

## Nominated Representatives – Information and Guidance

Research into memory impairment is essential to increase understanding about the problem, improve treatment and care. People with memory impairment (and those with no memory impairment who are interested in taking part as ‘normal controls’) are invited to participate in research. Some people will have the capacity to make the decision whether or not to participate in research. For some the capacity to decide may fluctuate and diminish greatly with time.

Nominated representatives are legal representatives appointed in advance by someone with capacity, in this context to confirm your decision regarding brain donation after your death. A nominated representative can be a family member, unpaid carer or friend. They could also be the next of kin or person acting under Lasting Power of Attorney.

A nominated representative is appointed in writing, as part of the project consent form, by the person taking part in the research while they had capacity to do so. This person is then ideally placed to act as consultee under the Mental Capacity Act should the participant become unable to make their own decisions during the assessment phase of the project. Briefly, the consultee thinks about the wishes, feelings and previously expressed opinions of the person taking part in the research project and advises whether they would have continued to participate or not. In no circumstances will the care of the participant be affected.

Nominated representatives can be revoked and changed at any time by the participant.