



## Researcher Information

Title of the project: Remote Working Survey 2023  
Name of Discipline, School, Project Team: University of Galway & Western Development Commission  
Principal Investigator and Data Controller: (name and contact details)  
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## Opening statement

Thank you for your interest in this study.

You are being invited to take part in a research study being carried out by University of Galway and Western Development Commission.

Before you decide whether you wish to take part or not, you should read the information provided below. Take your time and ask questions – don't feel rushed and don't feel under pressure to make a quick decision. You should be clear about the risks and benefits of taking part in this study so that you can make a decision that's right for you. This process is known as 'Informed Consent'.

## Voluntary participation and the opportunity to withdraw consent

Participation is entirely voluntary. Survey data will be anonymous, therefore the research team will not be able to withdraw data once it has been submitted as there will be no way of identifying which responses are specific to each participant.

## Why is this study being done?

This study examines employees' experiences of hybrid and remote working. We are seeking data on current hybrid and remote working patterns, the extent to which hybrid and remote working preferences are being facilitated by employers, and the impact of hybrid working on career and employer choice. We are also interested in studying how hybrid working impacts choice of where to live and relocation as well as the relationship between level of hybrid working and employee outcomes including productivity, engagement, loyalty and well-being.

## Who is organising and funding this study?

The study is led by University of Galway in partnership with the Western Development Commission (WDC) and both organisations are funding the costs of the study.

## Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to participate as someone in employment who is able to work hybrid / remotely for some or all of the time.

## What can I expect if I agree to take part?

You will complete an online survey which will take about 8 minutes to complete. The survey asks a range of questions about hybrid and remote working. You will have the option to add an email



address at the end of the survey if you wish to be contacted two weeks later to participate in a follow-up survey. You do not need to provide an email address – it is entirely optional.

### **What are the benefits for me taking part?**

Your participation will help us to have evidence-informed data to impact policy and help organisations to better understand how to manage remote and hybrid working for their employees.

### **What are the risks?**

We foresee no adverse effects or risks of participation in this study due to the nature of the questions and the project focus.

### **Confidentiality**

Your participation in this study will be anonymous and remain confidential in the research databases, subject to legal limitations. The survey does not ask for your name. All data will be completely anonymous as the only personally identifiable data being gathered (i.e., the optional email address at the end of the survey if you want to participate in the follow-up survey) will be removed from all other data and deleted once the data collection stage is completed.

### **What Do I Need To Know About How The Data Will Be Used?**

All data will be analysed and reported in aggregate form. It will be used to conduct statistical analyses to help us understand how hybrid and remote working is impacting employees working lives. It will be used for generating academic publications and research reports. The data will be shared with researchers working on the project from University of Galway and WDC.

### **What Do I Need To Know About How My Data Will Be Protected?**

The data will be stored securely on the Qualtrics platform which is a highly secure and GDPR compliant software company with a strong reputation in the field. The data will be stored for seven years in line with University of Galway research policy. The data will not be shared or transferred outside the EU. You can read more about the University of Galway data protection policy including how to lodge a complaint here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/data-protection/> and the Data Protection Officer can be contacted at: The Data Protection Officer, University of Galway, Room A129, The Quadrangle, University of Galway, University Road, Galway  
Email: [dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie) and +353 57 8684800

### **Where Can I Get Further Information?**

Professor Alma McCarthy

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If you wish to contact a neutral third party, email [ethics@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ethics@universityofgalway.ie) to communicate with the Coordinator or Chair of the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee.