



# Participant Information Sheet

## Evaluation of the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) Scheme in Oxford

### Summary

The Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme in Oxford City Centre supports the local authority and transport providers to replace older diesel buses with zero emission electric buses. There is little research on how moving to electric buses impacts the health of people living, working and travelling in the cities.

This study aims to understand if the ZEBRA scheme influences air and noise pollution, and see how this changes the health, travel behaviours and the wider health, economic, community and environmental impacts. As well as collecting data on air and noise pollution along key city centre routes, we are doing a series of interviews and focus groups with people involved in the roll out of the scheme and people who may be impacted by the scheme.

We are inviting you to participate in a focus group as you are a member of staff at one of the bus operators and have been involved in the roll out of the ZEBRA scheme. It is up to you to decide if you want to take part and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and take the time to consider whether you wish to take part.

The research study is conducted by the Public Health Intervention Responsive Study Team (PHIRST) PHRESH, led by researchers at the University of Birmingham in collaboration with partners at Oxfordshire County Council. This research is funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research.

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### How to contact us

If you have any questions about this study then please talk to: **Dr Kate Garrott** Department of Applied Health Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT  
**Email:** phirstphresh@contacts.bham.ac.uk  
**Telephone number:** 07483 426439



## 1 What we will ask you to do

If you agree to take part, we will invite you to take part in a focus group in **November or December 2024** with other members of staff from your organisation. During the focus group, we will ask you talk about the experience of being involved in the roll out of ZEBRA scheme and will ask you what has gone well and what has been challenging. We will also talk about the intended and unintended impacts of the scheme. The focus group will last **1.5 hours** and we will ask your permission to record the focus groups so we can listen back to it. The focus group will be scheduled at the most convenient time for all participants.

If you would like to speak to us, but do not feel comfortable or are unable to attend a focus group, we would like to invite you to take part in a one-to-one interview with a researcher. This could be in-person, over the telephone or online, whichever is most appropriate for you at a convenient time for you. Please contact the research team to arrange this.

## 2 What data will we collect?

Before the focus group, we will ask you to complete some brief questions about you and your job role. This is so that we can describe who has taken part in our study.

## 3 What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

The data collected from this study will be used to understand how the ZEBRA scheme has impacted health and to uncover learning from the roll out that can be applied to other areas. The findings will also be used to inform the long-term monitoring plan for

the ZEBRA scheme. You will also receive a £40 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you for your time and travel costs to attend will be reimbursed.

Taking part in this study will involve sacrificing up to 1.5 hours of your time, but we don't anticipate any further risks.

## 4 What will we do with your information?

Any information you provide, and the recordings of the focus groups will be kept confidentially on a secure database at the University of Birmingham for 10 years. Your personal details will be stored in a separate database from the other information you provide. Only members of the PHIRST PHRESH research team or representatives from relevant regulatory authorities will have access to your individual information.

A transcript will be made of the audio recording, which will be kept securely and have any information that could identify you removed from it. An external company will be used for transcription. In this case, your audio recording and transcripts will be transferred securely.

The information from all study participants will be collated in a report, and we will share this with interested stakeholders, including your employer. We may use your quotes in our research reports, but you will not be named in any report and we will endeavour to remove identifying information. We may not be able to guarantee full anonymity, for example, if you occupy a unique position. We will not disclose to your employer that you have taken part in the focus group.

The legal justification we have under data protection law for processing your personal data is that it is necessary for our research, which is a task



we carry out in the public interest. For information about your rights and what we do with personal data, see our privacy notice:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/applied-health/research/phresh/zebra-study](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/applied-health/research/phresh/zebra-study)

## 5 Who else is taking part?

The focus group will consist of other members of staff from your organisation. We will also be conducting focus groups with staff from other bus operators in Oxford, bus users and residents and commuters in Oxford. This will give us a broad range of perspectives on the scheme. We will also be doing interviews with individuals with direct involvement in the roll out.

## 6 What happens at the end of the study?

We will write a report at the end of the study about the findings. We will share the findings of the study with key stakeholders involved in the ZEBRA scheme roll out locally and nationally. We will also share the study findings with the public and share a summary of the results with everyone who takes part in the research. The results will also be published in scientific journals for a variety of audiences and presented at scientific conferences and meetings. Results and articles from the study will be published on  
<https://phirst.nihr.ac.uk/evaluations>.

## 7 What if I have any more questions or do not understand something?

You can contact the research team at University of Birmingham to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have before, during or after the study.

## 8 What happens now if I decide to take part?

Please complete the consent form online at  
[https://redcap.link/zebra\\_busstaff\\_obic](https://redcap.link/zebra_busstaff_obic)

## 9 What if I change my mind?

Participation in the study is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time. If at any time during the study, you no longer want to take part let us know by email or telephone. When you withdraw from the study, any information that you have already contributed to the study by participating in focus groups will be retained and used in study analysis, as it will not be possible to separate this information from the information provided by other participants. You will not be identified in any reports arising from the research.

## 10 Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. The study has been given a favourable opinion by the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) ethics committee, University of Birmingham. You can contact the Committee by quoting the ethics [ERN-3088] by email: [aer-ethics@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aer-ethics@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this study.