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Dear Ian

We have been asked to provide clarity following the recent ongoing discussions between the Department's Informatics Directorate and the BMA to discuss the rollout of SCR. Further discussions, facilitated by Dame Barbara Hakin, have resulted in the agreement to issue the following joint statement.

“Connecting for Health (CfH) and the BMA have agreed that the upload of information to the summary care record should only take place in any practice once the practice and the PCT agree that patients have been adequately informed about the process and properly enabled to opt out should they wish. Practices must be fully supported and informed to upload data. Practices and PCTs must be satisfied that data are of an appropriate quality for sharing.

This will apply both to areas which were working to implement the SCR prior to the 'accelerated roll out' but have yet to uploaded patient data, as well as those practices in areas deemed to be “accelerated” and this status should not preclude uploads where agreement about adequate information has been reached.

CfH have agreed that they will continue to work with stakeholders including the BMA to improve the nationally available examples and templates for PCTs and practices to support public awareness, and practice and professional involvement. They have also agreed that the BMA and CfH will work jointly on what, within the constraints of current policy, constitutes an appropriate local campaign of public and professional awareness and practice support, in order to assist practices and PCTs in making decisions on whether local arrangements for public and professional information is sufficient.

David Nicholson and myself are fully aware of the concerns in the service, emanating from the BMA's press release of two weeks ago, therefore can you please cascade this letter to the CEO's of PCT's in your area with immediate effect. SHAs are expected to ensure that their PCTs understand and implement appropriate communications

arrangements. In turn, it is imperative that PCTs cascade this information to GP practices in their area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CK Connelly".

**Christine Connelly**

*Director General for Informatics  
and Chief Information Officer for Health*