1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

(Title) (First name) (Surname)
(Address line 1)
(Address line 2)
(Address line 3)
(Address line 4)

NHS number: (XXXXXXXXX)

Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

The NHS has protected your choice about how your information is used – please check you are happy with this.

Dear (Title) (Surname)

We are writing to bring you up to date with recent changes in the way you can choose how the NHS and care organisations use your information. On the 25 May 2018 a national data opt-out was introduced across England. The government have set out that by 2020 all health and care organisations must follow and apply your national data opt-out choice about how your confidential patient information is used.

You recently registered an opt-out which meant that we, NHS Digital, would not provide your confidential patient information to approved organisations other than for your individual care and treatment.

That opt-out has been replaced by the national data opt-out, so to continue to prevent your information being used we have taken steps to update our records to show that you now have a national data opt-out in place. Please see over the page for more information.

This means we will continue to respect your choice and apply your national data opt-out, and other health and care organisations will be able to check that you have a national data opt-out. You **do not** need to take any further action if you are happy with this and want to keep your national data opt-out in place.

If you have registered the opt-out that applied to NHS Digital on behalf of anyone else, such as any dependent children, we will have automatically changed their opt-out as well; and if they are now aged 13 or over they will receive their own letter.

Sharing information is important to improve and plan the health and care of current and future generations, so if you are happy for your information to be shared you can change your national data opt-out choice. See the handout enclosed.

If you have any queries about this letter or would like a copy of this letter in large print, Braille or on compact disc, please contact us on 0300 303 5678 or at enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk, if you would prefer to write in please send to the address at the top of this letter marked ‘FAO National Data Opt-out Team’.

Yours sincerely



Professor Martin Severs, Caldicott Guardian and Medical Director, NHS Digital

Further information:

What's changed	What it means for you
A national data opt-out means that for confidential patient information being shared for purposes other than your individual care: • Your opt-out choice is being extended beyond applying to just NHS Digital and by 2020 all health and care organisations must apply the national data opt-out • GP surgeries no longer decide the age at which young adults can choose for themselves to set an opt-out	The national data opt-out applies to confidential patient information being shared for purposes other than your individual care, the same as the 'original' opt-out. We, NHS Digital, will continue to follow and apply your opt-out choice and all health and care organisations will be required to do so by 2020. You can change your national data opt-out using an online service at www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters It is not possible to set or change the national data opt-out at your GP surgery. You can view and change your national data opt-out at any time by using the online service. Any young adults from the age of 13 will now be able to view and change their national data opt-out choice themselves.

Didn't know you had opted out of NHS Digital sharing your information?
Some GP surgeries automatically registered the original opt-out on behalf of their patients.

It is likely that your GP surgery would have told you that they were doing this, but it may have been several years ago. Also, if you have changed GP surgery, it is possible that the original opt-out was recorded at your old GP surgery.

If you would like to remove your new national data opt-out, all you need to do is use the online service at www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters

Other opt-outs registered at your GP surgery
Any other types of opt-out that you have previously asked to be recorded by your GP surgery are not affected and will continue to be available and followed by your GP surgery.

For instance, if you have asked your GP surgery to prevent your confidential patient information from leaving the GP surgery for purposes other than your individual care, this opt-out will continue to apply alongside your national data opt-out.

How is national data opt-out information processed?
For more information about how NHS Digital collects, uses and discloses national data opt-outs please visit https://set-national-opt-out.service.nhs.uk/privacynotice

Don't know who we are?
We, NHS Digital, exist to improve health and care by providing national information, data and IT services for patients, clinicians, commissioners and researchers. For more information visit www.digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital

For more information about the change to your opt-out, please visit
www.content.digital.nhs.uk/yourinfo