



School of Social Science, Education and Social Work  
Queens University Belfast  
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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a research project called 'Birth parents' experiences of contact with children adopted in the last 10 years: making and living out arrangements'. This project is the subject of my PhD thesis and aims to understand birth parents' experiences of the planning for and having post adoption contact. It is hoped that interviews will be undertaken with birth parents and legal representatives with experience of freeing proceedings.

I am asking that you consider participating in this research because the experience, views and insight that you have as someone who has been involved in freeing proceedings could provide a valuable contribution to what is known about this subject.

Participating in the research involves taking part in a one to one interview which should last around an hour (though this may vary according to the individual participant). This can take place in a location of your choosing. The interviews will be recorded, transcribed and analysed to see if there are emerging themes. The project will analyse the current law, practice and procedure around post-adoption contact taking into account the findings from the interviews with parents and lawyers.

Your contribution will be confidential – no one will be informed that you have taken part (though there are limitations to this if there is a risk of harm disclosed). You will not be referred to by name in any of the write ups of the research, though quotes may be used from individual interviews. Solicitors can claim 1 general study CPD point for participation. An application for CPD accreditation for participating barristers is pending. If you wish to claim CPD accreditation you will have to advise your professional body that you have participated.

The benefits of this research for you are that you will have the opportunity to impart your experience and knowledge about a subject area that is relatively inaccessible. The downsides of the research are that you will have to give of your time for the interview.

There is no obligation on you to participate. If you would like to or you would like more information about taking part please contact me on the research phone (07775 087 097) or by email [shansen01@qub.ac.uk](mailto:shansen01@qub.ac.uk).

If you have any clients who have experienced having post-adoption contact arrangements made and may wish to be part of this research, please contact me and I will provide you with an information sheet and letter to pass to them and advise on recruiting them for research.

With thanks

Sarah Hansen