

Atlantic Technological University Digital Academy for the Sustainable Built Environment

DPRO / Representative Organisation Information Sheet



I, Eoin O'Dowd, am a postgraduate research student at the Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Department of Building and Civil Engineering, School of Engineering, during the academic year 2024/25. I am seeking your support in conducting research on Evacuation of dwellings in case of fire, for all. Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether you wish to take part or not.

What is the study about?

This study will involve an examination of the evolution and fundamental principles underpinning the fire safety design of means of escape of dwellings in Ireland, and evaluation of the adequacy of the design of means of escape, for all persons who may occupy a dwelling. Ethical approval for the research was given by the School of Engineering Research Ethics Committee of the Atlantic Technological University on 20 September 2024.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to participate in this study because the researcher is seeking the views from a diverse range of individuals of Irish society. I would be very grateful if you would agree to support this study by circulating the questionnaire to your members / facilitating interviews to gather data in support of the research.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decide to take part, this will involve your support in disseminating the questionnaires to your members or facilitating interviews to gather data in support of the research.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

Taking part in this study will allow your members to share their unique insights and experiences. Their insights will contribute to furthering an understanding of the design and adequacy of escape for all persons from a dwelling, in case of fire.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is completely up to you to decide whether you take part or not. Your participation is voluntary.

What if I change my mind?

If you change your mind, you are free to withdraw support at any time. If you want to withdraw, please let me know by emailing me at G00412545@atu.ie and I will amend my records accordingly.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is unlikely that there will be any major disadvantages in taking part, apart from giving your time for a short period, in the distribution of the questionnaire. Data will be collected by questionnaire anonymously. This study is not suitable for participants under the age of 18 years.

Will my data be identifiable?

After this, only we, the ATU Research Team conducting this study, will have access to the responses you share with us. We will keep all personal information about any individual (confidential, that is, we will not share it with others. We will remove any personal information from the written record of your contribution i.e. all names will be anonymised immediately after data is collected.

How will we use the information you have shared with us and what will happen to the results of the research study?

We will use the information you have shared with us only in the following ways: We will use it for research purposes only. It will be viewed by lecturing staff at ATU, external examiners appointed by ATU, and professional body accreditation review panels. This research may be disseminated and published once completed. This may be done in a number of different ways. In addition to thesis and ATU academic paper publication, this could also include professional body publications, conference papers, other academic papers, peer reviewed academic journal articles, reports, newspaper articles, or magazine articles, for example. We may also present the results of this study at academic conferences and/or at practitioner conferences. We may also use the publications to inform policymakers and/or professional bodies about the findings from this study. Furthermore, we may also use the study publications for application for awards on behalf of the ATU Research Team.

When writing up the findings from this study, we would like to have the opportunity to reproduce some of the responses your members share with us, if suitable and appropriate. We will only use anonymised quotes (e.g. from questionnaire feedback, conversations with your members or from emails, quotations from interview and/or focus groups), so that although we may quote the exact words your members use, but they cannot be identified in publications. If anything your members discuss with us during this process suggests that you or somebody else might be at risk of harm, we will be obliged to share this information with our ATU Management Team.

How my data will be stored

Your data will be stored in password protected files (that is no-one other than us, the ATU Research Team, will be able to access them) on private ATU One Drive accounts in a shared folder. We will store hard copies of any data securely in locked cabinets in Project Supervisors (Irene Hayden's) office. We will keep data that can identify you separately from non-personal information (e.g. your views on a specific topic). In accordance with ATU guidelines, we will keep the data secured for five years after the end of the study. Thereafter it will be securely destroyed.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any queries or if you are unhappy with anything that happens concerning your participation in this study, please contact myself (the principal researcher), any member of our ATU Research Team or our ATU Management Team.

ATU Research Team:

Principal Researcher: Eoin O'Dowd Tel: +353 (0)87 122 4980, Department of Building and Civil Engineering, ATU Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW

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ATU Management Team:

Programme Chair: Irene Hayden, irene.hayden@atu.ie Tel: +353 (0) 91 742109 Department of Building and Civil Engineering ATU Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW

Head of Department: Mary Rogers, mary.rogers@atu.ie Tel: +353 (0) 91 742210 Department of Building and Civil Engineering ATU Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW

Head of School of Engineering: Professor Graham Heaslip, graham.heaslip@atu.ie Tel: +353 (0) 91 742241 School of Engineering, ATU Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW

If you have any concerns which you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in this study, you can contact:

Head of School of Engineering: Professor Graham Heaslip, graham.heaslip@atu.ie Tel: +353 (0) 91 742241 School of Engineering, ATU Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee 20/09/2024

Thank you for considering your participation in this project.