefits including better understanding of the current social work workforce, achieving an optimal balance of social workers to effectively address service user needs, and enabling strategic workforce planning to anticipate future supply and demand.

What is included in ‘social work workforce data’?

This refers to a wide range of data including (but not limited to) service usage data e.g. formal returns detailing service delivery to commissioners or other data about service demand and staff data (e.g. staff qualifications, roles, vacancies). This data may be about your profile and/or the profile of other social workers or teams.

Why have I been chosen as a potential participant?

You have been chosen as a potential participant as you are an employer or member of the social work workforce.

Do I have to take part?

You are under no obligation to take part. Responses entered into the questionnaire will not be saved until the submit button is pressed.

What if I change my mind?

Once your questionnaire responses have been submitted, it will not be possible for your data to be removed as it will be anonymised for analysis.

Where will the research take place?

This research will take place online, in your own time. The online survey will be live from 17 – 30 June 2024.

What will I be asked to do, and what data will you collect?

You will be asked to complete an online questionnaire which will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. The questionnaire contains a series of open and closed response questions regarding your attitudes, experiences, and needs regarding the collection and use of social work workforce data.

What will happen to data collected during my involvement?

The data collected from you will be anonymous, unless you provide your contact details at the end of the questionnaire. We will combine your responses with responses from participants across the social work workforce in Northern Ireland, allowing us to identify and report upon significant trends in responses. Individual responses and summary reports will be shared with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council. All data will be processed in line with GDPR requirements.

Are there any benefits involved in taking part?

Your participation will provide valuable insight to help ensure the design and development of a new solution to social work workforce data meets the needs and expectations of the social work workforce, and provides tangible benefits to individuals at all levels of the workforce.

Are there any risks involved in taking part?

There are no risks associated with taking part in this research.

Who should I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding participation in this research, please contact Jonathan Synnott, Big Motive Lead Researcher:

Name: Dr Jonathan Synnott

Email: js@bigmotive.com

Telephone: 028 9002 9918

Office Hours Mon-Fri 09:00 - 17:30

Your consent

By taking part in this research, you agree to the following:

I consent to my questionnaire responses being analysed, processed, and reported on by Big Motive and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

I consent to my identity being included with my responses to the survey if I provide my contact details at the end of the questionnaire (all responses will be anonymised before reports are published).