

Date: Wednesday, 23rd October 2019  
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4084

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**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4084**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 22nd October 2019.

Your request was as follows:

How many of your doctors and healthcare professionals are still using SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Signal, Telegram or similar messaging solutions to share patient data?

No - this is documented in the mobile phone and camera use policy - Under no circumstances should any personal identifiable information be shared in any messaging applications i.e. Whats App or Forward. These applications can be used to discuss clinical information only with colleagues but the use of this must have been risk assessed in the department prior to use.

Does your trust have a contract with a digital communications company for inter team communication (e.g. Induction, Hospify, Siilo, Forward, Medic Bleep, Common Time, Ascom, Vocera etc)? Please state which digital communications company.

No

Is this communications solution being used across the whole trust or just in pockets (e.g. wards, units or departments)? If in pockets, which wards, units and departments, and why only in those areas?

N/A

If your trust does have a contract with a digital communications company, do you have a data sharing agreement and clinical safety assessment in place with this company?

N/A

Was there any period in the last 3 years when your trust has been using a digital communications solution without a data sharing agreement in place?

N/A

How many patients data has been inappropriately shared without this governance? How many patients data is expected to be still shared without the right governance over the next 2 years?

None

NHS England states that each software provider and NHS organisation has to do DCB 0129/0160 before deploying a technology in order to make sure of its clinical safety - did your trust do DCB 0129/0160 before deploying a digital communications solution?

There is a clinical safety Group, chaired by a Clinical Safety Officer (Neurologist) and complies with NHS directives on

Technology and safety.

If not, what is your trust doing about it?

N/A

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

**Re-Use of Public Sector Information**

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at [www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4084 in any future communications.**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**