



# Participant Information Sheet

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

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### 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 *Oxon4Buses* or *Oxford Inclusive Transport & Movement Focus Group*, and we believe you can provide valuable insights about 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:** 07483426439



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## What we will ask you to do?

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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 from *Oxon4buses* and *Oxford Inclusive Transport and Movement Group*. The focus group will take place at a central, accessible location in Oxford. During the focus group, we will ask you talk about your experiences of the ZEBRA scheme and will ask you, from your perspectives as bus users, 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. We will ask you if you require any accessibility adjustments to attend the focus groups when you sign up.

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. Please contact the study team to arrange this.

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## 2 What data will we collect?

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

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

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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. There are no anticipated risks in taking part in this study.

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## 4 What will we do with your information?

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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 the study will be used in several reports but you will not be identifiable in any of these reports. We may also use your quotes in our research reports, but we will not use your name alongside any quotes.

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)



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## 5 Who else is taking part?

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The focus group will consist of other members from *Oxon4Buses* and *Oxford Inclusive Transport & Movement Focus Group*. We will conduct other focus groups with other groups including bus operator staff 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 implementing the scheme.

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

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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 roll out locally and nationally. We will also share the study findings with the public and 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>.

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

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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.

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

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Please complete the consent form online at [https://redcap.link/zebra\\_bususers](https://redcap.link/zebra_bususers). This will be followed by a short questionnaire and questions to ask you when you are available to take part in a focus group. Please tick all of the times you are available. This will be automatically returned to the research team.

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## 9 What if I change my mind?

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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.

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## 10 Who has reviewed the study?

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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 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) 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.