



coordinator@medconfidential.org

1 December 2016

Re: HSC (National Data Guardian) Bill - Jo Churchill MP

Dear Members of the Houses of Parliament,

We fully support the principle of this Bill, and the Bill text we have seen.¹

medConfidential is an independent non-partisan organisation campaigning for confidentiality and consent in health and social care, which seeks to ensure that every flow of data into, across and out of the NHS and care system is *consensual, safe and transparent*.

Founded in January 2013, medConfidential works with patients and medics, service users and care professionals; draws advice from a network of experts in the fields of health informatics, computer security, law/ethics and privacy; and believes there need be no conflict between good research, good ethics and good medical care.

There are some associated and adjacent issues, especially around transparency, which can be raised via probing amendments to Government at committee stage, but we believe the principle of the Bill for second reading is entirely sound. The Bill is a building block, but the National Data Guardian will be a cornerstone and a vital safeguard towards consensual, safe, and transparent data flows within the NHS.

We are happy to meet with anyone with an interest in the Bill to encourage their support.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Booth, medConfidential

Sam Smith, medConfidential

¹ Dated 1st December.