**Research into the needs of the Royal Navy submariner community and the impact of separation on family life**

Information for participants

The [National Centre for Social Research](http://natcen.ac.uk/) (NatCen) is conducting research funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT) to assess the needs of the Royal Navy submarine community. We are seeking input from submariners' families, representatives of the not-for-profit sector, and employees of relevant government departments involved with serving personnel. Our goal is to understand the support needs of submariners' families and identify any gaps in current support provisions.

This leaflet offers detailed information about the research to help you decide whether to participate and share your views.

**Who is conducting this research?**

NatCen is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to improve people’s lives through social research. Our work helps to inform public services, the government, charities, and other organisations.

**Whats the purpose of the study?**

The research aims to gather detailed and unique perspectives on the challenges and support needs of the submariner families. It will also provide insights into the role and sustainability of specialist not-for-profit support and the effectiveness of existent statutory provisions. This research will guide the development of focused interventions within the trust's future grant framework.

**What will taking part involve?**

If you choose to take part, you will be invited to speak to a NatCen researcher in an interview, paired interview or a focus group, depending on your preference. Interviews will last 60 minutes and focus groups will last 90 minutes. They can be arranged at a date and time convenient for you and will take place remotely via Microsoft Teams or by telephone.

With permission, the discussion will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. This data will be stored securely, and only the NatCen research team will have access. The recording, transcript and all other documents which include identifiable information (such as your name and contact details, for example) will be deleted 12 months after the project ends.

**What will I be asked?**

The discussion will cover a range of topics, including:

* Experiences of submariners’ families and their needs
* Current support provision
* Barriers to support
* Enablers of support/evidence of effective support interventions

**Do I have to take part?**

No – it’s entirely up to you. Even if you choose to take part, you can change your mind. You do not need to give a reason, and your choice will not make a positive or negative difference to your relationship with NatCen, The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, or any other organisation.

If you change your mind about being involved before the interview or focus group, you can let the research team know using the contact details below or let us know on the day. If you take part in a focus group, you can withdraw your consent to take part at any point until the group discussion starts. If you participate in an interview, you can request that your data be deleted at any point until it is analysed and will no longer be identifiable. To do so, please contact the research team.

If you decide to take part, you don’t have to talk about anything you don’t want to. You can skip any questions you prefer not to answer and can leave the discussion at any time.

**Will anyone else find out what I have told you?**

You will not be identified by anyone outside the NatCen research team, and we will not tell anyone the details of what you say except in exceptional circumstances (outlined in the privacy notice).

NatCen will treat everything you say as confidential and anonymous. Where we conduct focus groups, the NatCen researcher will ask all group participants to keep the discussion between us.

No information that could identify participants will be included in our research findings.

If you would like to know more about how the information you provide will be processed, please see the Privacy Notice.

**How will you use the information I give?**

Information obtained from the evaluation will be analysed into themes and summarised by NatCen into a report shared with the AFCFT. The report will provide detailed insights into the support needs and experiences of submariner families and include actionable recommendations to guide the Armed Forces Covenant Trust (AFCFT) in developing targeted interventions within the future grant framework. This report may include some quotes from participants but not contain any identifying information (including, for example, names of individuals or places).

**Can I change my mind during the research?**

Yes. You have the right to withdraw your permission for processing at any time and you don’t have to justify or explain why you are doing so if you don’t want to state your reasons. To withdraw your permission, please contact the study team at [subfamresearch@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:subfamresearch@natcen.ac.uk).

Participantstaking part in research encounters also have the right to withdraw their contribution to this research by contacting the research team by October 15th. After this date, the data they provide has been aggregated with other responses in analyses, and we will be unable to remove their contribution from our outputs.

**What should I do if I am happy to take part?**

If you would like to take part in this research or have any further questions, please contact us using the details below.

**Email address:** [**subfamresearch@natcen.ac.uk**](mailto:subfamresearch@natcen.ac.uk)

Thank you for your help!