

1 August 2017

Our ref: NIC-125301-Z4Y0H

Dear Mr Bhatia,

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Thank you for your email dated 6 July 2017 requesting information in respect of 'Summary Care Record enquiry'.

"I would be very grateful for some information/clarification regarding the Summary Care Record. You have very kindly provided me with very useful information in the past.

If you feel you would not be able to reply informally to this query within 20 working days, or if indeed you feel so inclined, then please take this as a formal FOI request.

Otherwise, I would be very happy for an informal response within a reasonable timeframe.

In a previous FOI request, you have reassured everyone that "there are no secondary uses of SCR clinical data".

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/277693/response/686655/attach/2/NIC%20363485%20C3Q1S%20Response.pdf>

I assume that this is still the case.

I am aware of plans afoot to use uploaded SCR clinical data, as held by NHS Digital, and particularly enriched SCR data, to "feed" into third party databases. These would be of the "local care record" type, such as the Hampshire Health Record.

Needless to say, that is the extraction of personal confidential data from a primary (GP) database, to a secondary (SCR) database, and then - seemingly - onwards to a third database (local care record e.g. HHR).

Extraction and uploading of data from the GP record to the SCR is for direct care only, but once that data is "redirected" into another database, it may then be subjected to secondary uses (as is the case in the HHR).

That, of course, may well be the ultimate intention of those that control the tertiary database.

So could you kindly tell me:

1. *Is the SCR database currently "feeding" clinical data into any other databases?
If so, please could you tell me which databases (or organisations)*

2. *Is the SCR database planning to "feed" clinical data into other databases? Have you been approached regarding this?
If so, please could you tell me which databases (or organisations)
If so, please could you provide me with the Privacy Impact Assessment for this – new – use of uploaded SCR data*

Needless to say, if such a move is afoot, or planned, then providing fair processing information to patients about the SCR, and the uses of their data, suddenly becomes a whole lot more complicated."

We have considered your request and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that we do hold the information that you have requested.

1. SCR data is stored centrally within the Spine Clinicals database.

Outside of the current business flow of uploading and viewing SCRs there are no additional data flows from Spine to external systems or providers; this is also the case for any internal NHS Digital data flows. We are acutely aware of the importance and sensitive nature of the data we store and as such we would not undertake any developments that support the sharing of data without appropriate Information Governance/Data Sharing Agreements in place.

2. The Spine team have no current Work Requests relating to the feeding of Clinicals data to other databases. However, it is not unusual for the Spine team to be approached with proposals relating to data usage for the data we store. As per above we would not undertake any developments that support the sharing of data without appropriate Information Governance/Data Sharing Agreements in place.

I can confirm that the Summary Care Record (SCR) database does not feed any other clinical databases and there are no plans afoot to do this in future. SCR can only be accessed by clinicians who have a smartcard with the appropriate permissions and access to the NHS network, for the purposes of direct patient care with the patients permission. Other local sharing initiatives such as the Hampshire Health Record have their own sharing solutions with their own governance arrangements and consent models which are independent of SCR.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS Digital website.

I trust you are satisfied with our response to your request for information. However, if you are not satisfied, you may request a review from a suitably qualified member of staff not involved in the initial query, via the enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk email address or by post at the above postal address.

I will assume that your request to the organisation is now closed.

Yours sincerely,

L Boden
Information Governance Advisor

Further information about your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act is available from the Information Commissioner's Office, Wilmslow, Cheshire, and on The Information Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk.

NHS Digital values customer feedback and would appreciate a moment of your time to respond to our Freedom of Information (FOI) Survey to let us know about your experience. Please access the survey through this link [here](#)