

Our Ref: 513/2022
JANUARY 2022

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. In particular, I am requesting information about medical image anonymisation protocols.

Specifically, I would like to know the following:

- What protocols and guidelines are in place for anonymising medical images?
- How are these protocols and guidelines applied for research?
- What training and support is provided to staff who are responsible for anonymising medical images?

The professional Clinical Photography Service at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals always ensure substantial consent has been acquired before proceeding with Clinical Photographs. The requesting Clinician is responsible for explaining the levels of consent to the patient using the Clinical Photography consent form (WPR21103) and explaining how the photographic images are stored and shared with other health professionals before a signature is obtained. The Medical Photographer will inspect the consent form and clarify with the patient that they are satisfied with the options selected. In some cases, the patient's face, or other identifiable features (such as tattoos or unique anatomy) will be recorded. The aim would always be to minimise revealing any unnecessary identifiable features, but anonymising these images is considered inappropriate and bad practice as the appropriate consent has been obtained for them to be used within the healthcare context.