

Message

From: CMO@gov.scot [CMO@gov.scot]
Sent: 14/05/2018 9:43:50 AM
To: Mark Woolhouse [mark.woolhouse@ed.ac.uk]; **Name Redacted** @gov.scot
Subject: RE: Seminar in Edinburgh

Dear Mark

Thank you for sharing your experience in relation to accessing health data for your research into the drivers of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Scotland. As Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, I chair the Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance in Scotland (CARS) group, which is made up of several key stakeholders including Health Protection Scotland (HPS).

AMR research is a vital component of Scotland's response to the threat posed by resistant infections and the CARS team in HPS is working with partners across a wide range of academic disciplines to promote and support research initiatives in this area as a key component of Scotland's contribution to the UK AMR strategy.

The demand for data for research is consistently high and during the period when this project was being processed there were over 370 other live projects. The process of accessing these data for research involves two separate stages, i) the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel (PBPP) application process which involves a panel granting permission for data access and, ii) the Electronic data research and innovation service (eDRIS) process which sends data to a safe haven for analysis once the PBPP has approved data access.

eDRIS functions to support research (primarily academic) and if data were required urgently (as for example in the case of a flu pandemic cited) then data would come from another source within Public Health Intelligence (PHI). There should not therefore be any risks to patient care in this regard.

I understand your experience of the overall process was complex. As you will know Dr Michael Lockhart is developing a public health microbiology strategy for Scotland including a number of measures with the aim of facilitating movement through the data access process for infection related projects. With that in mind HPS is currently exploring how they can facilitate improved infection data access and partnership working with eDRIS.

My officials have spoken to HPS who very much welcome the opportunity to work in collaboration with you and your team. I would therefore encourage you to contact Professor Jacqui Reilly, HPS (jacquelinereilly@nhs.net).

Kind regards

Catherine
Dr Catherine Calderwood MA Cantab FRCOG FRCP Edin

Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

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-----Original Message-----

From: WOOLHOUSE Mark [mailto:Mark.Woolhouse@ed.ac.uk]
Sent: 07 May 2018 11:30
To: **Name Redacted**
Cc: PS/CMO
Subject: RE: Seminar in Edinburgh

Dear **NR**

I am writing to follow up our discussion from last year regarding access to public health data in Scotland.

Our experience with PBPP is consistent with what you reported. However, gaining PBPP approval is just one additional step in a complex and protracted process.

I am pleased to report that we now have access through the Safe Haven to data allowing us to carry out a case-control study of risk of a patient in Scotland acquiring carbapenem-resistant organisms. As you