



**LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY**
**Participant Information Sheet for
Participants**

IRAS ID: 256202

LJMU's Research Ethics Committee/Sponsorship Approval Reference:
19LJMUSPONSOR004

NHS REC Reference: 19/NW/0253

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Study: *The motivations, sexual behaviours and public health implications of people who travel for sex (PWTFs) to Thailand: a contemporary grounded theory framework*

You are being invited to take part in a study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

1. Who will conduct the study?

Study Team

Principal Investigator: Alyson (Alice) Hillis, PhD Researcher (a.hillis@2017.ljmu.ac.uk)

Co-investigator: Professor Marie Claire Van Hout, (M.C.VanHout@ljmu.ac.uk); Dr Stephanie Kewley (S.Kewley@ljmu.ac.uk); Dr Conan Leavey (C.Leavey@ljmu.ac.uk)

School/Faculty within LJMU: Public Health Institute, Faculty of Education, Health & Community

2. What is the purpose of the study?

This PhD is exploring your experiences, motivations and behaviours of travelling to Thailand for sexual intercourse.

3. Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited because you have been identified as a potential participant. Many other people have also been identified as potential participants and will be recruited to the research study.

To be eligible to participate in the study you must be over 18-years old, a UK resident, English speaking and meet one of the below:

- Have travelled to Thailand for sex
- Have had sex in Thailand with a new partner

- Have intentions to travel to Thailand for sex in the future

4. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You can withdraw at any time by informing the investigators without giving a reason and without it affecting your rights/any future treatment/service you receive.

5. What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to take part in an interview with the researcher. The interview should last approximately one hour and will be conducted over the phone or face to face. The date and time of the interview will be arranged for your convenience. You will be asked to complete a consent form agreeing that you wish to take part in the research. The interview will explore your experiences, motivations and behaviours of travelling to Thailand for sexual intercourse. You will be asked if you would like the opportunity to review your interview as well as the final report, and if possible, refer any other potential participants for interview. Following the interview the researcher will not be in touch unless you agree to further communication or you would like to review your interview once it has been transcribed. You may contact the research team if you have any further questions.

6. Will I be recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

You are free to decline to be audio recorded. You should be comfortable with the recording process and you are free to stop the recording at any time.

The audio recordings of your activities made during this study will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them without your written permission.

Interviews will be audio recorded on a password protected audio recording device and as soon as possible the recording will be transferred to secure storage and deleted from the recording device.

7. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks from taking part?

If you are personally affected by participation in this research, you may wish to seek further support/advice. The below organisations all offer reputable services and would be happy to help:

- Mind - <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/>; Call 0300 1233 393 or text 86463
- Samaritans - <https://www.samaritans.org/>; Call 116 123
- Heads Together - <https://www.headstogether.org.uk/>; Text 'SHOUT' to 85258
- Terrence Higgins Trust - <https://www.tht.org.uk/our-services/services-your-area/support-people-living-hiv>; Call 0808 802 1221

8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There is no direct benefit to taking part in the research.

9. What will happen to the data provided and how will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

The information you provide as part of the study is the **study data**. Any study data from which you can be identified (e.g. from identifiers such as your name, date of birth, audio recording etc.), is known as **personal data**. This includes more sensitive categories of personal data (**sensitive data**). For the purpose of this study, the **personal data** that will be collected will include: your age, ethnicity, city of residence, gender identification, sexuality, relationship status, children, employment and highest level of education obtained.

When you agree to take part in a study, we will use your personal data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the study and if necessary, to verify and defend, when required, the process and outcomes of the study. Personal data will be accessible to the study team. In addition, responsible members of Liverpool John Moores University may be given access to personal data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure that the study is complying with applicable regulations.

When we do not need to use personal data, it will be deleted or identifiers will be removed. Personal data does not include data that cannot be identified to an individual (e.g. data collected anonymously or where identifiers have been removed). However, your consent form, contact details, audio recordings etc. will be retained for 10 years.

Personal data collected from you will be recorded using a linked code – the link from the code to your identity will be stored securely and separately from the coded data.

You will not be identifiable in any ensuing reports or publications. We will use pseudonyms in transcripts and reports to help protect the identity of individuals and organisations unless you tell us that you would like to be attributed to information/direct quotes etc. After dissemination, it is not anticipated that participants will be able to be identified in the research outcomes. This is because the main outcome will be an updated framework of the 'contemporary' PWTFS alongside recommendations for supporting service provision, as opposed to investigating and reporting on personal information and experiences. Quotes may be used in other research papers following data collection, however they will be anonymised. Furthermore, quotes will not be directly or indirectly identifiable as recruitment is taking place across various centres, services and geographical locations, which further limits the ability to identify any participant.

With your consent, we would like to store your contact details so that we may contact you about future opportunities to participate in studies.

10. Limits to confidentiality

Please note that confidentiality may not be guaranteed; for example, due to the limited size of the participant sample, the position of the participant or information included in reports, participants might be indirectly identifiable in transcripts and reports. The investigator will work with the participant in an attempt to minimise and manage the potential for indirect identification of participants.

In certain exceptional circumstances where you or others may be at significant risk of harm, the investigator may need to report this to an appropriate authority. Depending on the risk, this may be discussed with you first. If this is the case, and you provide your consent, the interviewee will seek advice from the wider research team, documenting the reasons clearly, and the agreed appropriate actions will then be taken. In the case where consent cannot be obtained and the Investigator feels the need to breach confidentiality (such as to prevent serious harm and/or prevent, detect or prosecute a serious crime) then the Investigator will confer with colleagues and weigh up public and individual's interest in maintaining confidentiality against the public interest argument for disclosure. The Investigator will then seek advice from professional / regulatory / indemnifying body(s) and / or lawyers. In the event that the disclosure of activities took place or will take place in Thailand, the research team will contact the INTERPOL National Central Bureau and local law enforcement agencies.

11. What will happen to the results of the study?

The investigator intends to publish the results as part of their PhD, in journal articles and present the findings at conferences.

12. Who is organising and funding/commissioning the study?

This study is organised by Liverpool John Moores University and is self-funded by the PhD researcher, Alice Hillis.

13. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: 19LJMUSPONSOR004), the NHS IRAS Ethics Committee (Reference number: 19/NW/0253) and has obtained a Research Passport (Number: xxx).

14. What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the relevant investigator who will do their best to answer your query. The investigator should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact Dave Harriss, the chair of the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee (researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk; 0151 9046467).

Please note, LJMU has arranged Public Liability insurance to cover the legal liability of the University as Research Sponsor in the eventuality of harm to a research participant. The coverage is provided through the management of the research by the University and activities conducted as part of this research are included within that coverage. This does not in any way affect an NHS Trust's responsibility for any clinical negligence on the part of its staff (including the Trust's responsibility for LJMU employees/students acting in connection with their NHS honorary appointments). LJMU holds Professional Indemnity insurance to cover the legal liability of the University as Research Sponsor and/or as the employer of staff/students engaged in the research, for harm to participants arising from the design of the research, where the research protocol was designed by the University. LJMU's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance policies provide an indemnity to our employees and students for their potential liability for harm to participants during the conduct of the research and the activities here are included within that coverage.

15. Data Protection Notice

Liverpool John Moores University is the sponsor for this study 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. Liverpool John Moores University will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished.

As a university we use personally-identifiable information to conduct research to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. Health and care research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#).

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 study to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. 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 Tina Sparrow, the Liverpool John Moores University Data Protection Officer at DPO-LJMU@ljmu.ac.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in

a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

16. Contact for further information

Alyson (Alice) Hillis (a.hillis@2017.ljmu.ac.uk) or Professor Marie Claire Van Hout, (M.C.VanHout@ljmu.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this study.

Note: A copy of the participant information sheet should be retained by the participant with a copy of the signed consent form.