

21 April 2015

**By Email to Richard Popplewell**

Dear Richard

Re: Streamlining clinical input into and IG advice on collections and extractions with a focus on the GP Extraction Service; Independent Advisory Group [GPES IAG]

I am writing to you as chair of the Standardisation Committee for Care Information to update you on a proposal coming to SCCI this month. The proposal is about GPES IAG functions and I would like to give you some advice if the SCCI decision on it is positive. This advice has come via the National Data Guardian [NDG].

The context to this letter is set out in the appendix [see bold print of first bullet point] and the proposal on the SCCI component [as developed by HSCIC colleagues] is being considered at your 29<sup>th</sup> April SCCI meeting. I am hoping SCCI can support it as in my view it builds on the independent assurance function already set up within SCCI and begins to simplify the collection/extraction approval process across the health and social care system.

My main reason for writing to you is that through my deputy [Dr Alan Hassey] we presented our proposals to Dame Fiona Caldicott's Independent Information Governance Oversight Panel where we were given a fair but firm hearing. The main thing that came out on the SCCI proposal was that SCCI is a sub-committee of the National Information Board [NIB], which approved its operational framework when I was SCCI chair. This proposal aims to alter that SCCI operational framework and therefore should go to the NIB for discussion and formal ratification as required by good governance. I am therefore advising you that in my view and that of the NDG someone [either you or the deputy chair who regularly attends NIB] should make a recommendation to NIB, should SCCI support the proposal.

I would be grateful if you could keep Dr Hassey and I in the loop as we trying to synchronise this SCCI activity with taking up the dissemination functions of GPES IAG into the main dissemination advisory function of HSCIC namely the replacement service for DAAG [the Data Access Advisory Group]

Kind regards



Martin

Professor Martin Severs OBE, FRCP FFPHM  
Professional Lead and Caldicott Guardian - HSCIC

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Alan Hassey: Geraint Lewis: Peter Counter: Dave Roberts: Gwen Smith: Neil McCrerrick

## APPENDIX 1

### About GPES IAG

The GPES Independent Advisory Group was established in 2012. It is an advisory group set under the auspices of the NHS Information Centre and now operated by the HSCIC. It was established to provide advice to the HSCIC on proposed customer use of the GPES system and in particular to provide oversight/assurance to GPs that data for which they were data controllers was being used in an acceptable manner, delivering benefits for patients whilst protecting patient confidentiality and privacy. There are a number of GPs and retired GPs who are members of this group. It is an advisory group and not a decision taking body. It does not have a role in GP extractions which do not take place via the GPES system nor a role outside general practitioners to other disciplines or specialists.

### Current situation

The current advisory system appeared confusing for customers, duplicating effort in some places and having gaps in others. HSCIC information governance systems needed to change following the Partridge Review and the Care Act 2014 and the question was how? The following activities were undertaken:

1. An internal review of the HSCIC IG Advisory Structures was undertaken by David Evans, senior IG adviser called CAG, DAAG, GPES IAG – now and tomorrow
2. A piece of work led by the Deputy Caldicott Guardian, Dr Alan Hassey, and supported by Dawn Foster the HSCIC Head of Information Governance looked at how to make the current DAAG process better in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and customer experience whilst addressing short falls exposed by the Health Select Committee
3. Operational planning work with the DH, HRA and HSCIC began to explore the optimum way of working for HSCIC to receive CAG advice and both processes to avoid duplication, improve efficiency and improve customer experience.

The conclusions were that GPES IAG structure and function should be:

- **Subsumed into the SCCI structure and process for collections and initial flows** and
- Subsumed into the new DAAG structures and processes and this should be consulted upon for dissemination and
- DAAG should be re-named and
- This should be undertaken openly in full view of the National Data Guardian such that any significant concerns could be made directly known to the HSCIC Board.