

## Information for interview respondents

*Study:*

*Accountability, capacity and trust to improve learning outcomes in South Africa;  
A systems approach to understand conditions and mechanisms of improvement of teaching and learning*

Dear Mr/Ms,

We hope you will participate in our study on ‘Accountability, capacity and trust to improve learning outcomes in South Africa’. In this project we are interviewing a range of schools to understand:

- if teachers and schools have sufficient resources to improve,
- if/how they are supported to improve their teaching and learning,
- how trust between people and organizations enables or prevents schools and teachers to improve and
- to what extent people are answerable for the quality and improvement of education.

We are particularly interested in describing the barriers and enablers for change across schools in different quintiles and provinces, but we will NOT report any identifying information about individuals or schools.

The project is funded by the UK research council (ESRC) and Department for International Development and led by a team of researchers from the UK (Dr. Melanie Ehren and Dr Jacqueline Baxter) and JET Education Services who will be interviewing you (Dr. Andrew Paterson, Raymond Matlala).

We hope you are willing to participate in a 1 hour interview in which we will ask your views on the above topics. Your answers are crucial for us to understand how South Africa’s education system may be further improved, and we are dedicated to come up with findings that will help you improve your schools. Please feel free to say you ‘don’t know’, if you don’t know the answer to a question!

We would like to audio record your contributions and ask your consent in doing so on the attached form. Of course you are free to decline in which case we will only make notes. However, recording enables the researchers to listen more carefully to you. All recordings will be transcribed and each participant will be given a pseudonym so that only the research team will know whose data it is and your contribution will remain anonymous; all data will be stored on a password encrypted computer to ensure that your records can not be identified, and all records will be retained for a period of ten years after publication or public release and destroyed afterwards.

If you feel uncomfortable during the meeting you can ask us to stop recording at any time. You can also withdraw from the interview at any time without explanation (even withdraw your interview after we have spoken to you).

We will ask you to sign the attached Consent Form, before participation. Please do let us know if you have any questions or want to discuss any concerns before you participate in our study. We can be contacted throughout the project via email ([m.ehren@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.ehren@ucl.ac.uk); [andrew@jet.org.za](mailto:andrew@jet.org.za)) or via phone: +27 11 403 6401

Thanking you in anticipation.

Dr Melanie Ehren  
Principal Investigator and Project Leader

Dr. Andrew Paterson  
Co-Principal Investigator



Leading education  
and social research  
Institute of Education  
University of London

## Consent Form

### **Accountability, capacity and trust to improve learning outcomes in South Africa; A systems approach to understand conditions and mechanisms of improvement of teaching and learning**

- I have read the information leaflet about the research.  (please tick)
- I agree to participate in the interviews.  (please tick)
- I agree for my contributions to be video recorded, and that they will remain anonymous.  (please tick)
- I understand that I am able to withdraw at any time and that my data will be removed from the study.  (please tick)

Participant name:	Researcher's name:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date: