



ARMED
SERVICES
TRAUMA
REHABILITATION
OUTCOME
STUDY



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

ADVANCE - INVEST Study - Injured Veterans' Experiences of Transition

Email: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk; Tel: 07521043464

We would like to invite you to participate in the ADVANCE-INVEST study, another aspect of the ADVANCE study. This research project being undertaken by a collaboration of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, King's College London and Imperial College London and is led by King's College London. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve.

We would also like you to discuss this research project with one of your family members. We have enclosed another invitation pack for you to pass onto an adult family member of your choice, who you were close to at the time of leaving the military. This is entirely optional, and your participation in this study, or the main ADVANCE study, will not be affected whether you choose to ask a family member to be involved or whether you choose not to invite anyone.

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.

If you would like to take part, or if you have any questions about the study, please let us know on advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk or call or text us on: 07521043464

Commonly Asked Questions:

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to better understand the employment and wellbeing outcomes of ex-serving battlefield casualties. Our aim is to understand how battlefield injury gives rise to difficulties due to medical discharge and difficulties in finding new employment. We also aim to understand how rehabilitation and transition support services help alleviate these barriers and help veterans with battlefield injuries find fulfilling civilian employment and lifestyle. From these findings, recommendations can be made, particularly for the Ministry of Defence, NHS, Department of Work and Pensions and military charities, on how best to support military personnel during and after Service to ensure successful transition for battlefield casualties who leave the Armed Forces.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been invited to take part because you are taking part in the ADVANCE study. We are asking you to participate because we have identified you as someone who has left the military and therefore will be able to help us with the research.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Your participation (or not) will not be communicated to the main ADVANCE study team and will not affect your involvement in that study. If you have any questions after reading this information sheet, please contact us on the email or phone number below. If you would like to take part, you can post or email a signed and completed Consent Form to the research team, who will be responsible for arranging and conducting the interviews (advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk). Your consent will be checked again at the time of interview. If you continue with this study, you are free to withdraw without giving a reason, until it is no longer practical to do so. This will be three months after your interview, after which time we will be analysing your data along with the other interviews.

Who would not be allowed to take part in the study?

If you are living abroad or are under the age of 18, unfortunately, you will not be able to take part in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you take part in this study, you will be asked to create a “timeline map” in advance of your interview. Creating a “timeline map” is a way of remembering the important events that have happened in your life, using a drawing or a list (you would receive further instructions on how to do this if you decide to go ahead). Visual timelines can support participants to remember key events and when they happened; allow the interviewer to tailor the interview schedule to each participant; and empower the participant to be more in charge of their interview schedule.

If you choose to take part in this study, after creating a “timeline map”, you will then be asked to participate in an online or in-person interview at a date and time suggested by you and separate from your ADVANCE visit to Stanford Hall. The interview will take approximately 60 minutes but will vary according to how much information you are willing to share. Interviews will be online or in-person.

The interview will cover your experiences of discharge, through to your experiences following your transition into civilian society. We are particularly interested in factors that helped or delayed your transition to the civilian workforce (e.g., finding and maintaining adequate employment, job satisfaction, day-to-day family life, support and resources), as well as your general wellbeing. We may refer back to some of the information you already provided during the ADVANCE study for further information. Example questions might include:

- How did you feel about leaving?
- What support, if any, did you receive from your colleagues, family, friends, or pets after leaving the military?
- Were you aware of the Armed Forces Covenant at this stage and how it might support you as a civilian? What impact, if any, did it have on your/your family's situation?

With your consent, the interview will be audio-recorded to allow us to collect all responses from all participants. You can still take part if you decide not to be recorded but the interview may take a little longer. All data will be pseudonymised meaning that any data collected will be assigned a unique study code and it will not be possible to identify you at any time.

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018).

What do I have to do if I am interested in participating?

If you have any questions about the study or would like to take part, please contact the team:

Email: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk

Phone: 0207 848 5351 or 07521043464

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Participants in our other studies have valued the opportunity to talk about their time during and after military service. By participating, you will be helping us to better understand the consequences of battlefield injury and rehabilitation for employment and wellbeing outcomes once people leave Service. You would receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher to thank you for your time. If you are interested, we can also send you a copy of the final report so you can see what we have done and how your participation has helped the study.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate that there will be risks for taking part in this study. Describing difficult events can, in some cases, be distressing. The ADVANCE Signposting Information Booklet contains information on support services for ex-serving personnel and you may find this helpful if you do become upset. We will also have a clinician available to speak to anyone who might require additional support.

Will anyone know that I took part?

We follow ethical and legal procedures to ensure that your personal details and data are handled confidentially. No personal information about you will be shared with anyone else, including the charity funding the study, outside the research team and a trusted third party who will transcribe interviews. Data will be anonymised at the point of transcription, which means that any identifiable information you provide will be censored and your real name (and any information which could identify you) will not be in the data when the findings are reported. In the unlikely event that you tell us you are at risk of harm to yourself or others, we

are bound by a duty of care that requires us to break confidentiality and share your information with our team clinician and other relevant parties, where necessary.

What happens to the data you collect from me, how is it stored and who can see it?

Your data is stored in one of two ways:

1. *Identifiable data*

The ADVANCE study stores identifiable data such as your name, address & post code, email address, telephone number, date of birth and alternative contact details. The ADVANCE-INVEST study will only use these details to communicate with you if you register interest in the study. Once the study is complete, the ADVANCE-INVEST study team will no longer have access to your identifiable data. For the duration of the study, this data is stored securely in a password protected database within the MoD IT systems and the MoD act as the 'Data Controllers' meaning that they have the responsibility and control as to what happens with your data and ensures it is protected. These data will also be stored within our other organisations such as King's College London and Imperial College London secure IT systems who act jointly as 'Data Controllers' meaning they will store and review the data in line with our study objectives. Only the research team have access to these databases.

2. *Pseudonymised data*

The term 'pseudonymised data' means that we strip away any identifiers, such as name, date of birth, and replace it with a unique study code. For example, the audio file of your interview will be stored under a unique study code on a secure server at the King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR). Paper copies of any information about you will be kept securely in locked cabinets. Once your audio file has been transcribed and data analysis has been completed, the audio will be destroyed. Transcriptions are conducted by an independent company which has signed a confidentiality agreement – they do not keep audio or text files of your data. Pseudonymised and redacted transcripts will be kept by KCMHR for 20 years as they may use the pseudonymised data in future research.

Diagrammatic drawing (e.g., timeline mapping) may be used as a part of your interview. Timeline mapping is a way of capturing key events and corresponding dates in someone's history. It is designed to support memory recall and serves as a visual aid when narrating life events. If this method is used, you will be asked if you consent to the anonymous reproduction of any diagrams that are created or used to aid the presentation and dissemination of study findings. You will be asked if you consent to the reproduction of anonymous images.

Here you can find the King's College London Statement on Use of Personal Data in Research: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/rgei/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

What would happen if an urgent mental health risk is disclosed?

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential, stored securely, and will not be disclosed to any other team member apart from in cases where clinical follow-up is necessary. In this case, the acting Study Clinician will be informed of your identity and contact details.

This will occur if you tell the researcher something which makes them seriously concerned about your safety or the safety of others, or about a previously non-disclosed serious crime you or someone else has committed or is about to commit. Under those circumstances, the researcher has a legal requirement to disclose this information to the relevant authorities, which may include informing the police or Social Services.

If the researcher does have serious concerns and believes that they need to disclose this information to the authorities, they will discuss this with you to ensure that you understand what the researcher is going to do before telling anyone else.

Who is organising and co-ordinating the study?

The ADVANCE study is being co-ordinated by Gp Capt Alex Bennett, DMRC Stanford Hall. He is the Principal Investigator and has overall responsibility for the conduct of the ADVANCE study. The ADVANCE-INVEST study is co-ordinated by Professor Nicola Fear, she is the Principal Investigator at KCMHR. KCMHR is an academic research team at King's College London. KCMHR has been conducting research into issues relevant to current and former members of the UK Armed Forces and their families since 1996. KCMHR is independent of the Ministry of Defence.

What will happen if I do not want to carry on with the study?

You can change your mind about taking part at any time before, during, or after, the interview without giving a reason, until it is no longer practical to do so – this will be three months after your interview, after which time we will be analysing your data along with the other interviews. If you do change your mind or have any questions after the interview, please contact the research team (details below).

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of the study will be written up into a report that will be publicly available and used in academic publications and presentations. All outputs will use anonymised data meaning that you will not be able to be identified.

What if I am unhappy with the conduct of the study or study staff?

If you have any concerns or complaints, you are encouraged to contact the Principal Investigator or the research team on the contact numbers provided so we can try and address any issues as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can contact the independent medical officer (contact details available below) who will be available throughout the study. Their sole function is to act independently of the study team to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

Who is funding this study?

The Headley Court Charity are our principal funder. In addition, we are funded by:

- The ADVANCE Charity
- A direct LIBOR grant from the Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Help for Heroes

- Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown
- Blesma – The Limbless Veterans
- The UK Ministry of Defence

Does this study have full ethical approval?

This study has received ethical approval from King's College London. Please ask the Principal Investigator if you would like further details of the approval or to see a copy of the full protocol.

Name and contact details of Principal Investigators:

ADVANCE-INVEST:

Professor Nicola Fear

Weston Education Centre, 10 Cutcombe Road

London, SE5 9RJ

Nicola.t.fear@kcl.ac.uk

Tel: 0207 8485351

ADVANCE:

Gp Capt Alex Bennett

DMRC Stanford Hall

Nottinghamshire LE12 5BL

alexander.bennett485@mod.gov.uk

Tel:01509 251500

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information: The Chair, rec@kcl.ac.uk

For more information, please email the study team on: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk or call on 07521043464.

Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet, which you should keep for future reference.