

Our ref-534
12th May 2016

Letter via email

For the attention of David Sloman, CEO Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Dear David

Google DeepMind

I have been following the recent discussions regarding your trust's work with Google DeepMind, and the related data sharing arrangement.

I am aware that the Information Commissioner's Office has contacted you to clarify some elements of the use of patient data in this instance, and I do not want to impinge on those enquiries. I am keen, however, to gain a better understanding of how patient data is being used with emerging and innovative technologies, and to see if there are any related, broader issues regarding patient confidentiality that I may need to consider.

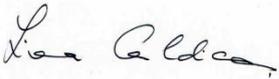
In my role as the National Data Guardian, I am supported by an advisory panel of experts. The panel have proposed that I invite representatives from your trust to our next meeting, which is to be held in London on the 26th May, to talk to us about how your work with DeepMind is being used to improve patient care in the trust, and how the data concerned is being shared and used.

I would be grateful if you would let my office know if this arrangement is suitable. My office can be contacted at: ndgoffice@nhs.net.

We would also be happy for representatives from Google DeepMind to attend this meeting. Again, please contact my Office in this regard to make the necessary arrangements.

I would appreciate your engagement on this matter. Your trust is likely to be at the forefront of the use of this technology, and I am keen that any potential confidentiality issues are understood and quickly addressed, so that the benefits of using similar technology can be realised across the NHS.

Yours sincerely



Dame Fiona Caldicott, MA FRCP FRCPsych
National Data Guardian