

Summary of permissions obtained by researchers and description of Privacy Impact Assessment

The governance approvals secured prior to completion of the linked analysis reported in *Clark et al. Linking routinely collected social work, education and health data to enable monitoring of the health and health care of school-aged children in state care ('looked after children') in Scotland: a national demonstration project. Public Health 2017; 150: 101–111* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2017.05.003>) and the companion paper *McMahon et al. Inequalities in the dental health needs and access to dental services among looked after children in Scotland: a population data linkage study. Archives of Disease in Childhood 2017; online early* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2016-312389>) were as follows:

- Approval from the Scottish Government Education Analytical Services Division Data Access Panel
- Approval from the NHS Privacy Advisory Committee (now the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel)
- A data sharing agreement between the Scottish Government and the University of Glasgow
- A data processing agreement between the University of Glasgow and the NHS National Services Scotland, Information Services Division
- Approval from the University of Glasgow College of Medicine, Veterinary and Life Sciences Ethics Committee
- Confirmation that NHS ethical approval was not required

The specific linked analysis reported in the two papers formed part of a broader programme of research funded by the Scottish Government. As part of the broader programme, the research team explored the possibility of establishing a securely maintained 'read through' key linking children's Community Health Index and Scottish Candidate Numbers, with the aim of facilitating future linkages of health and education data without the need for re-linkage (and associated transfer of personal identifiers) for each subsequent project. The Privacy Impact Assessment mentioned in the supplementary material at the end of the paper in *Public Health* relates to this broader work. Although this PIA was prepared and widely discussed, it was never formally submitted for approval as it was agreed that such a 'read through' key would not be implemented by the research team.