



Privacy Notice for FIESTA Participants

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The Fertility Intentions and Experiences Study (FIESTA) is run by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is recruiting participants who took part in the fourth National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-4).

Your Personal Data

The Joint Data Controllers for Natsal are NatCen Social Research (NatCen), University College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of Glasgow and Örebro University Hospital. This means these organisations have shared ownership over the personal data you shared as part of the Natsal Study. The Natsal Privacy Notice can be accessed [here](#).

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is the Data Controller of any personal data you share as part of FIESTA.

What personal data is the Natsal-4 Study sharing with FIESTA?

Natsal study participants who consented to being invited to take part in other related research will receive a letter informing them about FIESTA. NatCen will only share personal data (contact details and special category data) from those who consented to recontact and did not opt out from being contacted by the FIESTA study team.

How the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will process the personal data you share for FIESTA

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (“we” or “us”)(a higher education institution established by Royal Charter and an exempt charity with registration number RC000330) of Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, is a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). We will treat your personal data safely and carefully, and we will obey all relevant data privacy laws.

This privacy notice together with our Data Protection Policy, guidance, and any additional documents referred to within them, explains how we will keep your personal data safe, how and when we will use it, and what happens if you decide to stop being part of the study. Please read this notice carefully.

Our Privacy Notice may be updated from time to time. Any updates will appear on this webpage. This notice was created on 20th October 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns about how we use your personal data, please email dpo@lshtm.ac.uk.

Research data

You probably already share your data with people, for example your employer if you have a job, your doctor if you get sick, or retailers if you shop online. When you share your data as part of a research study, the rules about how your data can be used are slightly different.

An example of this is that once we have collected your data for this study, we will normally write it down next to a unique number. The people who do day-to-day work on the study, and who analyse the data, will not be able to see your name or other identifying information like your birth date or address. In some studies, we will keep your name and unique number in a separate list, in case we need to follow up with you for any reason, like arranging a further appointment, or for your safety. If so, we will keep the list separately from the study data. Only a very small number of people will be allowed to get access to the list and they will have to follow strict rules about what they can do with it.

For example, if you helped us with a study about eyesight, we might use your name and address to check who you are, and then we might take some measurements about how well you can see. We would write these measurements next to your unique number. If we needed to test you again, one of the small number of people on the study team who can access the list would use your unique number to find your name and contact details so that we could invite you back. Once we had taken your new measurements, we would write them down next to the same unique number as before. When we had enough measurements for the study, we would destroy the list which has your name and contact information. From that point, nobody would be able to tell which measurements were yours, but we would be able to use the results for our research.

If at that stage you decided you did not want to help with the study any more, we would not contact you any more. But we may need to keep your data if we were unable to tell which measurements were yours. Also, in some situations, we may be allowed to keep data we have already collected from you, if you decide not to help any more. For example, we may be allowed to keep your data if we need results from a certain number of people, and losing your data would take us below that number.

How we get data about you

We will ask you questions during an interview with one of our researchers. Please see the Participant Information Sheet for more details about this process.

What data we will use

We will only collect the minimum of data that we need for the study. Please see the Participant Information Sheet for details about what data we will use.

Why we are using your data

We want to use your data for research purposes. We will use the results to see if the study could help others. We will not use your data for anything else. We will not share any data that could identify you with anyone who is not working on the study with us. Please see the Participant Information Sheet for more details.

How long we will use your data

We only keep your personal data for the minimum time necessary. If we can delete personal data such as your name and contact details, we will do that as soon as we can, and just use your unique number. We may also share data from the study with other researchers or add it to a public repository so that other scientists can conduct research with the full data set. Before we do so, we would always remove data that could identify you, like your name and contact details and the names of anyone else you might mention in the interview, and would only refer to the unique number. This

means you would not be identified. For the FIESTA study we will delete contact details such as name and address after the interview has been completed, or after someone declines to participate. We keep personal data collected as part of the FIESTA securely, usually for ten (10) years after the end of the study. Once the retention period is met, personal data is then securely destroyed. Please see the Participant Information Sheet for more details.

Your rights

Under the UK GDPR, you normally have rights in relation to the personal data we hold about you. For the purposes of research, where such individual rights would seriously impair research outcomes, your rights are limited. We may limit your rights and are relying on the exemptions in Schedule 2 Part 6 paragraph 27 of the Data Protection Act 2018 because we are processing this information for scientific research in accordance with UK GDPR Art. 89(1).

How will this affect your rights as a participant?

Whilst you and other participants involved in this research may withdraw from the study at any time you will not be able to exercise your rights to access your personal information, to request correction of inaccurate information or erasure of your information, to restrict processing of information or to object to our processing of your information even if you leave the study. These rights, which are set out in the UK GDPR (Articles 15,16,17,18 and 21) will not apply if the exercise of your rights would seriously impair the achievement of the Study objectives and the exemptions are necessary to enable us to fulfil our scientific research purposes and appropriate safeguards are in place. If you withdraw from the project, we will keep the information we have already obtained but we will protect your rights in our research analysis since this will only involve processing information and the use of transcripts which do not identify you.

Legal basis for using your personal data: Under the UK GDPR, we have to say how we are lawfully going to use your data. (If you are interested, you can find out more about the law by visiting the Information Commissioner's Office website at www.ico.org.uk.)

Research: Legally, we consider that our research is "a task carried out in the public interest". We use your data because it is necessary for "scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes" and we use appropriate safeguards. Sometimes we will archive data, for example so that other research teams can check that we have not made any mistakes, but data that could identify you, like your name and contact details, will have been taken out of our records by then.

Your consent: We will ask you to consent to helping us with the study. This is an important way to be sure that you are helping us because you want to, not because you feel under any pressure to help and to satisfy other legal and regulatory requirements. Importantly, though, we do not process your research data on the basis of consent.

Protecting your interests: The design of all of our studies is checked by a committee of people trained in ethical issues. Before the study team is even allowed to speak to you about the study, these people make sure that your privacy rights have been considered and protected.

Transferring personal data outside the United Kingdom: Occasionally we work with organisations around the world, and we partner with service providers, for instance, in order to use a cloud computing solutions. Where it is this necessary, and the recipient is in a country which the UK government has decided does not have adequate data protection laws, we will make sure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect your information and your rights under applicable data protections laws.

Contact details for queries

If you want further information about how your personal data is used, or you wish to exercise any of the above rights, contact dpo@lshtm.ac.uk.

How to complain

If we are unable to adequately address any concerns you may have about the way in which we use your personal data, you have the right to lodge a formal complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The ICO may be contacted:

By post, addressed to:

Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

By submitting the complaint online by accessing www.ico.org.uk