



# Urology Services Inquiry

## PRIVACY NOTICE

**Data Controller Name:** The Urology Services Inquiry  
**Address:** Urology Services Inquiry, Bradford Court, 1 Bradford Court,  
BELFAST, BT8 6RB  
**Telephone:** 028 90251005  
**Email:** [info@usi.org.uk](mailto:info@usi.org.uk)  
**Data Protection Officer:** Fiona Marshall  
**Email:** [fiona.marshall@usi.org.uk](mailto:fiona.marshall@usi.org.uk)

### **Why are you processing my personal information and what is the lawful basis for processing?**

Under the powers conferred on it by Section 21 Inquiries Act 2005, and in accordance with the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Urology Services Inquiry, the Inquiry has the power to require the production of evidence, including personal information, which relates to matters being investigated by the Inquiry.

The processing of your personal information is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest as provided for under the UK Data Protection Legislation, including the UK General Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) (see relevant legislative references below).

The Inquiry will collect personal information about patients, their families and individual organisational stakeholders in support of its terms of reference. Data will therefore be processed to allow the Inquiry to investigate the handling of relevant complaints or concerns identified or received prior to May 2020 and its participation in processes to maintain standards of professional practice. The data will help determine whether there were any related concerns or circumstances which should have alerted the Southern Trust to instigate an earlier and more thorough investigation over and above the extant arrangements for raising concerns and making complaints.

Data will also be processed by the Inquiry to aid evaluation of the corporate and clinical governance procedures and arrangements within the Trust in relation to the circumstances which led to the Trust conducting a “lookback review” of patients seen by the urology consultant Mr Aidan O’Brien (for the period from January 2019 until May 2020). This will include the communication and escalation of the reporting of issues related to potential concerns about patient care and safety within and between the Trust, the Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency and the Department. It will also include any other information which directly bears on patient care and safety.

Data will be collected that will allow the examination of the clinical aspect of the cases identified by the date of commencement of the Inquiry as meeting the threshold for a Serious Adverse Incident (SAI), including data relating to any further cases which the Inquiry considers appropriate, in order to provide a comprehensive report of findings related to the governance of patient care and safety within the Trust’s urology specialty.

Data collection will also allow for a review of the implementation of the Department of Health’s “Maintaining High Professional Standards Policy” by the Trust in relation to the investigation related to Mr O’Brien. The Inquiry is asked to determine whether the application of this Policy by the Trust was effective and to make recommendations, if required, to strengthen the Policy.

Data will be processed to facilitate the Inquiry to identify any learning points and to make recommendations to the Department. In particular the Inquiry will consider the application of any learning arising from the Inquiry to the framework for clinical and social care governance.

The processing of personal information is necessary for the performance of the task detailed above which is carried out in the public interest, under the instruction and authority of the Department of Health (DoH), in line with the Article 6(1)(e) - (task carried out in the public interest) - of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This is under section 8(c) DPA 2018 – the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment or rule of law. Where we are required to process any sensitive, ‘special category’ data which includes sensitive personal data, we do so in line with Article 9(g) - (substantial public interest) - of UK GDPR, and paragraphs 6(1) and 6(2) of Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the DPA 2018.

All processing of personal data by the Inquiry will be done in line with UK Data Protection legislation and only the minimum personal data for what is necessary for the purposes of the Inquiry will be processed, in line with substantial public interest, to help ensure the management of the Northern Ireland health and social care system and high standards of quality and safety of healthcare.

## **What categories of personal data are you processing?**

Evidence to be obtained by the Inquiry is likely to include the following categories: -

- personal health and family information about patients or supplied by patients, clinicians and other relevant persons;
- details held in patients records;
- written submissions by patients, clinicians and other relevant persons;
- oral evidence by patients, clinicians and other relevant persons;
- correspondence involving and between clinicians, management, patients and patient's representatives;
- governance documentation including policies, minutes, agendas and action plans;
- employer human resource and performance management documents to include assessment of clinicians professional competence;
- complaints documentation;
- investigations and reports;
- risk management documentation;
- correspondence between and within public bodies and other relevant organisations; and
- whistleblowing information.

All of said information may include personal data such as names, addresses, telephone numbers or other personal identifiers. Some of the information such as risk management documents, complaints documentation or written submissions by patients is likely to include special category data, including health data.

## **Where do you get my personal data from?**

The Inquiry will be inviting written submissions directly and these may be received from patients, from family members, clinicians, senior management and others who have an interest in Urology services. The Inquiry will also obtain evidence directly from public bodies which may contain personal data.

Those invited to give evidence before the Inquiry Panel will include patients, clinicians and other persons. These sessions will be recorded and a transcript produced by an independent body on behalf of the Inquiry. Non-disclosure confidentiality agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding are in place in relation to transcription services to ensure the protection of personal data.

## **Do you share my personal data with anyone else?**

The Inquiry may share relevant information with participants (such as those called to give evidence or required to provide written responses to questions posed by the Inquiry) as necessary: such participants may include clinicians, the Health & Social Care Board and Trusts, the Department of Health, and the Public Health Agency. Personal information shared will be kept to a minimum and where possible the Inquiry will redact personal information from the information shared.

The Inquiry will be placing some information that it collects onto the Inquiry website and this may contain personal information. In such cases the Inquiry will seek the consent of individuals to use this information; however, where consent is refused, a decision may be taken not to publish the information. Alternatively, where the Inquiry decides to publish personal data contained within documents made available to the Inquiry it will be redacted to protect the individual(s) involved. The Inquiry has developed an Anonymity and Redaction Protocol to deal with issues surrounding the publication of personal information.

Where the Inquiry receives information that is outside its terms of reference but considers that it would be better examined by one of the other parallel investigations into the same matter, it may pass that information on to other public bodies and consent will be obtained

where appropriate. Any sharing of information will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of UK Data Protection legislation.

For the purpose of producing a transcript of the Inquiry's oral sessions, data will be shared with the transcription service provider. Non-disclosure confidentiality agreements and Memorandum of Understandings are in place which ensures the Inquiry's compliance with its responsibilities under UK Data Protection legislation and sets out the relationship between the Inquiry as Data Controller and the transcription service provider as the Data Processor in line with the requirements of Article 28 UK GDPR.

### **Do you transfer my personal data to other countries?**

The data is intended to be used within the United Kingdom.

### **How long do you keep my personal data?**

An end date for the Inquiry cannot be known at present but, as the Inquiry collects more information it will develop and agree a Retention and Disposal Schedule, in consultation with the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). Once the Inquiry has issued its final report the Chairman will make arrangements for the preparation and transfer of the Inquiry Record to PRONI. The Inquiry website will also be captured by PRONI and this will form part of the open record of the Inquiry.

Certain financial and governance records will transfer to the Department of Health to be retained for financial accounting purposes. These records will be retained and eventually destroyed in line with the Department's approved retention and disposal schedule Good Management Good Records (GMGR). All other material not required to be transferred to the Department or PRONI will be securely destroyed.

## **What rights do I have?**

- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and access to your personal data.
- You are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing in specific circumstances.
- You have the right to 'block' or suppress processing of personal data in specific circumstances.
- You have the right to data portability in specific circumstances.
- You have the right to object to the processing in specific circumstances.
- You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

## **How do I complain if I am not happy?**

If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact Fiona Marshall, the Data Protection Officer, using the details provided above.

If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):-

### **Information Commissioner's Office**

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Updated 17 February 2022