

Evaluation of the Screen and Treat programme for people affected by the terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels

Information Sheet

- We would like to invite you to take part in an evaluation for the Department of Health, which is currently being undertaken by researchers at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and King's College London (KCL).
- The benefits of taking part are that you get to voice your experiences and opinions about the Screen and Treat programme set up by the Government following the terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels. Traumatic events of this kind can cause considerable distress, and some people may need help. It is possible that similar incidents will happen again. Your experiences of the process following the events in Tunisia, Paris or Brussels will help the Government to respond in future in ways that can help people to recover.
- The aim of this document is to provide you with information about why the research is being undertaken, what it will involve, and to help you decide whether or not you wish to take part in the study.
- Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you read through the information provided here.
- If there are any points that are unclear to you – or if you would like to find out more about the study – please contact either of the main researchers on this project: Dr Eva Cyhlarova (e.cyhlarova@lse.ac.uk or 020 7107 5222) or Professor Martin Knapp (m.knapp@lse.ac.uk or 020 7955 6225).

Thank you for reading this

1. What are the possible benefits of taking part in the research?

The benefits of taking part are that you get to voice your experiences and opinions about the Screen and Treat programme set up by the Government following the terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels.

Following such a traumatic event, distress is very common, and some people may need help with the emotional impact of the event, which may not become apparent for several months. It is possible that similar incidents will happen again, and your experience of the process will help the Government to respond in future in a way that you think will be helpful to other people.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you have been directly affected by one of the terrorist attacks in Tunisia (March and June 2015), Paris (November 2015) or Brussels (March 2016) and you have given your contact details to the Metropolitan Police.

We would like you to take part in the evaluation even if you decided not to participate in the Screen and Treat programme.

3. Who are the people doing the project?

We are a group of professional researchers working for the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and King's College London (KCL). Both universities are leading centres in the United Kingdom for research into mental health.

4. What is the purpose of the evaluation?

Our research team at LSE has been commissioned by the Department of Health to find out if the Screen and Treat programme for people affected by the terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels is effective in helping people to recover. Part of this is ensuring that people are screened and helped into services.

We believe it is important to ask people who were affected by these events what they think about the Screen and Treat programme. We would also like to find out how to make best use of NHS resources to help people to recover. Another aim is to look at how the agencies involved in the programme work together.

The results of the study will help to improve programmes responding to terrorist attacks, should similar events occur in the future. By taking part in this evaluation, you can help us to find ways that will benefit other people caught up in future such incidents.

5. What will happen to me if I take part in the project? What will I have to do?

If you decide to take part, please detach and sign the consent form attached to this information sheet. You can contribute to all three elements of the evaluation or you can choose to participate in just some elements. You can agree to: (a) share existing information, and/or (b) fill in a questionnaire, and/or (c) complete an interview.

a) Share existing information

If you agree to take part by allowing the researchers to access the information you have previously provided either to Public Health England or to the NHS Trust that is leading on the Screen and Treat process, please sign and return the consent form. You will not be asked to do anything further.

If this does not apply to you (for example, you did not reply to the screening invitation or the screening indicated that you might not benefit from treatment), we would still value your contribution to parts (b) and (c) if you are interested in participating.

b) Fill in a questionnaire

If you agree to take part by filling in a short questionnaire, please detach and complete the questionnaire now. You can complete the paper copy and return it to us in the stamped addressed envelope or download the questionnaire here www.pssru.ac.uk/screen-treat-evaluation and return it to us by email. If you prefer, we can also complete the questionnaire in discussion with you by telephone. We will invite you to complete the same questionnaire with updated information in a few months' time.

c) Complete an interview

If you agree to participate in an interview, we will set this up with you later. You can be interviewed in person or over the telephone, depending on your preference. A researcher will either meet with you or telephone you at an agreed time. The researcher will take notes, with your permission. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to.

If you decided not to participate in the Screen and Treat programme, we would still like to interview you.

6. How long will it take to complete the questionnaire? How long will the interview last?

The questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes, partly depending on how much you have to say. If you need a break during the interview, that can easily be arranged.

7. Do I have to take part in the study?

It is entirely up to you to decide whether to take part, and which elements of the study you take part in. We hope that you will be willing to share your experiences, but please be assured that – whether or not you decide to take part in the evaluation – this will have no bearing on any treatment you receive, now or in the future. If you decide to take part, you are free to change your mind and withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason.

8. What are the possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?

There are no significant disadvantages or risks to taking part. If you feel uncomfortable recounting your experiences during the interview, you are free to stop the interview at any time. You do not have to give a reason for wanting to stop, and you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to.

If you find that filling in the questionnaire or taking part in the interview makes you feel distressed, please contact your GP or NHS 111 at any time should you feel you need help.

9. Will my contribution to this study be kept confidential?

All information that is collected will be kept confidential. Your information will be given an individual code to make it anonymous. Electronic information will be kept on a secure server in password-protected files at the LSE, and only the research team will have access to those files.

Any identifying information will be removed from any reports. All information you give us will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The only exception is if you tell us that you or someone else is at risk of serious harm. In this case we will seek your permission if possible and inform someone of this concern.

We should emphasise that the research team does not know the identities of any of the people directly affected by the events in Tunisia, Paris or Brussels. The envelope that you have just received was sent out on behalf of the research team by the Department of Health, and we only know the identities of those individuals who consent to participate in the study by signing and returning the form to the LSE.

10. Who is organising and funding the research study?

Researchers at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) are organising the research, and collaborating with researchers at King's College London (KCL) for part of the study. The LSE project is being funded by the Department of Health. The team at LSE is based in the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), which has been conducting research in the health and social care fields for more than 40 years. It is part of the Policy Innovation Research Unit, which carries out a range of studies in the health and social care areas for the Department of Health.

11. What if I still have concerns or questions about this study?

If you have a concern or question about any aspect of the study, you should speak either to a member of the research team (Dr Eva Cyhlarova by email on e.cyhlarova@lse.ac.uk or by phone on 020 7107 5222; or Professor Martin Knapp by email on m.knapp@lse.ac.uk or by phone on 020 7955 6225).

Alternatively you could contact David Coombe, Director of the Research Division at the LSE (d.coombe@lse.ac.uk; 020 7955 7114) or the Department of Health by telephoning 0207 210 4850, or textphone 0207 451 7965.

Thank you for reading this