MCMCER

London Climate Resilience & Infrastructure Experience Survey

Privacy Policy and Data Protection Notice

Effective date: 29 October 2026 | Version: 1.1

Data Controller: M.C. Mehta Centre for Education and Research (MCMCER)

Data Protection Contact: info@mcmcer.co.uk

1. Introduction

M.C. Mehta Centre for Education and Research (MCMCER) is committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality and personal information of individuals participating in the London Climate Resilience & Infrastructure Experience Survey. This Privacy Policy explains how MCMCER collects, processes, stores, uses, shares and protects information provided through the survey.

MCMCER is the Data Controller and is responsible for ensuring that personal information is handled in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and other applicable data protection legislation. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Respondents may decline to answer questions they consider sensitive, personal or irrelevant.

This policy applies specifically to the survey, associated research activities, the London Climate Resilience Roundtable and the subsequent research report.

2. Purpose of the Research

The survey aims to understand how climate change, extreme weather and related infrastructure challenges affect individuals, households and communities across London. The research examines:

- Personal and household circumstances.
- Housing conditions and climate resilience.
- Exposure to extreme weather, including flooding, overheating, storms and drought.
- Household income, financial pressures and living costs.
- Transport accessibility, mobility and disruption.
- Physical and mental health impacts.
- Access to public services, financial assistance and community support.
- Experiences of fairness, discrimination and community participation.
- Opportunities to improve London’s climate resilience.

The information collected will help shape discussions at the London Climate Resilience Roundtable on 19 November 2026. Findings will also contribute to a post-event research report intended for policymakers, government bodies, industry leaders, academic stakeholders and other relevant organisations. The research aims to identify challenges, highlight inequalities and support the development of practical recommendations.

3. Information We Collect

MCMCER may collect the following categories of information, depending on which questions respondents choose to answer.

3.1 Personal and Demographic Information

Borough of residence, gender, ethnicity, educational attainment, employment status, occupation, industry sector, relationship status, dependants and household composition.

3.2 Financial and Housing Information

Household income ranges, housing tenure, property type, living costs, energy affordability, housing conditions, climate-related damage and financial difficulties.

3.3 Health and Wellbeing Information

Existing health conditions, disabilities, physical or mental health impacts, injuries, medical treatment and vulnerability to extreme weather. Some responses may concern other household members. Respondents are asked not to include identifying details about those individuals.

3.4 Climate and Infrastructure Experiences

Experiences of flooding, overheating, extreme storms, drought, transport disruption, housing resilience and access to climate-related infrastructure.

3.5 Community and Public Service Experiences

Access to local authority or government support, barriers to assistance, experiences of discrimination, community resilience and participation in local decision-making.

3.6 Contact Information

Where voluntarily provided, MCMCER may collect email addresses to communicate research updates or other information specifically requested by respondents.

3.7 Additional Comments

Respondents may provide written comments about their experiences. They are encouraged not to include names, addresses, medical record numbers or identifying details about themselves or others.

4. Sensitive Personal Information

Some information requested through the survey is classified as special category personal data under Article 9 of UK GDPR. This includes:

- Racial or ethnic origin.
- Physical or mental health information.
- Information about disabilities or medical treatment where it reveals health status.
- Other information that may reveal protected special category characteristics.

Financial circumstances and experiences of discrimination may also be sensitive, although they are not automatically special category data. MCMCER recognises that such information requires additional protection.

For special category information collected on the basis of explicit consent, MCMCER relies on **Article 9(2)(a) UK GDPR**, which permits processing where an individual has given explicit consent for specified purposes. Explicit consent will be requested separately through the survey.

Providing sensitive information is voluntary. Respondents who do not provide explicit consent may still participate in other sections of the survey. MCMCER will limit access to sensitive information, apply appropriate security measures and avoid publishing information that could identify individuals. Where consent is withdrawn, MCMCER will stop the relevant processing and delete or anonymise identifiable information where required by law.

5. Lawful Basis for Processing

MCMCER processes personal information for legitimate research purposes and will maintain an appropriate lawful basis for each processing activity.

5.1 Core Research Activities

The intended lawful basis is **Article 6(1)(f) UK GDPR: Legitimate Interests**. MCMCER has a legitimate interest in conducting research to understand climate resilience challenges, identify community needs and contribute to evidence-based policy and industry discussions.

This basis will be used only where the processing is necessary for those purposes and MCMCER has assessed that its interests are not overridden by the rights and freedoms of respondents. MCMCER will document this assessment through a Legitimate Interests Assessment before commencing processing.

5.2 Special Category Information

Where MCMCER relies on explicit consent to process ethnicity or health information, the additional condition is Article 9(2)(a) UK GDPR. This operates alongside the Article 6 lawful basis and does not replace it.

5.3 Optional Communications

Where respondents voluntarily request research updates, their contact information will be processed for that stated purpose under an appropriate lawful basis. Promotional communications about unrelated MCMCER events, training programmes or services will be treated separately and sent only where permitted under applicable data protection and electronic marketing law.

6. How Information Is Used

MCMCER will use survey information to:

- Analyse experiences of climate-related risks.
- Identify patterns across demographic and household groups.
- Examine the relationship between climate exposure, health, housing and financial pressures.
- Understand barriers to accessing public services and assistance.
- Identify infrastructure and community resilience challenges.
- Develop statistical findings, research summaries and recommendations.
- Inform discussions at the London Climate Resilience Roundtable.
- Prepare and publish the subsequent research report.

Survey responses will not be used to assess an individual's eligibility for employment, financial assistance, healthcare or public services. MCMCER will not sell respondents' personal information. Personal information will not be repurposed for unrelated commercial activities without an appropriate lawful basis and any required additional privacy information.

7. Confidentiality, Anonymity and Publication

MCMCER will treat identifiable survey responses confidentially. Access to identifiable information will be restricted to authorised individuals involved in the research. The final report will present findings in aggregated or appropriately anonymised form.

MCMCER will take reasonable measures to prevent identification, including:

- Combining responses into broader statistical groups.
- Avoiding publication of unnecessarily detailed demographic combinations.
- Suppressing or combining small sample groups where identification risks arise.
- Reviewing written comments before publication.
- Removing or paraphrasing identifying information.
- Avoiding disclosure of identifiable medical, financial or discrimination-related experiences.

Survey responses may remain personal data while held internally, even where names have not been collected, because combinations of answers may potentially identify an individual. MCMCER will not describe identifiable raw

responses as anonymous. Once information has been irreversibly anonymised, it may be retained and used for statistical reporting and research purposes without identifying respondents.

8. Research Personnel and Responsibility

MCMCER may appoint staff, research assistants, volunteers and research interns to support the survey. Their responsibilities may include:

- Distributing survey invitations.
- Circulating questionnaires.
- Collecting responses through approved systems.
- Supporting data organisation and research administration.
- Assisting with statistical analysis and report preparation.

These individuals act solely on behalf of MCMCER and under its instructions. MCMCER retains responsibility for determining the purposes and methods of processing personal information. Authorised research personnel must follow confidentiality requirements, data protection procedures and information security instructions. They are not permitted to use collected information for their own independent purposes or disclose it to unauthorised parties. MCMCER remains accountable for its obligations as Data Controller.

9. Data Storage and Security

Survey responses will be collected using Google Forms and may be stored or processed using associated Google services, including Google Drive or Google Sheets, where approved by MCMCER.

MCMCER will apply appropriate technical and organisational security measures, including:

- Restricting access to authorised personnel.
- Using approved organisational accounts.
- Applying suitable authentication and access controls.
- Limiting access to sensitive information.
- Separating contact information from research responses where practicable.
- Preventing unauthorised downloading, copying or sharing.
- Reviewing access permissions when individuals leave the research project.
- Securely deleting or anonymising information when no longer required.

Google may process data using infrastructure outside the United Kingdom, depending on the applicable service arrangements. Where personal information is transferred internationally, MCMCER will ensure that an appropriate transfer mechanism applies, such as UK adequacy regulations or approved contractual safeguards, where required. Details of applicable transfer safeguards may be requested from info@mcmcer.co.uk. MCMCER will review its Google service arrangements and data processing terms to ensure they are appropriate for the survey.

10. Sharing of Information

MCMCER may share aggregated or appropriately anonymised findings with:

- London Climate Resilience Roundtable participants.
- Government departments and public authorities.
- Industry leaders and professional organisations.
- Academic and research institutions.
- Relevant policymakers.
- Other recipients of the final research report.

MCMCER does not intend to share identifiable individual survey responses with these audiences. Identifiable information may be accessible to authorised personnel and service providers where necessary for approved research operations, subject to appropriate contractual, confidentiality and security safeguards. Information may also be disclosed where required by applicable law. MCMCER will not sell personal information or provide identifiable survey responses to third parties for their independent marketing purposes.

11. Data Retention

MCMCER will retain identifiable personal information only for as long as reasonably necessary to complete the research, produce the report, manage data protection requests and meet applicable legal obligations. The proposed retention schedule for this project is:

Survey responses: Up to 12 months following publication of the final research report, after which identifiable responses will be securely deleted or anonymised, unless a longer period is lawfully required.

Special category information: Up to 12 months following publication of the final report, subject to review of whether earlier deletion or anonymisation is possible.

Email addresses for research updates: Until the research communication programme concludes, or until the respondent withdraws their request to receive updates, whichever occurs first.

Marketing contact details: Until the individual withdraws consent or the information is no longer required for the stated purpose, subject to periodic review.

Consent and compliance records: For as long as reasonably necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable data protection requirements and manage potential legal claims.

At the end of the applicable retention period, identifiable information will be securely deleted or anonymised. Anonymised statistical findings and published research outputs may be retained for historical, educational and research purposes. MCMCER will review the retention schedule periodically and document any justified extensions.

12. Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Respondents may decline to participate, skip individual questions or stop completing the survey before submission. Where processing relies on consent, individuals may withdraw that consent at any time. Requests to withdraw consent or exercise data protection rights may be submitted to: info@mcmcer.co.uk.

Respondents should provide sufficient information to enable MCMCER to identify the relevant survey response, where possible. MCMCER will not require individuals to disclose unnecessary additional sensitive information when making a request. Where a response can be identified, MCMCER will assess the request and take appropriate action in accordance with applicable law.

If responses have already been irreversibly anonymised, it may no longer be possible to identify or remove an individual submission. Withdrawal of consent does not affect processing lawfully undertaken before the withdrawal. Where a request concerns processing based on legitimate interests, MCMCER will assess any objection in accordance with the applicable UK GDPR requirements.

13. Data Protection Rights

Under UK GDPR, respondents may have the following rights, subject to applicable conditions and exemptions:

Right of access: To request access to personal information held about them.

Right to rectification: To request correction of inaccurate or incomplete personal information.

Right to erasure: To request deletion of personal information in applicable circumstances.

Right to restriction: To request that processing be limited in certain circumstances.

Right to object: To object to processing based on legitimate interests, including relevant research processing.

Right to data portability: To request transfer of eligible personal information where the legal requirements apply.

Right to withdraw consent: To withdraw consent for processing activities that rely upon it.

MCMCER will respond to valid requests within the timescales required by law, normally within one calendar month, subject to permitted extensions. Requests should be sent to info@mcmcer.co.uk. Individuals who are dissatisfied with how their personal information has been handled may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): https://ico.org.uk.

14. Email Communications and Marketing

Providing an email address is optional and is not a requirement for participating in the survey. Where respondents request updates about the London Climate Resilience research project, MCMCER may use their email address to provide relevant information about the research, its progress and the final report.

MCMCER will treat promotional communications as a separate purpose. This may include information about future events, educational programmes, professional training or other MCMCER activities. Where required, MCMCER will obtain separate, affirmative marketing consent. Refusing marketing communications will not affect survey participation. Recipients may withdraw consent or unsubscribe from promotional communications at any time. Contact information collected solely for research updates will not automatically be added to MCMCER's general marketing database.

15. Automated Decision-Making

MCMCER does not intend to use survey responses to make solely automated decisions that produce legal or similarly significant effects on individual respondents. Survey information may be analysed using statistical or digital research tools to identify trends and patterns. Such analysis is intended to support research findings rather than make decisions about individual participants.

16. Changes to This Privacy Policy

MCMCER may update this Privacy Policy to reflect changes in the research project, data processing arrangements or applicable legal requirements. Where material changes affect how personal information is used, MCMCER will provide additional information or seek further consent where required. The latest version of the policy will be made available to survey participants.

17. Contact Details

M.C. Mehta Centre for Education and Research (MCMCER)

Research Email: roundtable@mcmcer.com

General Email: info@mcmcer.co.uk

Data Protection Contact: info@mcmcer.co.uk

Correspondence Address: Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London, W1W 8HF

For questions concerning the survey, personal information, data protection rights or withdrawal requests, please contact info@mcmcer.co.uk.

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