

August 2016

Dear Life Study participant,

We are very grateful to you for taking part in Life Study and giving so generously of your time to help this important research. I wrote to you in October last year to let you know that the Research Councils were stopping their financial support for Life Study due to the serious challenges encountered in recruiting families to the Study.

Although we will not collect any new data from you or anyone else, we would still like to use the information that you have already provided for the benefit of children and families. We would like to include your information and any samples you donated in a small part of the Life Study which is still going ahead – the Baby Biome Study - and which has funding from the Wellcome Trust. This Study will compare caesarean section with normal birth and look at the effects of antibiotics given to the mother in pregnancy on her child's future health and risk of conditions such as asthma. This will help understand the pathways to asthma, and be helpful in planning future studies to improve children's health. You can find out more information about Life Study and the transfer to the Baby Biome Study on the Life Study website: www.lifestudy.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter or about the use of your data you can visit the new Life Study website that will be available by July 2016. You can also get in touch by email to info@lifestudy.ac.uk or by writing to me at the address given at the top of the letter. I will get back to you as soon as possible. Sometimes letters come at a difficult time for families and if this is the case for your family, I apologise.

We greatly valued your participation in Life Study. We all hoped Life Study would continue for much longer to support research aimed at giving children the best start in life. This kind of research is only possible with the generous involvement of parents, children and families – in other words people like you. I very much hope that you and your family do not feel discouraged about taking part in research in the future. If you do want to find out more about supporting or being involved in research, please take a look at <http://www.invo.org.uk/>.

Thank you again for the time and support you have given to Life Study.

Yours sincerely

Professor Carol Dezateux
Scientific Director of Life Study