

2 October 2020

Quality of Life Survey VI (2020/21)

Dear fellow resident of Gauteng,

Every two years, the Gauteng City-Region Observatory – a partnership of Wits and the University of Johannesburg – carries out a ‘Quality of Life’ survey. We ask questions about a very wide range of issues affecting us all, from transport to education to social attitudes to pollution – we try to cover as much ground as possible. This year, we are conducting our sixth survey, and will be interviewing over 13 000 adults across the Gauteng City-Region. GeoSpace International is conducting the interviews on GCRO’s behalf. All interviews are being conducted in compliance with strict COVID-19 protocols.

You have been randomly selected to ensure that the survey provides an accurate image of life in Gauteng and we invite you to answer a questionnaire that will take approximately 45 minutes of your time, though possibly up to an hour. We will ask you for some identifying information, such as your name and address, which will only be used for quality control purposes. We will also record the GPS coordinates of the interview location. All information you share with us will be treated with complete confidentiality. After completion of all interviews, responses will be collated in a completely anonymous way. You will not receive any direct benefits from participating in this research, and there are no disadvantages or penalties for not participating. You can choose not to answer any question, and can withdraw from the study at any time. We will ask some personal and potentially sensitive questions, and if you experience any distress or discomfort we will stop or pause the interview, or skip these questions. We are also providing you with a list of organisations that offer free counselling and other services.

The anonymised results will be publicly available, and will be shared with government to help them better plan for and manage the Gauteng City-Region. This survey is funded by provincial and local government, but the GCRO is an independent university research centre, and we say what needs to be said, based on the information from the survey. Our previous surveys have made substantial contributions to understanding the issues in our city-region and we have used the information to produce research reports, data briefs and maps. Attached to this letter are some examples and you can go to our website at www.gcro.ac.za and view the previous Quality of Life survey results (www.gcro.ac.za/qolviewer). Your participation is extremely valuable.

If you have any queries whatsoever about the survey, please feel free to contact the GeoSpace call centre, (081 073 2446; 071 041 0033) or to contact me directly on (011) 717 7280 or julia.dekadt@gcro.ac.za. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the ethical procedures of this study, you are welcome to contact the University Human Research Ethics Committee (Non-Medical), telephone +27(0) 11 717 1408, email Shaun.Schoeman@wits.ac.za.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Julia de Kadt
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