

## **News release**

**4 April 2011**

### **Cornwall health trust disclosed third-party personal data**

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust breached the Data Protection Act by disclosing third-party personal data on two occasions, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said today.

The first breach happened in July 2010 when an individual received a response to a subject access request for information the Trust held about them. Instead of sending the requester information solely about them, the Trust disclosed someone else's information. A similar disclosure occurred in December 2010 when the same requester received a second subject access response containing third party information.

Acting Head of Enforcement, Sally-anne Poole, said:

"More and more people today want to find out exactly what information their GP or hospital holds about them, making subject access requests an increasingly popular tool.

"However, just because staff are busy with requests, this does not mean they can stop doing adequate checks before information is sent out. I am pleased that Royal Cornwall NHS Hospital Trust has agreed to take the necessary steps to make sure this sort of incident doesn't happen again."

Peter Colclough, Chief Executive of Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, has signed an undertaking to ensure that procedures for dealing with

subject access requests are clearly defined and managed, and that all staff receive appropriate training and support in how to follow them.

A full copy of the undertaking can be viewed here:

[http://www.ico.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_cover/promoting\\_data\\_privacy/taking\\_action.aspx#undertakings](http://www.ico.gov.uk/what_we_cover/promoting_data_privacy/taking_action.aspx#undertakings)

## **ENDS**

If you need more information, please contact the ICO press office on 0303 123 9070 or visit the website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Information Commissioner's Office upholds information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals.
2. The ICO has specific responsibilities set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.
3. The ICO is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and produces a monthly [e-newsletter](#). Our [For the media](#) page provides more information for journalists.
4. Anyone who processes personal information must comply with eight principles of the Data Protection Act, which make sure that personal information is:
  - Fairly and lawfully processed
  - Processed for limited purposes
  - Adequate, relevant and not excessive
  - Accurate and up to date
  - Not kept for longer than is necessary
  - Processed in line with your rights
  - Secure
  - Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection