**Loneliness call for evidence**

**Introduction**

The Loneliness Strategy is Government’s first step in tackling the long-term challenge of loneliness. Loneliness is a complex issue that affects many different groups of people, and the evidence base on it is still developing. The strategy will be focussed on where we have the clearest opportunity for government action and further learning.

We are interested in hearing from people and organisations with experience of working to reduce loneliness.

If you have any difficulties with this survey, please email us at loneliness@culture.gov.uk.  

**Completing the survey**

Please return the completed survey to us either by email to [loneliness@culture.gov.uk](mailto:loneliness@culture.gov.uk) or post to:

Loneliness team

Office for Civil Society

DCMS

100 Parliament Street

London

SW1A 2BQ

We encourage everyone to consider all questions in this survey, but we understand that there will be questions which may be more relevant to you, or your organisation. You can choose to respond to as many questions as you like.

This call for evidence will close at **10am on Friday 20th July 2018**.  Responses received after this date and time will not be analysed.

**Disclosure of responses**

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) controls the information you provide in your answers. Information is being collected and processed by DCMS, with your consent, for research purposes to inform the development of the Loneliness Strategy. All information will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation and used to develop the Loneliness Strategy.

In developing the Loneliness Strategy, DCMS may publish findings from the research. If we do so, we will ensure that neither you nor the organisation you represent are identifiable, and any responses used to illustrate findings are anonymised. The only third party who we will share your information with is Qualtrics, who will be processing the survey on behalf of DCMS. Your information will not be shared with any other third parties. It will be retained for 2 years for analysis and reporting after which it will be destroyed. DCMS will not disclose any information you provide unless required to do so in accordance with access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

DCMS will be collecting partial responses to the survey. If, during completion of the survey you decide to withdraw your response, you will need to return to this Disclosure of Responses page by using the ‘Back’ button, and select ‘No’ from the options below.

Under the current Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR regime, you have certain rights to access your personal data and have it corrected or erased, and you can withdraw your consent to us processing your personal data at any time. However, once you have submitted your response to the survey you will not be able to withdraw your other answers from the analysis stage (i.e. it is only your personal data that you can withdraw at this stage, not your other answers).

If you need any further information please contact us: [dcmsdataprotection@culture.gov.uk](mailto:dcmsdataprotection@culture.gov.uk)

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO athttps://ico.org.uk/, or telephone 0303 123 1113. ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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**Please confirm below that you have read and understood this statement and agree with its terms.**

**I have read and understood the disclosure of responses statement and I agree with its terms.** (Select one)

* Yes
* No

We may wish to contact you to discuss your responses in more detail. **If you are happy to be contacted, please provide your details below.** If not, please move on to the next question.

* Name  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Email address  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?** (Select one)

* Individual
* Organisation

**If you are responding on behalf of an** **organisation, which of the following options best describes it?** (Select all that apply)

* Voluntary organisation (local)
* Business (local)
* Voluntary organisation (national)
* Business (national)
* Funder
* Public sector service provider
* Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What is the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of?**

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**Are you aged 16 or over?** (Select one)

* No, I am 15 years or younger
* Yes, I am 16 years or over

**If you are aged under 16, you cannot take part in this survey as we do not have consent from your parents/guardians.**If you have any questions about loneliness work in government please feel free to email the team at loneliness@culture.gov.uk.  

We believe that the strategy should include both some policies that reduce the risk of loneliness across all groups in society, and some that focus on reducing the risk at specific trigger points for key groups highlighted by existing analysis: young people (aged 16 to 24); people in poor health; carers; unemployed people; and bereaved people.

**Do you or your organisation have experience of working on issues around loneliness with any of the following people? If not, we would still like to hear from you.**  (Select all that apply.)

* Young people (up to the age of 25)
* People in poor health
* Carers
* Unemployed people
* Bereaved people
* Other group  (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you or your organisation have experience of working on any of the following areas? If not, we would still like to hear from you.**  (Select all that apply.)

* Improving infrastructure that supports social relationships (eg, transport, community spaces, the physical environment)
* Building a culture that strengthens social relationships (eg, reducing stigma, building resilience)
* Institutional and organisational changes that support social relationships (eg, health and social care services, employers)
* Other  (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We’re keen to understand the different ways that loneliness is currently being tackled, what works best and for whom.

**Thinking about your experience with tackling loneliness, please tell us about any projects or initiatives you have found particularly effective and why you think this is.**

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We also want to know what has been tried and hasn’t worked, or hasn’t worked in a particular context.

**Thinking of any projects or initiatives that you feel have not been effective, why do you think this is and are there any ways you feel these could be improved?**

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We want to gain a deeper understanding of any difficulties organisations face in measuring and assessing the impact of their work on loneliness, to assess whether we can provide extra guidance and support.

**What are the main challenges you encounter when assessing the impact of your work on loneliness?**

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We plan to develop a cross-government strategy that combines some policies that reduce the risk of loneliness across society and some that focus on reducing the risk at specific trigger points.

**Do you have any comments or suggestions on our proposed approach?**

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**Thank you for taking part.**

Although we cannot respond to all contributions, all comments will be read and considered.