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

Thank you for your participation in this study. As a mark of appreciation for the time you have taken to share your experiences with us, you will be sent a £10 Amazon e-voucher to the email address you have already provided to us to arrange this interview. After this voucher has been sent to you, your email address will be removed from the research team’s database. Your email address and any other personal information provided to the researcher will not be used in a way that could personally identify you in the study’s analysis or write-up.

As you are aware from your participation in the first phase of 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.

Due to the exploratory nature of the study, the researcher asked you to expand on your questionnaire responses provided in the first phase. This expands on the research aims above in the hopes to provide better support for people who experience suicidal thoughts by gaining individual-level perspectives.

**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.

If you decide you would like to withdraw your data from either phase of 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 January 2023 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 practice self-care, and invite you to take part in this positive mood activity (**[***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-2GJxXVyJc***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-2GJxXVyJc)***).* If you require further support, please either contact your GP, Samaritans (phone 116 123) or SHOUT (text 85258).**

***Contact details:***

Principal Investigator: Victoria Walker, [v.walker2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:v.walker2@newcastle.ac.uk)

Research Supervisor: Dr Fiona Gullon-Scott, [Fiona.gullon-scott@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.gullon-scott@newcastle.ac.uk)

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)

If you are not satisfied with their response you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO): <https://ico.org.uk/>