

Date

Dear Mr Sample

Invitation to join a national medical research project

We are writing to ask for your help in studying the prevention and treatment of cancer, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, dementia, joint problems, and many other serious diseases. This medical research project, called "UK Biobank", will involve 500,000 people aged 40-69 from all around the UK. Taking part is not intended to help you directly, but it should give future generations a much better chance of living their lives free of diseases that disable and kill.

UK Biobank has been set up by the Department of Health, Medical Research Council and Scottish Government, and by the Wellcome Trust medical charity. It is also supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, by health research charities (such as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Arthritis Research Campaign) and by the National Health Service. People to invite are being identified from contact details in NHS records (without access to any medical information) which have been processed in confidence on behalf of the NHS.

These invitation letters are going to millions of people in the UK and sometimes, unfortunately, may arrive at difficult times in people's lives: if this is the case for you, please accept our sincere apologies.

What taking part involves: A single visit of about 2 - 3 hours to the local UK Biobank assessment centre (which does not commit you to taking part). At that visit, you would first be told more about the project and have any questions answered. Then, you would be asked about your health and lifestyle; have some standard medical tests; provide small blood, saliva and urine samples; and receive key results from your examination. Subsequently, with your permission (and in complete confidence), UK Biobank would follow your health through medical and other health-related records. The enclosed Information Leaflet tells you more, and further details can be obtained by calling free on 0800-0-276-276 or by looking on the project's website at www.ukbiobank.ac.uk

How you can take part: A provisional appointment has been made for you:

Date: Monday 8 February 2010

Time: 8:00 am

Location: Swansea Mobile Assessment Centre, The West Car Park, Swansea Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN (see map)

If you would like to confirm or change this optional appointment, please reply by telephone or mail within 2 weeks (as indicated on the back of this letter). Participation in UK Biobank is entirely voluntary, and we very much hope that you will want to take part. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Professor Dame Sally C Davies
Director General, Research & Development
Department of Health

Rory Collins
UK Biobank Principal Investigator &
Professor of Medicine, Oxford University

Please turn over for details about confirming your UK Biobank appointment