

Research on the implications of reductions to spending on LGB&T people

What is the research about?

The research is focusing on the implications of reductions to public spending (a reduction or stop of public and voluntary sector funding and budgets) during the past three years. In 2013 UNISON commissioned a study to find how reductions to public spending had affected lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people. This study aims to explore the effect, if any, reductions to public spending, has had on LGB&T people and services, over the past three years. **You do not have to have taken part in the previous study to take part in this one.**

Key aims of the study are to explore:

- The affect reductions to public spending is having on public and community services for LGB or T people from the perspective of LGB or T service users and people who provide services to LGB and/or T people.
- Whether reductions to public spending have affected the income and expenditure of LGB or T services users or the income and expenditure of a LGB or T person that you provide services to.
- Whether reductions to public spending have affected LGB or T service users' health or emotional wellbeing.

Who can take part?

- Any LGB or T person aged 16 or over who has accessed public services in the last three years.
- Anyone who has delivered public services to LGB and/or T people in the last three years; either specific services targeted at LGB and/or T people or mainstream services accessed by LGB and/or T people.

If you are unsure if you are eligible to take part, please contact the research team who will be happy to help you. See ' How do I get in touch?' below.

Who is funding the research?

The research is being funded by UNISON, one of Britain largest trade unions with members in the public, community and private sectors. UNISON has asked NatCen Social Research to conduct the study on their behalf.

Who are NatCen Social Research?

NatCen Social Research is an independent and not-for-profit social research organisation. NatCen designs and carries out high quality research studies in the fields of social and public policy. Learn more about us at www.natcen.ac.uk.

What is involved in taking part?

There are three ways that you can take part in the study:

1. Make a short written submission via a secure website in response to four questions. Submissions can be made at any time up until midday on **2nd September 2016**. This will involve preparing short written answers to four questions that may take up to 30 minutes.
2. Take part in a 30-40 minute telephone interview.
We would arrange a time and date that is most convenient for you.
3. Make both a written submission and take part in a telephone interview.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is **voluntary**. It is entirely up to you if you want to take part in the research and you can change your mind at any point.

You do not have to give answers to all the questions on the online written submission website or in the telephone interview and you can choose to stop at any time.

Who will know what I say?

We will write a report based on what people have said. The names of the people who have taken part will not be in the report and it will not be possible for you to be identified.

If you choose to participate in a telephone interview, we will ask to audio record the discussion so that we have an accurate record of what you say. This recording will be stored securely at NatCen's offices and only the research team will be able to listen to it.

Case study option - Telephone interviews ONLY

UNISON would like to have some case study examples to complement the research and potentially take part in any press coverage the research receives. This is optional and it will not impact whether you are able to take part in the research or not. We will ask you at the end of your telephone interview if you would like to opt-in to be a case study participant. If

you do we will pass on your contact details to UNISON. If you decide that you do not want to do this, as explained above we will not share any of your information with UNISON.

Why take part?

This is your opportunity to have a say. Your views will be important in identifying whether reductions to public spending has had an effect on LGB&T people and will help to inform UNISON's campaigns, recruitment and other work in this area.

How do I get in touch?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the research team by emailing LGBTresearch@natcen.ac.uk or calling our freephone on **0808 1644170**.