

British Medical Association

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**Health Policy & Economic
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20 June 2011

Dear Julia

Extension of the Qresearch database to include secondary care data

I am writing in my capacity as Head of the Health Policy and Economic Research Unit at the BMA to support the extension of the Qresearch database to include secondary care data in particular the linkage with HES. This will permit inter alia the development of clinical risk predictors and will in my view maximise the use of patient level data for clinical research generally and as such the public benefits are likely to be considerable.

I am aware that the NIGB ethics and confidentiality committee of the NIGB has indicated that it is happy with the governance arrangements proposed. The existing arrangements around the pseudonymised Qresearch database provide the highest possible safeguards on confidentiality and the research team now has an extensive and proven track record in this respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Ford'.

Jon Ford
Head of Health Policy and Economic Research Unit

Chief Executive/Secretary: Tony Bourne

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