Information Sheet for Academisation Research Study

Information sheet for Local Authorities

What is the research and why is it taking place?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is undertaking research to investigate the current structure of the school system, and explore plans for all schools to be in a 'strong' multi-academy trust (MAT) by 2030 as outlined in the recent Schools White Paper. The research will take place between September and December 2022.

A survey of LA staff will help us explore where school trust capacity needs to grow. As part of this, a key aim is to understand Local Authorities' (LA) views on the Government's latest plans for all schools to be in a strong multi-academy trust (MAT) with at least 7,500 pupils by 2030, and LA plans to establish their own MATs.

We would very much like you to take part in the research; your perspectives will be invaluable in informing the ongoing evidence base on academisation.

What activities will the research involve for my organisation?

The research will involve completing a short survey. The survey take approximately 5 minutes to complete and will explore:

- LA perspectives on the most recent Government proposals for academisation
- LA interest in establishing LA multi-academy trusts
- Additional support LAs would like to receive from Government to help with academisation
- The wider challenges LAs are currently facing in relation to education.

Data protection

NFER is the data controller for the research. Participation in all research activities is entirely voluntary. Research participants will be fully briefed on the purposes of the study and how the information they provide will be used before consenting to take part. We operate fully in-line with data protection legislation (including GDPR) and we will not use the information we receive for anything other than this research. If participants consent to be contacted again for follow up research, contact details will be retained and would only be used for this purpose.

At the end of the study, NFER will produce a publishable report. No individual or organisation will be identifiable from the report, unless permission has explicitly been given by the data subject.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years' experience of undertaking research and evaluation with schools, colleges, businesses and the public sector. For more information please visit: http://www.nfer.ac.uk/

Where can I go for more information?

More details about the research including a link to this information sheet and an associated privacy notice can be found here: www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/academisation-research-study/

In addition, Megan Lucas, the project leader, and Jenna Julius, the project director are very happy to answer any questions. Please contact Megan on m.lucas@nfer.ac.uk or Jenna on j.julius@nfer.ac.uk

Thank you very much for your support with this research.