

For the attention of
Jonathan Hope
Contact Centre Team
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social care
1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

20 June 2011

Dear Jonathon

Re: NIC-92572-5XMFG - application for access to HES data to link to the QResearch database

I am writing in my capacity of National Director for Kidney Disease in support of the application for access to HES data to link to the QResearch database, reference number NIC-92572-5XMFG.

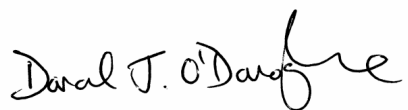
The QResearch database consists of pseudonymised electronic health records from primary care patients registered with approximately 600 general practices spread throughout the UK. The database is widely used for medical research into the causes of disease, its natural history, treatment and outcomes. It has also been used to help develop national policies and guidelines as well as evaluate their implementation. In particular QResearch has been used to develop methods for identifying NHS patients at high risk of acute and chronic kidney disease so they can be targeted for preventative measures.

The additional data linkage of QResearch with HES will enable researchers to analyse additional information on patient characteristics, treatment and outcomes which will improve the analyses since the data will be more complete. I note that the application has REC approval and section 251 approval from the National Information Governance Board.

Given the importance of the QResearch database and the additional value of the data linkage, I would like to support this application as a priority as we expect it will bring benefits to the Health Service through research.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donal J. O'Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Dr. Donal O'Donoghue
National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, Department of Health

Email: donal.o'donoghue@srft.nhs.uk
Tel: 0207 972 4421