

Thanks again for being part of GUS



MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit



**This leaflet provides
more information about
this year's survey**

Did you know...

According to our findings, 79% of young people taking part in GUS wanted to stay in education after they turned 16. Meanwhile, 47% of young people wanted to go to university when they leave school.

We'd like to find out what you decided and understand more about what life is like for young people as they become young adults. This information helps local authorities and schools give pupils careers advice and ensure young people can access the right opportunities after school.

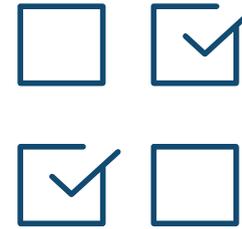
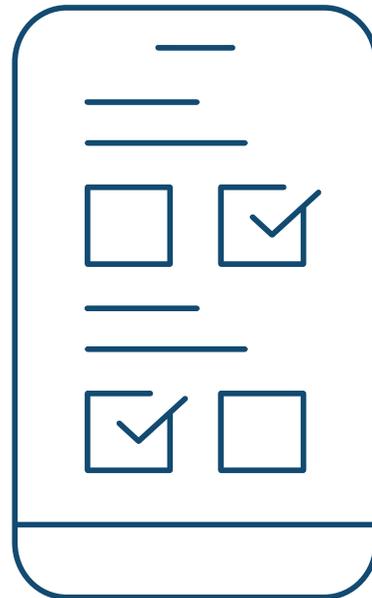
Your online questionnaire

We would like you to complete an online questionnaire. This can be completed on a smartphone, tablet or laptop/desktop computer.

If we have an email address for you, you should have received an email from us that contains a link which will take you straight to your survey. You can also use the link and login details provided on the letters. Ideally, this should be completed on your own, but it is fine for a parent/carer to help if they need to. The questionnaire will include questions about:

- Friends, family and relationships
- Health, wellbeing and identity
- What you do in your free time e.g. using social media

Taking part is completely voluntary, and you can skip any questions that you don't want to answer.



Your interview

An interviewer will contact you to make an appointment to ask you some further questions. They will let you know whether they will be able to visit you at home or if the interview will need to be conducted by phone. This will depend on the guidelines in place for surveys at the time. If they are not able to visit you at home, they will arrange a telephone interview appointment with you instead.

The interview will take around 25 minutes and the questions will cover things like:

- School
- Training and employment
- Future aspirations
- Diet and physical activity
- Impact of the COVID pandemic

There are no right answers to the questions – we are just interested to hear what you think. As always, taking part in any of the questionnaires is completely up to you – you will be able to skip

any questions you don't want to answer and stop at any time.

The interviewer will also be checking that we have the right contact details for you and collecting an email address and/or telephone number if we don't have these. These will only be used to contact you about GUS and they will be kept secure in line with data protection legislation, like all of the information you give us.

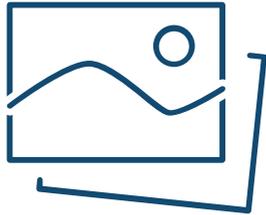
Physical activity study

We'd also like to measure your levels of activity and where you are active. This would involve wearing an activity monitor and a travel recorder for 8 days following your interview. Some of you may remember doing something similar when you took part at age 10. We have sent you a separate leaflet about this which provides further information and you can decide whether you would like to take part. An interviewer does not need to visit you at home for you to take part in the physical activity study.



If we visit you at home...

The questions the interviewer asks you will be the same whether they speak to you by telephone or in person but there are a couple of additional activities we would like you to take part in if we are able to visit you at home. These won't take place if the interview is by telephone.



Language exercises

As part of the interviewer visit, we will ask you to take part in a short language exercise. This will take around 10 minutes to complete and will involve listening to words and sentences and selecting pictures. This tool is used a lot to help understand how language is used and understood – it is not a test and you won't be given any results!



Height and weight measurements

Another part of the interview, if you agree, involves measurement of your height and weight which will take around 5 minutes. This provides us with really valuable information which we can use alongside your measurements from previous years. The interviewer can provide you with a note of your measurements if you would like them.

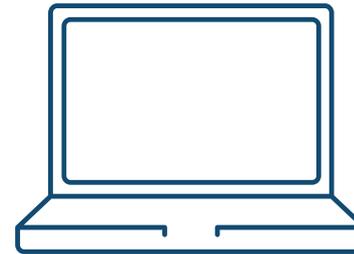


Keeping you safe

We want to make you feel as comfortable as possible for your interview if we are able to visit you at home. Whilst it's necessary, we'll take the following steps: all of our interviewers will be advised to take part in regular health screening and



will not enter your home without a firm appointment; they will wear a face mask during the interview (you are not required to do so), will keep a distance of 1 metre (as far as possible) and will sanitise their hands regularly. Gloves will be worn for taking the height and weight measurements.



Your parent/carer's online interview

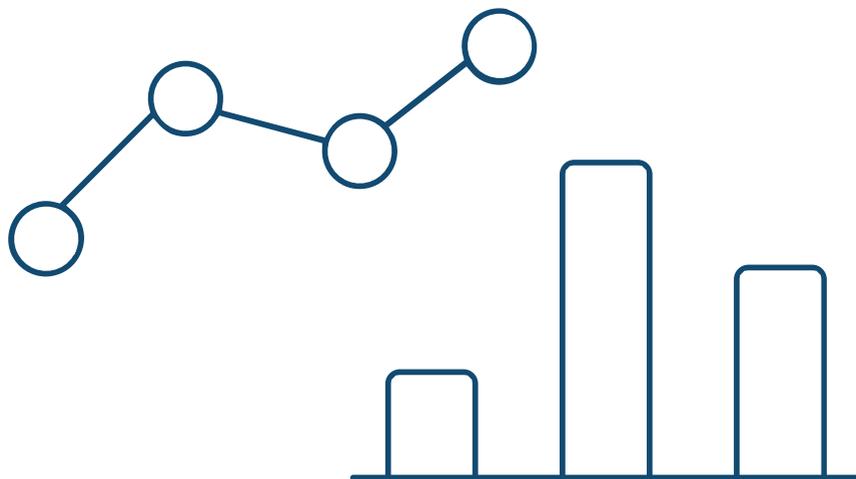
We will contact your parent/carer by letter and email to invite them to take part in a 15 minute online interview. If an interviewer is permitted to visit you at home, they will be able to offer your parent/carer the chance to answer their questions on their own on the interviewer's laptop.



What happens to the information I give?

We won't tell anyone your answers, not even your family. The personal data you provide will be treated with care and with full respect for your privacy and confidentiality. However, if the interviewer hears something that makes them worry about you, they may need to tell someone who can help.

Once we have collected all the answers from everyone who takes part, they will be looked at together, anonymously. That means there will be no names attached to the answers and we will not know who said what. We then use the information to understand more about all young people your age in Scotland, not just those taking part in the study.



Did you know...

75% of young people taking part in GUS last year were worried about the impact of the pandemic on their exam results and 47% were worried about the impact of the pandemic on their future job prospects.

Information like this helps improve understanding of how young people have been affected by the pandemic, meaning that better education and support can be provided to young people across Scotland.

Data linkage: making the information you give us even more useful

Data linkage is the process of adding together different types of information about individuals from different sources. To improve the information we hold on GUS, we link your survey answers with selected statistical data. This means we can reduce the number of questions we need ask you but still build a complete picture of your life and help better policies to be developed for young people.

We will be linking to information from the Scottish Qualifications Authority

(SQA)¹ and Skills Development Scotland (SDS). This, along with your answers to the survey, will help provide valuable information on young people's education in Scotland.

SQA: information about the qualifications you've received would be added to your GUS data.

SDS: information about any careers advice you received and what you are doing after school would be added to your GUS data.

Where can I get more information?

To understand more about what happens to the data you have provided and what will be involved in this year's survey, please read the privacy notice and frequently asked questions on the GUS website. These can be found by clicking on the 'Information for GUS families' link at www.growingupinScotland.org.uk and then selecting 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

If you have any questions, please ask your interviewer, call us free on **0800 652 2704** or email us at **gus@scotcen.org.uk**. You can also contact the GUS Scottish Government team by emailing them at **GUS@gov.scot**.

Thank you for being part of Growing Up in Scotland.

An interviewer will be in touch soon to arrange a time for your interview that works for you. As always, taking part is entirely up to you, and even if you do take part, you do not have to answer all the questions.

We hope you enjoy taking part in Growing Up in Scotland, but if you do decide that you no longer want to be part of the study, you can withdraw at any time by contacting us by phone or email or by writing to: ScotGen Social Research, Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte St, Edinburgh, EH2 4AW.

¹

In the event that the SQA is replaced before the linkage occurs, we will seek to link attainment data from any new or replacement organisation(s) who take over the ownership of the data. The details will be updated on the GUS website.

Contact us

growingupinscotland.org.uk

gus@scotcen.org.uk

0800 652 2704



ScotCen
Social Research



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot