



The Mass Observation Project

Spring 2011 Directive

Part 1: Donor conception

Part 1 of this directive is about your views (and your direct experiences if you have them) on the new ways that people are supported to have babies.

As you know, it used to be that if a couple could not have a child they would adopt or foster. Today a couple can get medical help and can find a way of having a child together by using donated eggs or sperm, or an embryo from another couple. They have children who are genetically related only to one and sometimes none of the parents and their child is related to one or two donors.

We are interested in hearing about your thoughts around this way of having children. Do you feel that it is important to talk about this in families? Is it important to know about genetic heritage?

As usual, please start each part of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is probably best to use initials instead of real names.

Are these developments a good thing?

The first 'test-tube' in vitro fertilisation baby, Louise Brown, was born in 1978. Since the 1970s, there have been further developments to assist with conceiving with donated gametes (when people use sperm, egg or embryo from a stranger). This means that it is more common that people bear children who are not genetically related to one or both of their parents.

What do you think about these developments? How do you think they affect family life?

Can it affect families if people are not related genetically?

How would you feel?

If someone in your family had a child through donated eggs, sperm or embryos (gamete donation) how might you feel about it?

If the child was not genetically related to your side of the family would you think of him or her in the same way as other grandchildren, nieces/nephews, cousins etc?

Would you include such a child in your plans for inheritance or legacies?

Is it important to know about genetic heritage?

Please turn over

Should the parents tell?

Do you think that parents of children born from gamete donation should be completely open about their child's genetic origins? (eg to the child, grandparents, sibling, friends, neighbours, schools etc).

Is it important to talk about this in families and with others?

Has this happened in your wider family?

Have any children conceived from gamete donation actually been born into your family? If so, can you describe your experience? How did you get to hear about this? How did family members react when they were told/found out?

Your own experience of donor conception

Were you donor conceived? Have you donated eggs, sperm or embryos? Or perhaps you have considered donor conception or have received donated sperm, eggs or embryos and have had children in this way? If you have personal experience of a heterosexual couple, a gay male couple or a lesbian couple conceiving like this, please write about it. We would love to hear your story.

Part 2: Gambling and households

The second part of this directive focuses on gambling, particularly the relationship between gambling and home life. We are interested to hear your experiences of gambling, both past and present, particularly within domestic settings and your experiences of gambling within the family. Even if you personally do not gamble regularly, or not at all, we are still very interested to hear your own views on gambling at home.

Please start part 2 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

First – about your own family

Please make a note of your own family situation, both today and when you were growing up, so we have a context for what you write. For example, do you have siblings? Did you have anyone living in the family home when you were a child who was not a parent or sibling?

Your memories of gambling

What are your earliest memories and experiences of gambling?

Please describe your past experiences of gambling and your early observations of others gambling.

Your personal experiences of gambling

Please use this section to describe your present experiences of gambling. How frequently do you gamble, if at all?

Part 2 continues on next page

It would be helpful if you could state how frequently you engage in different types of gambling, if at all, using the list below.

Are there any sorts of gambling that you would always avoid? Please specify which ones and explain why you would avoid them.

National Lottery bi-weekly draw
Betting shops
Dog / horse tracks
Poker or other card games
Scratchcards

Casinos
Bingo
Football pools
Fruit machines
Premium Bonds

Are there any other forms of gambling that you have previously taken part in?

Using the Internet to gamble

Do you ever use the Internet to gamble? For example, do you use the Internet to gamble on dogs, horses or sport, or to play the National Lottery, poker or bingo?

If so, can you explain, what it is about gambling using the Internet that you find appealing?

If not, what are your opinions about those who use the Internet to gamble?
Do you think that it is potentially more dangerous than other types of gambling?

Budgeting and spending on gambling

How do you decide when to gamble, or when not to gamble?

Are you more or less likely to gamble if you are low on money?

Does your gambling tend to be spontaneous, or do you calculate how much you will gamble as part of your family or household expenditure? Do you ever disagree with other family members about this?

Gambling and families

What are your opinions on gambling with children present? Do you ever involve children in gambling? If so, how are they involved?

Do you gamble alone or with your partner /spouse or other members of your family?

Do you think gambling is damaging to the well-being of a family?

What are your observations of others gambling?

Winning money

Have you ever won money through gambling? If so, please describe how you spent your winnings.

How would winning money impact on you and your family's life? Would it affect your personal relationships?

Please turn over

Do you daydream about winning money through gambling?
Do you talk to others – family and / or friends – about your dreams of winning money?
Perhaps you do this even if you don't gamble yourself.

Syndicates

Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a gambling syndicate? Please describe your experience

Charity giving and 'Good Causes'

Are you more inclined to gamble in ways which donate to charity or to 'good causes', such as the National Lottery?

What are your opinions about how lottery funds are distributed?

Part 3: The royal wedding: Day diary for 29th April 2011

In the summer of 1981 the Mass Observation Archive issued a directive asking the Mass Observation correspondents to keep a day diary on the 29th July, the day of the wedding between Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The directive (titled 'Royal wedding - celebration or bore?') was one of the very first directives issued by the Archive.

Please start Part 3 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

30 years on, and with another royal wedding on the horizon, we would like to mark both occasions (the royal wedding AND the 30th anniversary of the Mass Observation Project) with another day diary.

Please record the details of how you spend **Friday 29 April** from the moment you get up until you go to bed. We would like you to document your activities, thoughts, and feeling on this day, paying particular attention to the royal wedding. If the wedding does not affect your day in any way then we would still like to hear about whatever you are doing.

Please post your response to:

The Mass Observation Archive, FREEPOST BR 2112, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 1ZX

Or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk