

**Participant Information Form**

**School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin**

**1. Title of study:** Examining citizens’ opinions, perceptions, and understandings of Dublin’s current smart city agenda.

**2. Details:** This research is being carried by Sadhbh Nevins as part of a final year dissertation project in the Geography Department (Trinity College Dublin), under the supervision of Dr Federico Cugurullo. The goal of this research project is to examine and understand citizens’ perceptions/opinions/perspectives of Smart Dublin (Dublin’s smart-city initiative), with an emphasis on those living in one of the city’s newest ‘smart districts’, Balbriggan.

**3. Introduction:** The overarching research question for this project is as followed: *What are citizens’ opinions, perceptions, and understandings of Dublin’s current smart city agenda?*

A **smart-city** can be defined as an urban area that implements technology into many aspects of the city (e.g.- transport; healthcare; governance) to help improve the efficiency, sustainability and quality of life in the city.

The reason for asking the above question is twofold. Firstly, there is yet to be a research project that explicitly asks the opinions/views of Dublin’s inhabitants with regards to the city’s smart agenda. Secondly, the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals outline that a sustainable city is one that includes the voices of its residents.

The participant will be asked to discuss their thoughts/views on Dublin’s smart city agenda, its initiatives, the problems they deem most pressing in Dublin, and on the use of technology in the city more widely. This conservation will be conducted via a once-off interview that will last between 40-45mins, depending on the availability of the participant.

**4. Procedures:** No prior knowledge of Smart Dublin or smart urbanism is required for participation in this research. Participants of all ages, genders, ethnicities, races, creeds, and socio-economic backgrounds are encouraged to partake to ensure everyone has the opportunity to voice their opinions on Dublin’s smart-city initiative.

Interviews are once-off and semi-structured, meaning they are largely informal though particular topics will be raised (e.g. – thoughts on technology used in cities; subjective understanding of urban sustainability). Interviews will be no longer than 45 mins and can take place via telephone, email, Zoom, or face-to-face (though this latter option is dependent on Covid-19 restrictions). Following the interview, participants’ information will be anonymised for upmost confidentiality and stored securely.

**5. Benefits:** The main benefit in partaking in this research is the opportunity to voice your perspectives/thoughts/opinions/concerns on the smart initiatives currently taking place in Dublin.

**6. Risks:** There are no known risks associated with partaking in this research.

**7. Exclusion from participation:**All participants must be over the age of 18. Participants’ involvement in this study must be voluntary and informed consent must be formally obtained before the interview begins.

**8. Confidentiality:** Throughout the study, your name and personal details will remain confidential. Your identity will not be published or disclosed outside of this research project.

**9. Voluntary Participation:**Your participation in this research project has been wholly voluntary. If you wish to do so, you may withdraw from this study at any given point and will not face any penalties or disadvantages.

**10. Reimbursements***:* Though additional incentives (e.g. - cash payments) are not available, travel costs will be reimbursed for participants if the interview takes place face-to-face.

**11. Stopping the study:** The researcher may stop your involvement in the study at any given time. Likewise, the participant can withdraw from the study at any point.

**12. Permission:** Permission to carry out this study has been approved by the School of Natural Science Research Ethics Committee in Trinity College Dublin.

**13. Access to data:** Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the participant is entitled to access any data concerning said participant in the possession of the researcher at any given time.

**14. Sharing the results:** The results of this study will be shared with the participants prior publication.

**15. Further information:** For more information about the nature of the study or of your participation, please contact Sadhbh Nevins by email at [nevinss@tcd.ie](mailto:nevinss@tcd.ie)



**Informed Consent Form**

**School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin**

**Title of research study:** Examining citizens’ perspectives of Dublin’s current smart-city agenda.

This research study and this consent form have been explained to me comprehensively. I understand my outcomes if I agree to participate in this study.

This form has been read by me or for me. I was given the chance to ask questions and these questions were answered to a satisfactory level. I give my free and voluntary consent to participate in this study, without discrimination to my legal rights. I have received a copy of this consent form and I understand that a signed copy will be sent to the sponsoring company, if applicable.

**Name of sponsor**: n/a

**PARTICIPANT’S NAME:**

**PARTICIPANT’S SIGNATURE:**

**Date:**

**Date on which the participant was first furnished with this form:**

**Participants with literacy difficulties:**

I have witnessed the correct reading of this consent form to the prospective participant. The individual has been given the opportunity to ask questions and these questions have been answered to a satisfactory level. I have witnessed and confirm that the prospective participant has given their voluntary consent. I confirm that the prospective participant understands that they have can withdraw from the study at any time, if they agree to participate.

**Print name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date (Day/month/year) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Statement of investigator’s responsibility:** I have explained the purpose, details, procedures, advantages, disadvantages of this research project. I have answered all questions asked by the prospective participant to a high standard. It is my belief that the prospective participant comprehends my explanations and has provided their voluntary consent to partake in this study.

**Researcher’s signature: Icon

Description automatically generated Date:**

(Keep the original of this form in the project records, give one copy to the participant, and send one copy to the sponsor (if there is a sponsor).