



Health & Social Care  
Information Centre

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2nd March 2016

Our ref: NIC-20352-R5B4P  
re: NIC-14852-K3Q2R

Dear Ms Watts,

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

I can confirm that the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has considered your request for a review of the response you received to NIC-14852-K3Q2R.

*I am writing to request an internal review of Health and Social Care Information Centre's handling of my FOI request 'How are you monitoring and protecting data relating to patients being struck off by their GP Surgeries?'.*

**COMPLAINT ONE**

*I provided clear bullet points when I presented my FOI. Therefore, in respect of UK data laws, you need to clearly respond to each bullet point. If you fail to do this, then I will have to consider whether I progress the Misconduct In Public Office against you.*

**COMPLAINT TWO**

*I am genuinely stunned.*

*Your style of response to my FOI suggests a cover up, a lack of cover by your department, NHS, CQC, Monitor and The Ombudsman as to the operations and conduct of GP Surgeries in the UK. Is this the case?*

I have reviewed the previous request (NIC-14852-K3Q2R) and our response to it. I am of the opinion that the response was thorough and correct.

In response to your complaints, firstly, there is no legal requirement for the organisation to respond to each of the 'bullet points'. As long as the HSCIC answers your question as fully as we are able that is sufficient. In this case we clearly stated that we did not have the information you requested and therefore could not respond to the questions you raised. The opening paragraph of the response stated *'The HSCIC, Population, Geography and International Statistics - Information Services only publishes data on the numbers of patients registered at a GP Practice in England; therefore is unable to help with any of the questions above.'*

We could, of course, have left it at that but, as per s16 of the FOI Act, we provided some related information which we believed may have been of interest or use to you in respect of your enquiry.

Finally, I can confirm that the HSCIC is not the body responsible for the conduct or overseeing the conduct of GP Practices.

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 a review.  
Yours sincerely,

**Graeme Holmes**  
**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.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.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](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSCIC_FOI_Feedback)