

Airwave Health Monitoring Study Research Tissue Bank

Hearing test

Information sheet for participants

You are one of the c. 53,000 police officer/staff and are a member of the Airwave Study, the largest study conducted on police worldwide. We would like to thank you for taking part and take this opportunity to offer you a **free hearing test**. This is being offered to everyone who is part of the study. For this we are working with Dr Hannah Guest at the University of Manchester who has developed software to investigate hearing loss.

What is the purpose of the test?

The primary goal of the Airwave Health Monitoring Study has been to understand the effects of the TETRA radio system on the health of officers and staff. One aspect of health that has not yet been investigated is hearing. Exposure of the ears to excessive noise, including via in-ear devices, is the main cause of preventable hearing loss worldwide. Therefore, we would like to understand more about any potential effects of TETRA earpieces on hearing, assessed both via self-report and via an online listening task.

Why have I been chosen?

You are a participant in the Airwave Study and agreed that we could contact you.

Do I have to take part?

No. Whether you take part in this part of the study is entirely up to you. Even if you do decide to take part, you can change your mind at any time without giving a reason. If you agree to take part in this Airwave hearing test, we will add the data we collect to the data we already hold.

What is involved?

You will be asked to answer a short pre-test questionnaire and then carry out a 12-minute listening activity on your laptop or computer connected to the internet and headphones or earphones. The whole test should take around 20 minutes.

Will I receive any of my results?

Yes, on completion of the hearing test you will be presented with a summary of your performance.

Are there any risks?

To ensure that you are not exposed to excessive noise a calibration phase prior to the hearing test will give you the opportunity to adjust volume control until calibration sounds are clearly audible but not uncomfortably loud. The hearing test is then delivered at a sound level 5 dB quieter than the loudest of the calibration sounds. These steps ensure both audibility and comfort.

What will happen to my data?

The hearing test data will be held by the University of Manchester who own and manage the test software. The data will be shared with the Airwave Study and then deleted by the University of Manchester.

We will add the data we collect from the hearing test to the data we already hold about you. If you consent to the Study obtaining information about other hearing tests carried out during your Police employment, we may also add that to the existing data we hold about you.

As with other data this may be used by Imperial College and other research institutions both academic and commercial who may conduct research using the data and samples provided by the Study, including genetic analysis to identify genes that may predispose people to disease. You will never be personally identified to any researcher outside the Airwave Health Monitoring Study team without your consent. The results of any research that is published, whether by Imperial College or anyone else, will never identify you.

What will happen to the results of the test?

The results of this study may be published in medical journals, presented at meetings of scientists, and reported to both Imperial College, London and the Health Research Authority who oversee and review how research takes place in England. No personally identifiable information about you will be made available outside of the Study team.

Who has reviewed the study test?

To protect your interests, all research at Imperial College London is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee. This study has been reviewed and granted approval by the North West - Haydock Research Ethics Committee.

How will we use information about you?

Imperial College London is the sponsor for this study and will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately. Imperial College London will keep your personal data for:

- 30 years after the study has finished in relation to data subject consent forms.
- 30 years after the study has completed in relation to primary research data.

The hearing study is expected to finish in December 2024.

For more information / confirmation regarding the end date please contact the study team, see 'where can you find out more about how your information is used' for contact information.

People within the College and study team (see section *Sharing your Information* with others) will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that research is being done properly and the information held (such as contact) details is accurate. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

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. Our legal basis for using your information under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, is as follows:

- Imperial College London - "performance of a task carried out in the public interest"); 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.

Where special category personal information is involved (most commonly health data, biometric data and genetic data, racial and ethnic data etc.), Imperial College London rely on scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes.

International transfers

There may be a requirement to transfer information to countries outside the United Kingdom (for example, to a research partner, either within the European Economic Area (EEA) or to other countries outside the EEA). Where this information contains your personal data, Imperial College London will ensure that it is transferred in accordance with data protection legislation. If the data is transferred to a country which is not subject to a UK adequacy decision in respect of its data protection standards, Imperial College London will enter into a data sharing agreement with the recipient research partner that incorporates UK approved standard contractual clauses or utilise another transfer mechanism that safeguards how your personal data is processed.

Sharing your information with others

We will only share your personal data with certain third parties for the purposes referred to in this participant information sheet and by relying on the legal basis for processing your data as set out above.

Other Imperial College London employees (including staff involved directly with the research study or as part of certain secondary activities which may include support functions, internal audits, ensuring accuracy of contact details etc.), Imperial College London agents, contractors and service providers (for example, suppliers of printing and mailing services, email communication services or web services, or suppliers who help us carry out any of the activities described above). Our third-party service providers are required to enter into data processing agreements with us. We only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our policies.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have because some research using your data may have already taken place and this cannot be undone.

We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you if this could affect the wider study or the accuracy of data collected. If you agree to take part in this study, you will have the option to take part in future research using your data saved from this study.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information at:

- www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to airwave@imperial.ac.uk
- Our website at www.police-health.org.uk.

Potential use of study data for future research

When you agree to take part in a research study, the information collected either as part of the study or in preparation for the study (such as contact details) may, if you consent, be provided to researchers running other research studies at Imperial College London and in other organisations which may be universities or organisations involved in research in this country or abroad. Your information will only be used to conduct research in accordance with legislation including the GDPR and the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research.

This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you, used against you or used to make decisions about you.

Can I claim compensation if I am harmed?

Imperial College London holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you experience harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you will be eligible to claim compensation without having to prove that Imperial College is at fault. This does not affect your legal rights to seek compensation. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study then you should immediately inform the Investigator Professor Paul Elliott via email at airwave@imperial.ac.uk. The normal National Health Service mechanisms are also available to you. If you are still not satisfied with the response, you may contact the Imperial College, Research Governance and Integrity Team.

How to make a complaint

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data or if you want to find out more about how we use your information, please contact Imperial College London's Data Protection Officer via email at dpo@imperial.ac.uk, via telephone on 020 7594 3502 and via post at Imperial College London, Data Protection Officer, Faculty Building Level 4, London SW7 2AZ.

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). The ICO does recommend that you seek to resolve matters with the data controller (us) first before involving the regulator.

Contact for Further Information

If you have any questions, you can contact a member of the study team at:

The Airwave Health Monitoring Study
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
School of Public Health
Imperial College
Norfolk Place,
London W2 1PG

You can also email us at airwave@imperial.ac.uk, or visit our website at <http://www.police-health.org.uk>. We look forward to discussing any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for considering taking part in this test.