Dear participant

Public Sector Poetry is carrying out research on life working in the public sector. We would be grateful if you could take part in this research as a participant by submitting your poems to us and giving permission for us to use your poem as part of the data we are collecting.

This research seeks to answer 3 questions:

* What are the challenges facing those working in Health and Education in the public sector?
* How can poetry support public sector workers to articulate their professional experiences and write reflectively?
* How can writing poetry and being part of a community of practice (writers) support public sector workers’ wellbeing?

**Your poem/s**

Your poems will be analysed and coded to identify emerging themes in relation to **research question 1.**

Participants’ names will be **anonymised and unidentifiable in the research**. If a poem is selected for publication in the journal, author names can be included in the journal, or anonymised if preferred – poets will be consulted if chosen for publication.

The ethics for this research have been agreed by University of Northampton and follow the University’s guidance and BERA (2018)’s guidelines for ethical research. **Participation in this project is voluntary** and **participants can withdraw at any time** up until 2 weeks before each anthology publication date.

All data will be **stored confidentially**, and all documents will be password protected (BERA, 2018, p.9).

The aims of the research are **transparent** and research question and aims have been outlined in this letter.

A **risk assessment** has been completed for this research and any harm arising from this research has been assessed. Places of work and names of people will not be evident within poems and all identifiable features will be **anonymised.**

Public Sector Poetry signposts participants to mental health services should they need them following writing/submitting poems, which may involve discussing personal and professional issues that may upset participants. These are listed below.

If you have any further questions about the research, please contact me and let me know: [korrin.smith-whitehouse@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:korrin.smith-whitehouse@northampton.ac.uk)

Please only submit your poem to us having read this information as you will be agreeing for your poems to be used for research purposes.

Regards and thank you for participating in this research

Korrin Smith-Whitehouse

**Support:**

National bullying helpline

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/about.html>

Phone: 0300 323 0169

Teacher Union NASUWT

<https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/>

Phone: 03330 145550

National Education Union NEU

<https://neu.org.uk/>

Phone: 0345 8118111

Public Service Union – UNISON

<https://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/education-services/>

Phone: 08000 857857

Unite – Union for workers

<https://www.unitetheunion.org/>

UCU – University and College Union

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/>

Phone: 020 7756 2500

Mind – Mental Health Crisis Service

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/>

The Samaritans

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Phone: 116 123