



26th March 2014

Our ref: NIC-253082-F8G8B

Dear P Seurre,

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 25th February 2014.

“Health data is already being shared with 3rd parties abroad. Take BT and it's partnership with the US company MedRed as one such example.

Given the lack of privacy protection in countries such as the US, will HSCIC be denying access to potentially identifiable information (AKA 'amber' data) to BT and other parties with links to foreign companies outside the control of British authorities?”

Thank you for your request. The BT/MedRed initiative is using open data which is neither identifiable, nor pseudonymised. It is anonymised data (or “green” data).

Please note that whilst this initiative may use open data provided by HSCIC under the terms of the Open Government Licence, it is not an HSCIC initiative. Further detail however is available at <http://dev.medred.com/content.cfm?ID=32>.

Within the data sharing agreements of the HSCIC, organisations are required to restrict their use of data to identified organisations, an agreed purpose, and specific individuals. An organisation which has links to foreign companies will not be denied access however, the HSCIC data sharing agreements specifically states ‘The data will be accessed, processed and used within the EEA only unless permission has been granted by the HSCIC’.

The sharing of data beyond the borders of the UK is covered within information provided by the ICO, which is at http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/data_protection/overseas

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