

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Investigator:	David Watts
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Name of Study:	Costs and opportunities for Scottish products with higher value status – a case study
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You are invited to take part in a research study. Before deciding whether to volunteer, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish.

Please contact us (see last page) if anything below is unclear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study is part of a larger research project, being conducted with colleagues based in Scotland's Rural College, which aims to review the costs and opportunities for Scottish products with higher value status by quantifying trade-offs between price premiums and production costs.

In this study we are interested in gathering interviewees' perceptions of: the production of higher-value food and drink products, the main inputs and their relative importance (e.g. in light of recent energy price rises), trading relationships, the pros and cons of quality and assurance schemes (e.g. Protected Geographical Indication), the policy environment (e.g. concerning exports), and networking bodies and events.

Why have I been chosen?

We would like to interview food producers, marketers, and consultants with experience of working with high value food and drink products.

Do I have to take part?

It is entirely up to you whether you take part in this study or not. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to confirm that you understand the study and give your informed consent to be interviewed. You can choose not to answer any interview question and can terminate data collection at any point without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to take part in a telephone or online (using MS Teams) interview with a researcher, which will be conducted at a time to suit you. The interview will last about 60-90 minutes. The interview will cover your perceptions of: the production of higher-value food and drink products, the main inputs and their relative importance (e.g. in light of recent energy price rises), trading relationships, the pros and cons of quality and assurance schemes (e.g. Protected Geographical Indication), the policy environment (e.g. concerning exports), and networking bodies and events.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in the study?

There will be no direct benefits to you. Findings from the larger research project, of which this study is part, will be used to develop a toolkit and case studies that will be made available to you and other producers interested in producing higher value products for domestic, UK and international markets. Project findings may inform policies and initiatives to promote Scottish businesses.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a complaint or a concern that you have been unable to resolve with the Chief Investigator, whose contact details are on the next page, you may contact the Head of the Human Studies Management Committee, Dr Frank Thies (email: f.thies@abdn.ac.uk; phone: 01224 437954). The University of Aberdeen carries indemnity insurance for any harm or adverse event. At any time during the study, if you have a complaint or a concern regarding the collection, analysis and storage of your data that you have been unable to resolve with the Chief Investigator, you may contact the University's Data Protection Officer (email: dpa@abdn.ac.uk; phone: 01224 272000).

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by The Rowett Institute's Research Ethics Panel and the Scottish Government's Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services division. The research project of which this study is part has been peer-reviewed by external subject experts.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is organised by The Rowett Institute at the University of Aberdeen. The study sponsor is the University of Aberdeen. The research is funded by the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services division.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Yes. All information collected during the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will be assigned a study code and all data will be coded such that they will be pseudonymous. Your study code can be traced back to you by the researcher and chief investigator only. All personal information provided will be stored securely, with access to it limited to the project team and, if required, auditors. All personal information will be archived after the end of the project and destroyed securely after ten years.

All interviews will be recorded securely according to University of Aberdeen policies. We will send interview recordings either to an external transcriber or to an automated transcription service, using a secure method of data transfer. Any transcriber or transcription service used will be a University-recognised data processor and will not contact you or retain any data about you. Each transcript will be assigned a code and any personal data will be removed from it, meaning that you will not be identified in the transcript of your interview. Transcripts will then be shared with members of the research team based at Scotland's Rural College.

University of Aberdeen will use your name and contact details to contact you about the research study and to oversee the quality of the study. Individuals from the University of Aberdeen and regulatory organisations may look at your research records to check the accuracy of the research

study. The only people in the University of Aberdeen who will have access to information that identifies you will be people who need to contact you to carry out the research study or audit the data collection process.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The University of Aberdeen is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will use information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Aberdeen will keep identifiable information about you for ten years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will ask whether you want the information about you that we have already obtained to be deleted, and will delete it if you tell us to do so. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/privacy> and/or by contacting the University's Data Protection Officer (email: dpa@abdn.ac.uk).

CONTACTS FOR THE STUDY

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