General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy notice for research – University-level

As a university we use personally-identifiable information to conduct research, including to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. 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 keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

The University Charter sets out that ‘the objects of the University are to advance education and disseminate knowledge by teaching, scholarship and research for the public benefit’ (paragraph 3). This underlies the University’s use of the personal data provided by research participants for research and evaluation in the public interest under the GDPR lawful basis ‘task in the public interest’.

Health and care research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research for our research projects involving health and care.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

The University of Kent’s Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:
https://www.kent.ac.uk/infocompliance/dp/contact.html

Wording adapted from the Health Research Authority GDPR guidance –