

From: Minh Alexander <***** >

Subject: NHS Improvement's consent documentation for the whistleblower employment support scheme

Date: 26 February 2018 at 07:21:34 GMT

To: "WEBSTER, Wendy (NHS IMPROVEMENT - T1520)"
<*****>

Cc: Tom Grimes *****, Maria Robson <*****>, Steve Russell *****, Neil Churchill <*****>, Daz Greenop <*****>, researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk, Raphaela Kane *****, Dido Harding <*****>

BY EMAIL

Wendy Webster

Whistlerblower Employment Support Scheme Manager

NHS Improvement

26 February 2018

Dear Wendy,

NHS Improvement's consent documentation for the whistleblower employment support scheme

Thanks for the attached documents.

I write to formally record my concerns about NHS Improvement's consent paperwork for the whistleblower employment support scheme, which I have already previously raised with Tom Grimes.

I see that it remains unchanged despite the concerns expressed by whistleblowers.

The consent paperwork requires that whistleblowers who join the scheme must participate in the evaluation by Liverpool John Moores University as part of signing up for the scheme.

This is unethical and coercive.

It is also inconsistent with the elaborate reassurance provided by the University that no one has to take part in the evaluation unless they want to. I copy below the relevant passages from the University's consent advice.

Although the University's advice states that refusal to participate in the scheme will not affect future support, NHS Improvement's consent paperwork states:

"You will make every effort to ensure that actions agreed by yourself are completed....If you do not wish to agree with these terms or you fail to engage with the support services provider or attend agreed training courses or other sessions, NHS Improvement will discuss with you whether further progress can be made and whether you want to continue with your place on the scheme."

I request again that NHS Improvement removes all reference to participation in evaluation from the consent paperwork for the scheme, and simply informs scheme participants, under separate cover, that they take part in the evaluation if they wish to.

I copy this to the University for information.

Best wishes,

Dr Minh Alexander

Liverpool John Moore's University Research Ethics Unit
Prof Raphaela Kane LJMU Head of Faculty
Dr Daz Greenop LJMU
Dido Harding Chair NHS Improvement
Tom Grimes NHS Improvement
Maria Robson NHS Improvement
Steve Russell NHS Improvement
Neil Churchill NHS England

Extract from the University's consent advice:

"Do I have to take part?"

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you choose to participate anonymously you are still free to withdraw at any time before or during completion of the questionnaire without giving a reason.

However, because the questionnaire is anonymous, you cannot withdraw after your responses have been submitted. If you choose to include contact details you may withdraw at any time up to the completion of the first draft of the evaluation report. A decision to withdraw will not affect your rights or any future support you receive.”
<https://ljmu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/whistleblowers-support-scheme-error-copy>