



INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUNG PERSON

Hey there!

You may remember that when you were younger an interviewer from **Growing Up in Ireland** called to your home to ask you some questions about what your life was like. The interviewer also spoke to your parents about what life as a parent is like.

Now that you have turned 13 years old, we would like to see how things have changed in the last few years. You are much older now, have changed schools and probably have some different interests and hobbies. We would like to find out about some of these changes that have taken place.

This information sheet will remind you what **Growing Up in Ireland** is about and what will happen if you agree to take part again. When you have read it, chat to your parents about taking part in the survey!

What's Growing Up in Ireland all about?

Growing Up in Ireland is a very important Government survey that aims to find out what life is like for children growing up in Ireland. We are a team of researchers called the **Growing Up in Ireland** Study Team, and we are carrying out the **Growing Up in Ireland** survey for the Government.

In 2008 11,000 infants were chosen at random to be part of **Growing Up in Ireland** – and you are one of them. Since then we have collected information about you at different ages. Returning to the same young people to interview them every few years gives us a really complete picture of what life is like for them. Now that you are 13, we would like to collect information again and see how things have changed as you have grown.

When you took part before an interviewer called to your house and recorded your answers on a computer. This time we would like you to fill in your own survey answers online. Your interviewer will talk to you and your parents on the 'phone to explain how this will work. They will leave their 'phone number with you in case you have any extra questions after talking.

Why does the Government need to find out about young people?

Growing Up in Ireland is a really important survey. It collects information that will help the Government to understand children's lives better. This information will also help Government to make good decisions about things that affect children and young people and things that will help improve their lives.

Why was I chosen?

All the young people taking part in **Growing Up in Ireland** were chosen at random in 2008 when they were 9-months old. This was the best way to make sure we included children from different kinds of families and from different parts of the country. This gives us a good picture of what it is like to be growing up in every part of Ireland.

What does Growing Up in Ireland tell us?

The survey gives us lots of information about the lives of children and young people. For instance, it gives us information about your health, your interests and activities, your education, and your relationships with your family and friends. Your answers will also let us know the effect the COVID-19 lockdown is having on you and your friends.

Will this information be kept confidential?

All the information you give us in answer to the questions on the **Growing Up in Ireland** survey will be treated as strictly confidential and private. Nobody outside the GUI Study will be able to see your answers. Your answers to the survey questions are completely confidential under a law referred to as the Statistics Act (1993). Your name and other personal details will never appear in any reports from the survey. The answers you give in the survey can only be used for statistical research purposes.

However, if the interviewer hears or is told something outside of your answers to the direct survey questions, which causes them to have serious concerns for your welfare, or the welfare of another child or other vulnerable person, they might have to tell someone who could help.

In order to make the best use of your answers to the questions, this information may be matched to other types of information. This would only be done under strictly controlled procedures. The information could only be used for statistical research purposes and will not in any way allow you or your family to be identified.

What are my rights if I take part?

You can decide to take part in the survey. You can also decide to change your mind and withdraw from the survey at any time – even after you have completed the questionnaire. If there is any question on the questionnaire you do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so.

You can find more information about your rights [here](#).

Your participation counts!

Taking part in **Growing Up in Ireland** is voluntary. The participation of young people like you plays a major role in its success. It is only by carrying out research like this that we can understand what it is like to be a young person in Ireland today and how Government can help make life better.

We hope that you will be able to help us in our work and we would like to thank you for your time completing our questionnaires.

Where can I find out more information?

- **Email:** growingup@esri.ie
- **Website:** Visit www.growingup.ie

