

# **Impact of changes in local food environments on child bodyweights - Privacy Notice**

## **Who is undertaking this research project?**

The research project is being undertaken by a research team based in the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) within the University of Essex

Institute of Social and Economic Research,  
University of Essex,  
Wivenhoe Park,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO4 3SQ

Web: <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk>

The University of Essex is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (Registration Number: Z699129X).

The Data Protection Officer for the University of Essex is;

Clare Chatfield  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester  
CO3 4SQ  
+44 (0) 1206 874853  
[dpo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@essex.ac.uk)

## **What are the purpose(s) for which data are being processed within this research project?**

This project is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research, Applied Research Collaboration East of England. The purpose is to evaluate the effects that changes in local food environments and other school- or area-level characteristics and interventions have had on child weight in Local Authorities in the East of England (currently Hertfordshire and Essex); and to investigate the determinants of child opt-out from NCMP.. The research will help Local Authorities in the East of England, and elsewhere Local Authorities, Integrated Care Services and public bodies to make informed strategic planning or regulation decisions that affect local food environments, access to weight management or behaviour-change services; models of provision of school food or holiday activity programmes; or other initiatives that may affect health-related behaviours and outcomes.

## **What is the legal basis under which data is processed within this research project?**

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a legal basis is required for processing of personal data. The legal basis under which data is processed within this project is:

Article 6 (1) (e) – “processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;”

Processing of data concerning gender and ethnicity (and other ‘special categories’ of data) requires the fulfilment of an additional condition under GDPR. The specific condition fulfilled by the processing of such data within this project is:

Article 9 (2) (j) – “processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) based on Union or Member State law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject.”

When relying on this condition for processing special categories of personal data, an organisation must determine which condition of the Data Protection Act 2018, Schedule 1 Part 1 supports that processing. For this project that will be Condition 4 as the data will be processed for Scientific Research.

For further information, see: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/>

## **Which sources of data are being used by this research project?**

Individual-level data on primary school children’s demographic characteristics, neighbourhood of residence, school attended, and a derived measure of their Body Mass Index.

## **How is the data being collected within this research project?**

All data has been collected by Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Councils, through trained nurse visits to Primary Schools as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. No new primary data is being collected.

## **What categories of data will be obtained from these sources?**

The project will obtain specific data from the National Child Measurement Programme in Essex and in Hertfordshire. The data that will be obtained has been identified by the research team as necessary and sufficient to robustly answer the research question.

The following data will be obtained:

For students in school years Reception and Year 6, from the academic year 2013/14 to 2023/24 and subsequent years on agreement of an updated Information Sharing Agreement

- Pseudonymised identifier
- Indicator for having opted out of measurement or not.
- BMI z-score and clinical BMI category.
- Individual characteristics including: Sex, ethnicity, School year-group
- School unique reference number and postcode.
- Lower super output area of residence.
- Date of measurement.

More information can be found here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme/>

## **Will my data be used by the research project?**

It is impossible for the Project Team to determine if your data is included within the secondary data provided to us by Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council since these data are functionally anonymised. ISER cannot identify any living individual from the data provided by Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council

Data will be used to produce statistical summaries and models. All outputs will be rigorously checked to ensure there is no risk that information about individual or small numbers of children or schools can be identified from any published outputs.

## **Can I opt-out of the use of my data by the research project?**

ISER have no way of knowing who is included within the data sets supplied to us by Hertfordshire County Council since all data are functionally anonymised when we receive them. You cannot therefore opt out of this project by contacting ISER. NCMP participants' parents are aware that the data may be used for the purposes of health and social care research.

## **How will my privacy be protected?**

The project will use anonymised data for analysis purposes. This means that no identifiable data, such as name and address, will be included in the data obtained by the research team at the University of Essex. The data requested are necessary and sufficient to build a statistical model of the effect of changes in the local food environment and other school- or area-level characteristics and interventions on children's Body Mass Index classifications; and to investigate the determinants of child opt-out from measurement in the NCMP.

All data received at the University of Essex will be securely stored within an infrastructure that is certified to the Internationally agreed standard for Information Security (ISO27001:2013), and will be managed in accordance with the Data Sharing Agreements that govern the use of the data obtained from the different sources. Access to the data will be restricted to a small number of named and approved members of the research team.

## What are my rights in relation to the data?

The General Data Protection Regulation provides the following rights for individuals in relation to their personal data:

The right to be informed

The right of access

The right of rectification

The right to erasure

The right to restrict processing

The right to data portability

The right to object

Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

For further information, see: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/> .

A summary of these rights and their applicability in respect of this project is provided in the table below.

Right	Applies to this project ?	Rationale
The right to be informed	Yes	Details regarding the project and its use of data are provided within this privacy notice.
The right of access	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.
The right to rectification	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.
The right to erasure	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.
The right to restrict processing	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.

The right to data portability	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.
The right to object	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.
Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling	No	The research team are unable to determine the data that relates to a specific data subject.

## **Will my data be transferred to any organisations outside of the University of Essex?**

No data be transferred outside of the University of Essex.

## **How long will my data be retained by the research project?**

Data will be retained by the research team until 12/05/2026 in the first instance, to facilitate the completion of the research. The retention period may be amended if both parties agree it is needed when this data sharing agreement is reviewed.

## **What approvals have been obtained by the research project?**

The research project has successfully obtained:

Ethical approval from the University of Essex ethics committee.

## **What if I have further questions?**

The Data Controllers for National Child Measurement Programme data for Essex are Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH. Their data protection officer may be contacted at [dpo@essex.gov.uk](mailto:dpo@essex.gov.uk)

The Data Controllers for National Child Measurement Programme data for Hertfordshire are Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pgs Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 8DE, ICO registration number Z6406154. Their data protection officer may be contacted at [David.Campbell@Hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:David.Campbell@Hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Additionally, any queries or concerns regarding the processing of personal data can be made to the Information Commissioner's Office (<https://ico.org.uk>).