

18 February 2014

By E-mail

Phil Booth and Terri Dowty
medConfidential

Dear Phil Booth and Terri Dowty

Thank you for your letter.

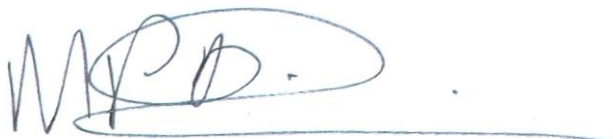
In order to enable the HSCIC to apply the most recent objection codes regarding the release of a patient's identifiable data, the HSCIC proposes to extract data about these objection codes and the withdrawal of them. The General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) will return aggregate counts of the numbers of each type of objection recorded. Where a patient objects to information containing data that identifies them from leaving their GP practice (type 1 objection), only the aggregate counts along with the GP practice identifier will be returned by GPES. No other additional data will be extracted.

Where a patient objects to information containing data that identifies them from leaving the HSCIC (type 2 objection) the HSCIC proposes to extract the fact that a type 2 objection has been recorded, the date of that objection and the patient's NHS number. This extract will also include the GP practice identifier. The NHS number will be used internally within the HSCIC to match data held for that patient so that data can be de-identified before release.

Where a patient raises both a type 1 and type 2 objection it will be necessary to take the patient's NHS number in order to enable their wishes in respect of a type 2 objection to be implemented.

This proposal will be considered by the GPES Independent Advisory Group (IAG) in February for their confirmation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.D.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Mark Davies
Director of Clinical and Public Assurance