**Title of Study: Exploration of personality traits, camouflaging and suicidality within women diagnosed with anxiety.**

Thank you for your participation in this study.

It has been suggested in research that autistic people, particularly women, are at greater risk of suicide than the rest of the population. Research suggests that autistic women who also camouflage, or “mask” their autistic traits, are at greater risk of suicidality. It is also well-established that a common secondary diagnosis for autistic women is anxiety, and this can contribute to suicide risk. However, there is limited research on women with anxiety without an autism diagnosis, and whether they engage in camouflaging behaviour and how this may influence their risk of suicidality. This study aimed to explore autistic traits within women with an anxiety diagnosis and whether there are links to suicidality as defined in an established model of risk measurement. Through this research we wondered whether women with anxiety might vary in suicide risk and camouflaging, and whether this may link to autistic traits. Therefore, this research aims to understand more about anxious women’s experiences, in the hope that we can influence the development of appropriate measurement models and intervention to better support people.

**This research is not designed to be diagnostic in any way.** The research team are not able to share individual scores, as the research is exploring relationships between the aspects it measured rather than suggesting any form of diagnosis. However, if after participating in this research you would like to explore anything raised further, we would encourage you to contact your GP.

Due to the exploratory nature of the study, there is a second phase of the study where, if invited to participate, you would be encouraged to discuss your responses in further detail. Information for the second study phase can be found here (*link to Phase 2 information sheet*). The second phase is opt-in and does not impact on your participation so far, and you are welcome to complete your study involvement at this point.

If you decide you would like to withdraw your data from the study, you can do so by contacting the researcher using your unique identifier code. If you do choose to withdraw, please contact the researcher by the end of June 2022 to ensure your data is not used for analysis.

**If you have experienced any distress because of participating in the study, we encourage you to take part in this positive mood activity (*link to positive mood activity*). If you require further support, please either contact your GP, Samaritans (phone 116 123) or SHOUT (text 85258).**

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If you wish to raise a complaint on how your personal data is handled, you can contact the Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter: [rec-man@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:rec-man@ncl.ac.uk)

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