

Science and Technology Committee,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

12 December 2019

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated Thursday 31 October 2019 requesting additional information following *Ancestry's* appearance before the Science and Technology select committee's Commercial Genomics inquiry on Monday 28 October.

In the letter, you requested that we share population genetics research published by *Ancestry's* researchers, and additional evidence of consumers' understanding of our products. We are pleased to provide you with the following information:

Published Population Genetics Research by *Ancestry's* Researchers

At *Ancestry*, our distinctive and innovative approach to genomics research combines the information collated from the millions of trees from our family history platforms with our DNA database. This database is a powerful tool for our researchers, providing a large dataset for investigations into genetic variations in different populations. We are pleased to have published peer-reviewed research on the post-colonial population structure of North America, published by *Nature* in 2016¹, as well as two peer-reviewed studies published in conjunction with Calico Life Sciences LLC on population traits.

AncestryDNA scientists have also published white papers showcasing our high-calibre research:

DNA Matching: DNA matches are now an integral part of family history and here we have explained how we identify genetic connections.²

Ethnicity Estimates: published in 2018, this white paper details the research behind genetic ethnicity estimations.³

Genetic Communities: we bring ethnicity beyond the national level to discover more localised regions and this white paper highlights how we do this.⁴

Consumer Understanding of *Ancestry's* products

Ancestry is committed to providing our customers with information regarding research conducted using their data – whether by *Ancestry*, or as part of a collaboration with third-party researchers. On our website, we provide answers to common questions and advise our customers explicitly that an *AncestryDNA* test is intended to aid in the discovery of one's family history and ethnicity⁵. Our products provide multiple warnings that genetic data provided by *Ancestry's* technology is not intended to be repurposed or reanalysed. All we endeavour to provide our customers control over their DNA data, and we make self-service tools available for customers to delete their data or close their accounts at any time. Further, and importantly, none of our customers are automatically opted-in to our IRB-approved research protocol (through which the above-listed

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms14238.pdf>

² <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/resource/whitePaper/AncestryDNA-Matching-White-Paper.pdf>

³ https://www.ancestrycdn.com/dna/static/images/ethnicity/help/WhitePaper_Final_091118dbs.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/communities/whitepaper>

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/dna/legal/faq>



Ancestry Ireland Unlimited Company
52-55 Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2
Phone + 353 1 765 1540
www.ancestry.com

publications would have passed) – each must make the choice for herself whether she wishes to participate in Ancestry's research program.

Our in-house analysis of our consumers' understanding of our products and technology does not indicate any health or genomic takeaways from our communications and confirms that consumers understand that our DNA service is about gaining insights into their family history, as well as developing innovative new products to enrich their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to share Ancestry's perspective upon the future of the UK genomics industry with the Science and Technology Committee. I trust that the supplemental information we have provided has clarified the additional points identified in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carla Newell", written over a horizontal line.

Carla Newell