
Research on Sentencing Sex Offences

Would you like to share your views on the sentencing of sex offences?

What is this research about?

The Sentencing Council sets guidance for Judges to use for sentencing in England and Wales. The Sentencing Council would like to know more about attitudes to sentences for different types of sex offences. **To inform this, they want to hear the views of people who have had sex offences committed against them or their child.**

Who can take part?

We'd like to speak to **female and male victims of all kinds of sex offences** – rape, voyeurism, trafficking and so on. We'd also like to speak to **parents whose child was a victim of a sexual offence**. We're also keen to include people who reported the offence to the police as well as those where the offender was convicted.

What does taking part involve?

You will be asked to take part in an interview to discuss your views on the appropriate sentence for the offence you experienced, the factors that should be taken into account when sentencing sex offences such as this and the effect of such a sentence on you. A named NatCen researcher would meet you at a **time and place that suits** you. The researchers working on the project all have previous experience of conducting sensitive interviews. The interview takes about an hour-and-a-half and **everything discussed will be confidential**. Your views will be **anonymous** in the research report and your personal details protected at all times. As a thank you for your time we will give you £25.

Who is NatCen (the National Centre for Social Research)?

We are an independent research organisation that carries out research in all areas of social policy. We specialise in speaking to members of the public to find out their views on a wide range of issues. All researchers are fully Criminal Records Bureau checked and regularly conduct research with the public.

What should I do if I am interested in taking part?

Please call us on freephone **0808 178 1723**

or email: sentencingresearch@natcen.ac.uk.

You can discuss the research with a member of the team and then decide whether you'd like to take part.

More information is available at: <http://www.natcen.ac.uk>