Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
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West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Date: 10/06/2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/012259

With reference to your FOI request in connection with 'Audit trail on hospital systems' please see response below.

Please could you tell me whether your NHS Trust's patient management system has the capability to record an audit trail of any sort. For example, a retrospective record of which members of NHS staff have accessed which patients' records; at what dates and times; and for what purpose.

Further, if the answer is negative, I would like an explanation as to why this type of audit trail is not recorded; and how the NHS (and in particular the hospitals operating within your NHS Trust) are safeguarding patient records from staff with the potential to abuse their positions of trust and the Data Protection Act. In essence, how can you investigate allegations of a breach of patient confidentiality, in the form of a member of your staff accessing the records of a patient for purposes other that to treat them within the NHS system?

Both our Patient Administration System (PAS) and Electronic Patient Record (ESR) have audit trails, each time a member of staff accesses a patients record the login ID, date and time of access are recorded.

Breaches of confidentiality are investigated under the Trust disciplinary policy and procedure where access is not proven to be for on-going patient care.