

06 February 2019

Our ref: NIC-261107-Z4V6G

Dear Spencer Gasson,

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

Thank you for your email dated 9 January 2019 requesting the following information:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act, has there been any discussion about how in the long terms NHS information is retained in a way the National Archives role might be and if not how does this fit with your and the NHS Information Boards priorities?”

Has there been any work or discussion in terms of making information from Freedom of Information requested information more readily available using digital means? How does improving access and reducing duplication fit in terms of yours and the Information board priorities? Could mapping these against clinical specialities, for example, reduce duplication and has an NHSwiki idea been discussed or evaluated for possible benefit involving patients and professionals?”

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.

With regards retention of NHS information in the long term. All NHS Digital records are retained in accordance with our Records Management Policy which is available from the Data Retention section of our Transparency Page <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/gdpr/gdpr-register>. Additionally in terms of the wider NHS there is also a Records Management Code of Practice which includes details on the length of time records should be retained <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/looking-after-information/data-security-and-information-governance/codes-of-practice-for-handling-information-in-health-and-care/records-management-code-of-practice-for-health-and-social-care-2016>

NHS Digital currently maintains a disclosure log for FOI requests which is available via the Lists and Registers section of our Publication Scheme <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/publication-scheme>. Please note there are currently discussions progressing to improve the accessibility and user experience of interacting with these logs and other existing sources of information. I have also included an overview of this work which was produced to aid current discussions. You should also find via the publications scheme other accessible information such as our Data Release Register from our Data Access Request Service (DARS).

Improving access and reducing duplication are very much at the forefront of current activities for example improving access for patients via the NHS App <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app> and reducing duplication via the Data Content and new Data Collections activity <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/transforming-health-and-care-through-technology/data-outcomes-for-research-and-oversight-domain-h/data-content-and-new-data-collections>. This work is also complimented by ongoing work in delivering our Interoperability and architecture work as part of the Integrated Care Programme <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our->

[work/transforming-health-and-care-through-technology/integrated-care-domain-d/interoperability-and-architecture](https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/our-role-and-remit-in-the-health-service).

Further information explaining the role and remit of NHS Digital in the Health Service is available from the below link <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/our-role-and-remit-in-the-health-service>. I would suggest that any specific questions regarding the National Information Board may be best directed towards:

National Information Board Secretariat
Room 2N12
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE
United Kingdom
Email: nibsecretariat@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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.

Your request to NHS Digital will now be closed on our internal CRM (customer relationship management) system.

Yours sincerely,

Information Assurance 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](#)

