

RE: Research with neurodiverse sports fans

I am writing to invite you to take part in research about experiences of neurodiverse sports fans when attending live sports events.

The aim of the research is to understand the experiences of neurodivergent people when they attend sports events and to discuss ways in which services or facilities in stadia or sports grounds could be improved.

The research is being conducted by NatCen Social Research, an independent and non-profit research institute, on behalf of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) and Level Playing Field (LPF).

Taking part in the research would involve:

- Speaking in a small group discussion (**focus group**) with other fans and a NatCen researcher. This will take place online via video call and would last around **90-minutes** in **February 2021**.
- If you prefer not to participate in a group, you can also take part in a 45-minute telephone or video interview with a NatCen researcher.
- You will receive a **£30 digital gift voucher as a thank you** for taking part.

This is an important piece of research to help make stadia or sports grounds more inclusive. There are no right or wrong answers, we just want to hear your views.

If you're a sports fan who doesn't attend live events often or at all, we'd still like to hear from you, to find out if there are things that could be done to make it easier for you to attend in the future.

There is an **information sheet attached** to this email with more details about the research, which you can also find on our [website](#).

If you would like to take part, please let us know by either:

- **Emailing us directly** using this email address: NDfans@natcen.ac.uk. Please include your phone number so we can arrange to call you about the project.
- **Or** by telling the individual or organisation that contacted you that you would like to take part. By doing so, you will agree for them to share your contact details (email address and telephone number) securely with NatCen in order to arrange the research.

If you'd like to take part, the NatCen research team will contact you by telephone in January or early February to ask you a few questions about yourself and anything you might need to help you participate in the study. This is to make sure we include a range of different people who attend different kinds of events.

As it's a small project, we may not be able to include everyone who wants to participate in the research. After asking you some questions, the researcher will tell you if we're able to include you in the study and explain to you in more detail exactly what will happen next.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. You don't have to participate if you don't want to. If you take part, we won't tell anyone what you specifically have told us.

Finally, we will also be conducting a focus group with parents and/or carers of neurodivergent sports fans. This is for people, for instance children or those with complex needs, who may not be able to participate themselves. If you are parent or carer and you would like to participate, please get in touch.

If you have any other questions, please contact NatCen by emailing NDfans@natcen.ac.uk or visit the study [webpage](#) for more information.

Yours sincerely,

Helen McCarthy
Senior Researcher
helen.mccarthy@natcen.ac.uk