

Sally Horton
Ipsos MORI, Social Research Institute
3 Thomas More Square
London E1W 1YW

1st February 2021

Dear Ms Horton,

Study title: Maternity Survey 2020
Date submitted: 21st December 2020

Committee Process

The CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel is tasked with reviewing studies commissioned by the CQC. It is chaired by Dr Mark Sheehan and includes Nigel Booth (Lay member) and Dr Gary Abel (Statistician). In accordance with its operating procedures, the full Panel reviews research studies which are new and have not been reviewed by the panel or its precursor. Amended, updated, or previously reviewed research studies are reviewed by the Chair. This research study was reviewed by the full panel.

Ethical opinion

Approval was sought for the 2021 version of the study with a range adjustments to accommodate the new mixed methods approach. The documents reviewed are noted below.

The panel discussed a range of ethical issues arising from the documentation and the context. These included how the survey had been adjusted for the COVID-19 context, how the text analytics model was working and various questions about those who were excluded from the survey because of bereavement etc. On the last issue it did seem entirely appropriate to exclude women who had experienced a bereavement or whose pregnancy was secret, but it did seem as though some women in this excluded population might have had experiences that would be useful to understand. How this data could be gathered in a sensitive and ethical manner is a tricky question but is one that is worth pursuing. The actions which were agreed as a result of the discussion have been documented in the meeting's minutes, but none were such as to make the committee's decision conditional.

There were no further ethical issues to be raised. We are happy to give a favourable ethical opinion of the study on the basis described in the Ethics Application form and supporting documentation and subject to the above-mentioned conditions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mark Sheehan
Chair, On behalf of the CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel

Documents Reviewed and Approved:

- Ethics application form
- Dissent posters (MAT21 DissentPoster V3)
- Dissent document (MAT21_Dissent information_V1)
- Young mothers' leaflet and briefing note (MAT21 Young mothers' leaflet V2 & MAT21 Briefing note for young mothers' leaflet V2)
- Invitation letter (MAT21 Mailing 1 letter_V3)
- Reminder letter 1 (MAT21 Mailing 2 letter_V3)
- Reminder letter 2 (MAT21 Mailing 3 letter_V3)
- Reminder letter 3 (MAT21 Mailing 4 letter_V3)
- SMS 1, SMS 2, SMS 3 (MAT21 SMS content_V1)
- Questionnaire (MAT21 Mainstage Questionnaire_Paper_V3)
- Survey guidance manual (MAT21 Survey handbook V4)
- Multilanguage sheet (MAT21_Multilanguage sheet_V1)
- Maternity internal ethics form_v1_07112019_ICO (19)
- CAG S251 non-research conditional outcome
- MAT21_Questionnaire Change Log_V1_IU
- MAT21_Sampling Flowchart_V1
- CAG non-research fully supported outcome
- MAT20 Questionnaire final V9_Picker_paper
- MAT21_Sample declaration form - contractor_V3_ICU
- MAT21_Sample declaration form-in-house_V3_ICU
- MAT21 Sampling Instructions V3 ICU
- MAT21_Sample construction-contractor_V4_ICU
- MAT21_Sample construction-in house_V4_ICU
- HRA letter re Service Evaluations will not be considered by HRA
- IP20 and MAT21_Text analytics update for the ethics panel_V1_Internal Client