



## Neurodiversity in the Workplace: Patterns and Visual Comfort

### Participant Information Sheet

Buro Happold, 71 Newman Street, London W1T 1PD

Happold Suites, ground floor

You are invited to take part in this research. Before you decide whether to take part, please read this information sheet carefully. If you have any questions, please ask the researcher on the contact details below.

#### What is the research about?

This research centres around the design of inclusive environments. We are investigating if patterned surfaces affect building users, identify which type of pattern are visually more comfortable than others and if adults with sensory processing disorders process patterns differently. This study focusses on the relationship between patterns found in commercially available floor finishes, comfort, and self-reported wellbeing in adult office workers.

#### What will we ask you?

We will ask you to be in a room with different patterns on the floor. After 20 minutes we will ask you to fill in a questionnaire about how the room works as an office, how it supports office activities and how you feel when you are in the room. We will also ask your age group, your sex and if you have a sensory processing condition (Autism/ADHD/Dyslexia etc.). We will use this data anonymously to investigate if patterned surfaces affect comfort, self-reported wellbeing and if participants with sensory processing conditions are affected differently.

#### Who is conducting the research?

Jason Slocombe is conducting this research as part of his Masters course at University College London. Jean Hewitt, a Senior Inclusive Design Consultant is supervising the research as part of the MSc Health Wellbeing and Sustainable Buildings Dissertation. Jason Slocombe is a senior architect investigating the design of autism friendly environments.

#### Why have I been invited?

We need collect data from adults with and without sensory processing issues when exposed to a range of conditions. Your data will allow comparison of conditions across a range of adults.

If you would like a copy of the study please email [jason.slocombe.17@ucl.uk](mailto:jason.slocombe.17@ucl.uk). I will send you a link when it is available.

#### Do I have to take part?

No - It is completely up to you if you decide to take part in this research or not. You can withdraw your consent at any time up until we start analysing the questionnaire data (at that point it becomes difficult to separate *your* answered data from the all the other data). If you withdraw your consent, you do not need to give a reason and it will not disadvantage you in any way. Our relationship will not be affected in any way whether you choose to participate or withdraw from the research.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide to take part, you will be invited to work at a desk space for 15 minutes. You will then be asked to fill out a questionnaire which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You will then be allowed a 5-minute break and asked to repeat the exercise at another desk. There are 4 pattern exercises in total and the whole study will take approximately 1hr 15mins. You can bring your own laptop and carry out your own work during each of the studies.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The study will involve working in spaces with patterned floor finishes. The patterns will be limited to commercially available floor finishes. For a few people, the patterns may cause mild discomfort but are not expected to present a risk that would cause harm.

**Criteria for the study:**

1. You must be over 18 years old
2. You must have experience of working in an office
3. You must not have a history of epilepsy
4. You must be fluent in English

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your participation in the study will enable better decisions to be made in the design of inclusive environments.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All the information we collect will be treated as confidential and will only be shared with the research team (Jason Slocombe, Jean Hewitt). Any personal data that we collect from you will be stored on a secure UCL file store and will be processed in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

The questionnaire data will be anonymised. Each participant will be provided with a unique random candidate number to use in the study

All completed copies of the questionnaires will be destroyed 5 years after the study. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications.

**What are the limits to confidentiality?**

Assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

The output of this research will be a Masters Dissertation, although it is possible that the results will be included in reports, presentations, and/or academic papers.

**Will my or my organisation's identity be revealed in the research outputs?**

No. Your answers will be summarised in a way that will not disclose your identity, or the identity of your organisation, to others outside the study.

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

Your personal data (email address, age group, sex and sensory condition) will be processed only for the purposes outlined in this information sheet and only so long as required for this research project. It will be stored on my UCL Filestore@UCL central file storage and will only be used by me and my supervisory team. The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data. The Data Protection Officer, Lee Shailer can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

### **Who can I contact for further information?**

If you have questions or want more information on the research, please contact: Jason Slocombe on 07540777594 or [jason.slocombe.17@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jason.slocombe.17@ucl.ac.uk)

### **Who can I contact to complain or express my concerns about this research?**

If you are concerned about any part of this research or your participation, please contact the Supervisor, the Dissertation Coordinator and/or the Director of Ethics at the UCL Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources:

- **Supervisor:** Jean Hewitt, [Jean.Hewitt@BuroHappold.com](mailto:Jean.Hewitt@BuroHappold.com), +44 2079 279 700
- **Dissertation Coordinator:** Dr Yair Schwartz [yair.schwartz.13@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:yair.schwartz.13@ucl.ac.uk)
- **Director of Ethics:** Ms. Michelle Shipworth, [m.shipworth@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.shipworth@ucl.ac.uk), +44 20 3108 5991.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact the UCL Data Protection Officer: [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk). If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>