**Invitation to join our research panel**

Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether to take part. This information sheet is for you to keep. If you are not sure about anything, please ask the researcher, or talk about it with a friend or family member.

**Who is this invitation from and what is it for?**

You have been invited by the Home Office Digital Data and Technology team, on behalf of UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to join our ‘research panel’. The research panel is a list of people who have told us that they are interested in being invited to research to help us improve Home Office services.

It is important to be aware that this invitation is for research purposes only. As researchers, we do not work in policy or casework applications. Our research team are not qualified to provide immigration advice.

**Who can join the panel?**

You can join the research panel if you:

• are from outside the UK (including EU countries)

• may need to apply for settled status or a UK visa in the future

**What would joining the panel involve?**

* Completing our survey to tell us more about you; we use this information to help us identify which research is most relevant to you
* Receiving invitations to take part in research we are conducting; any time we invite you to research we will send you a participant information sheet so that you can decide whether you would like to take part.

**If I joined the panel, would sort of research could I be invited to?**

We do lots of different types of research, but most involve giving feedback on new services or web pages and/or talking to us about your experiences.

Our research sessions vary in the time needed but often last around 1 hour. We will let you know the details when inviting you to a session.

We offer ‘Compliments’ shopping vouchers as a thank you for taking part in the research. The amount may vary depending on the session. Receiving a voucher does not mean you work for us.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not have to join the panel. Whether you decide to join or not, this decision will have no effect on any current or future applications. Being on the panel does not mean you are expected to take part in the research, it only means you are happy for us to invite you research that may be relevant to you. If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw from the panel at any time.

**What data will you collect?**

We ask for a range of information about you, for example, your age, gender, nationality, immigration status, family status etc. The reason for us collecting this is for research purposes only. This helps us to:

* send you research invitations that are most relevant to you
* invite a wide variety of people to our research
* build useable services for the Home Office for all who need them

We do not share your information with anyone outside the UKVI Digital Data and Technology team.

We will hold your information for 24 months. After this period, we will re-contact you to see if you still want to be on the panel.

**Your right to withdraw or complain**

Your participation in the panel is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time by emailing us at: takepart@digital.homeoffice.gov.uk

Home Office Digital Data and Technology, who is carrying out this research, is a Company Partner of the Market Research Society (MRS). This research is being carried out in accordance with the Market Research Society’s Code of Conduct.

If you have any concerns about the research, you can contact MRS on free phone 0800 975 9596.

If you have any concerns about how your data is being processed or you would like know more about information rights legislation, please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).