

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington
Date of article	11.11.17
Headline	Health worker admits flouting privacy laws
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	A hospital worker has admitted disclosing private details of patient's medical records. Clair Francis, who worked as a coding officer at Dudley Group NHS Trust, accessed her friend's medical records dozens of times and also disclosed information about a baby.
Press enquiry	The Express & Star attended a court case in relation to former member of staff Clair Francis who pleaded guilty to two offences of obtaining personal data while working at The Dudley Group. They asked the Trust for a comment.

Trust response

COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Trust takes breaches in Data Protection very seriously and any alleged inappropriate access to electronic health records is investigated thoroughly.

Our investigation found inappropriate access had occurred and we reported this to the Information Commissioner's Office and have cooperated fully with them as they made the successful prosecution.

We are disappointed that the legislation does not allow for stronger penalties and we feel the level of the fine in no way reflects the seriousness of the offence. However we will always take action if a data breach occurs.

We have robust training and governance processes in place to ensure our staff understand where it is appropriate and where it is not appropriate to access patient's medical records.

***** ENDS *****

Notes for editors

For further information please contact Liz Abbiss, Head of Communications for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, via 01384 244403 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk