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**Ref:**

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## Press Release

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### **Lesbian or gay? *Have your say.* Bisexual or Trans? *Your views matter.***

A survey exploring the needs of Lambeth's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) communities goes live this week. Lambeth Council has commissioned Sigma Research to carry out the survey and a series of group discussions, to capture the views and experiences of LGBT people in order to improve service provision for these communities. The questionnaire will be on-line at [www.lambethlgbtmatters.com](http://www.lambethlgbtmatters.com) until 31 December 2005.

The survey asks questions about education, employment, health, caring responsibilities, housing, general concerns, use of services, and community involvement. It also aims to find out peoples experiences of discrimination and the other types of challenges that they may have faced, both from the general community and when accessing council services.

Research suggests that 10% of Lambeth's population, around 20,000 people are either from lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities or have had a same-sex partner.

Lambeth Assistant Chief Executive, Chris Lee, supports the research, saying: "Understanding the diverse needs of customers is a challenge for all councils. Lambeth is one of the few local authorities taking positive steps to address this, and our research will help us better understand and meet the needs of this sizeable part of our community."

Amy Donovan, LGBT Co-ordinator at the Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust added: "This is an important step necessary for improving the experiences of the LGBT population within Lambeth. The information from this research will highlight key areas that statutory agencies, the Lambeth LGBT Forum and I need to collaboratively focus on to make this borough a safer and more enjoyable place for LGBT people. I cannot stress how important it is for LGBT people who live, work, study or socialise in this borough to contribute to this research – we need to hear your views."

If you are part of the LGBT community you can express your views at a discussion group or in the *LGBT Matters* survey. Participants do not have to identify themselves and can remain anonymous. Those choosing to register their details will be entered into a free prize draw to win the latest iPod with video (1<sup>st</sup> prize), or the super-slim iPod Nano (2<sup>nd</sup> prize).

If you would like to complete the *LGBT Matters* questionnaire, please log on to [www.lambethlgbtmatters.com](http://www.lambethlgbtmatters.com). To receive a hard-copy of the questionnaire or for more information, please contact Sigma Research on 020 7820 8022 or email [askme@sigmaresearch.org.uk](mailto:askme@sigmaresearch.org.uk).

All enquiries and information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Ends**

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**Notes to editors**

\* Research taken from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, conducted every 10 years.