



Freedom of Information Team
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Date: 05/01/2022

Ref: 21-22 443

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 02/12/2021. Please see responses to your requests below.

1. Does your Trust operate, or contribute data to, an EHR-linked data warehouse that holds patient-level clinical data that can be used for research purposes? This includes EHR-linked data warehouses where the Trust is the data controller, or academic collaborations where an EHR-linked data warehouse is maintained by an academic institute. This does NOT include NHS Digital Secondary Use Service (SUS) data submissions.

No.

2. If yes, please specify who the data controller organisation is for the data warehouse.

Not applicable.

3. If yes, please specify which EHR vendor software(s) the data warehouse receives data from.

Not applicable.

4. Apart from your EHR vendor company, is any commercial third party contracted to enable this data warehouse (e.g. by handling data aggregation and linkage, or handling data storage solutions etc)?

Not applicable.

5. If yes, which third party commercial company is involved?

Not applicable.

6. Does the Trust store any patient data on a "cloud" platform (e.g., including, but not limited to, Google Cloud Platform, Amazon Azure or Amazon Web Services)? Yes. However, please refer to Q7, you might want to consider simply extending the use of the exemption to neither confirm or deny use of cloud platforms for storage of patient data.

The Trust will not divulge the location of where patient data is stored as it is believed this information could be used to assist a threat actor with identifying a target to exploit. We are not obliged to provide

information if its release would prejudice law enforcement. In this case, we believe that releasing detailed information such as IT security and resilience arrangements creates a security risk and is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime (section 31(1)(a) and the administration of justice (section 31(1)(c)).

In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have also considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

You can find out more about Section 31 by reading the extract from the Act and some guidance points we consider when applying this exemption, attached at the end of this letter.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/31> and further guidance.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

- There is public interest in transparency and accountability of the department,
- Disclosure may promote public understanding
- There is public interest in good decision-making by public bodies

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information. Disclosing details of IT security and resilience arrangements that it considers putting it at risk from criminal and malicious activity and prejudice its ability to resist cyber-attacks and similar.

The Trust have reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 31(1)(a) and (b) of the Act at this time.

7. If yes, which cloud platform solution is used?

Please see response in question 6.

8. Does the Trust use an automated, EHR-linked system for NHS Digital Secondary Use Service (SUS) data collation and submission, or is SUS data submitted by manual upload?

No.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team

Working together To drive excellence in care for our patients and communities