



**Wrightington,
Wigan and Leigh**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2019/5500

Date Received: 2nd July 2019

Response Due: 30th July 2019

26th July 2019

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

- 1. Are medical staff permitted to use third-party instant messaging/communication applications (e.g. WhatsApp, Skype, SMS, Facebook messenger etc.) to exchange or communicate patient data? No**

The Trust currently has a Social Media Policy in draft form. It is expected that this will be ratified soon.

- 2. Do medical staff use any of the following communication apps to share patient data with their colleagues (please select as many as applicable) - N/A**

WhatsApp

SMS

Skype

Skype for Business

StarLeaf

Instagram

Facebook Messenger

LinkedIn Messenger

Google Hangouts

Slack

Other

Not sure

3. If no, what other systems do medical staff use to communicate and share patient data with their colleagues? (please select as many as applicable)

Letters

Paper files

Phone

Email

Other [please specify]

Not sure

The Trust has a Hospital Information System via which all treating clinicians would have access to patient information.

4. Does your trust have any processes in place to stop medical staff accessing patient data (for example, which they have exchanged with other medical staff from their personal device) when they have left the NHS trust and moved on to new job?

Yes

No

Not sure

Staff should not have patient data on any personal device.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:
Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF