



Participant Information

Lawyers on the Quality of Legislation

Research project conducted by Professor Edward C Page and seven undergraduate students following the course GV314 in the Department of Government at the LSE

January-May 2024

What is the study about?

We invite you to participate in a research project examining the views and experiences of legal professionals whose work involves interpreting, understanding and applying legislation. The numerous accounts of the “quality of legislation” and how it might be improved have not devoted much attention to understanding how people who work with legislation and its related regulations and guidance view the matter. Our study will offer an account of how practising lawyers judge legislative quality and explore the causes and consequences of variations in quality.

Why have I been invited to take part?

We are seeking the views of practising solicitors, barristers and paralegals. We have searched through publicly available information on the websites of law firms and practices and used these to produce lists of law professionals and their contact details and your name was included in this list.

Do I have to take part?

This information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time without providing a reason, and with no negative consequences.

What am I being asked to do?

Complete a short online questionnaire. It should take no more than 6 minutes to complete

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study

Who is funding the research?

There is no funding for this research. The research work is being done on a voluntary basis as part of a final-year degree course and LSE computer facilities are provided at no additional cost.

What information about me will you be collecting?

We will be collecting your responses to questions about how you judge different features associated with the “quality” of legislation based on your direct professional experience as well as questions seeking your views on the causes and consequences of poor legislative quality. We will also be asking standard demographic questions (including age, sex, region) as well as questions about your professional circumstances. We will not be linking data from this questionnaire to data from any other sources. No questions seek responses that allow any individual to be identified.

Will my participation be confidential?

Yes.

How will the data be securely stored, who will have access to it?

You will remain completely anonymous. The closed-ended questions do not allow you to identify yourself and we have no way of identifying individual respondents to our questionnaire. Should answers to open-ended questions compromise anonymity, they will be edited to be stored in an anonymised form, which means that responses will be edited or deleted such that no-one, including the researchers, could use any means to identify you from the data. Your un-anonymised data will then be permanently deleted. Your responses to the questionnaire will remain on the survey software site ("Qualtrics" at www.qualtrics.com) and we will download them before the end of May 2024. Once downloaded the Qualtrics files will be permanently deleted.

The downloaded anonymous responses to the questionnaire will be stored in encrypted form in a password-protected file, and only the eight members of the research team will be able to access it.

How will the data be used, and in what form will it be shared further?

The research data will be analysed as part of the research study and the results will be published in professional and academic outlets only.

The data will not be shared with any other persons.

When will the data be destroyed?

The questionnaire responses on www.qualtrics.com will be deleted by the end of May 2024, the downloaded anonymous data set will be deleted by May 2029.

Use of your personal data and data protection rights

The London School of Economics and Political Science (the 'Data Controller') is bound by the UK 2018 Data Protection Act and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which require a lawful basis for all processing of personal data (in this case it is the 'performance of a task carried out in the public interest' – namely, for research purposes) and an additional lawful basis for processing personal data containing special characteristics (in this case it is 'public interest research'). You have a range of rights under data protection legislation. The LSE Data Protection Officer is responsible for ensuring all areas of LSE are compliant with data protection regulations. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at gldp.info.rights@lse.ac.uk. You will not be able to withdraw your data once submitted, because we will not know which data is yours.

Ethical Approvals

This research proposal has been subjected to the LSE Research Ethics procedures.

Contact details

Professor Edward C Page
Department of Government
London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE

e.c.page@lse.ac.uk

020 7849 4629