



24th March 2014

Our ref: NIC-252419-H7K8Q

Dear Dr Bhatia,

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

I can confirm that the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has considered your query dated the 24th February 2014.

I am interested in how many patients be provided with an audit trail detailing every occasion in which information that included that (in part or whole) uploaded about them from their GP records to the HSCIC under care.data has been disseminated by the HSCIC.

Please could you provide me with the process by which patients may be provided with the following information.

For each occasion that data was released by the HSCIC, and which included information extracted and uploaded from their GP record:

- to whom was their data provided (i.e. the name of the organisation)*
- the date that their information was released to the organisation*
- for what purpose was that data released to that organisation*
- for what charge ("cost-recovery" or otherwise)*

this for each type of data release, that is "Green", "Amber" and (assuming no 9Nu4) "Red".

I am not interested in Subject Access Requests to the HSCIC for the information held about a data subject - I am familiar with that process.

I am not interested in "open data", that is data openly published on your websites(s) for anyone to download.

Obviously, the data released to an organisation would not have been solely about that one patient (I hope), but patients will wish to know when their information, as uploaded to care.data, had been included in a dataset released by the HSCIC.

The first extraction of data from GP practices under care.data will now take place in autumn 2014.

Anonymised data ('green' data) is record level data that does not include any identifiers (i.e. there are no personal details such as date of birth or postcode included).

Pseudonymised data ('amber' data) is record level data that does not include any identifiers but contains a unique key that enables the customer to uniquely reference the record whilst the identity of the individual is protected.

The HSCIC is unable to confirm where an individual's data has been released in green and amber form as identifiers are not included in this data and as such it is not covered by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The HSCIC is committed to transparency and being open with citizens about how data is shared and why. A report detailing all data released by the HSCIC since 1 April 2013, including the legal basis on which data was released and the purpose, to which the data is being put, will be published to the HSCIC website in April 2014. This report will include information on the release of all data in identifiable form ('red' data) and amber data, and will be updated on a quarterly basis.

Citizens can submit a Subject Access Request (SAR) under the Data Protection Act 1998 to establish who data about them has been released to in identifiable form ('red' data). The SAR process enables the HSCIC to validate an individual's identity and ensure that data is only released to the individual concerned.

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 HSCIC 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@hscic.gov.uk e mail address or by post at the above postal address.

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

Yours sincerely,

James Smith
Higher Information Governance Officer

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.gov.uk.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre 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

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSCIC_FOI_Feedback