

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Request Ref: NGFOI 19/20: 131**

Thank you for your request for information received at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH) on 06/06/2019.

I am pleased to be able to provide you with the following information:

1. *Do you have a staff social media policy?*  
**Yes**
2. *Do you have a policy or guidance on staff use of messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, Silo, Forward?*  
**No, we are in the process of writing a Mobile Devices in the Workplace Policy.**
3. *Does your Trust actively discourage the use of WhatsApp?*  
**Staff are made aware that it is not acceptable to use WhatsApp for communicating information surrounding patient care and including personal identifiers via their information governance training, and it is intended to publish this in the new Mobile Devices in the Workplace Policy which is being drafted.**
4. *In the past two calendar years, have any staff been formally disciplined for the inappropriate use of messaging apps at work (ie for sharing clinical information) or for using unapproved messaging apps? If yes, how many?*

<b>2017</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>0</b>

**\* Due to the low numbers involved the exact figures have been withheld under the Freedom of Information Act, Exemption Section 40. This is to protect the identity of the individuals concerned and to preserve their rights under the Data Protection Act.**
5. *Are you aware how many staff use WhatsApp for work-based communication with colleagues? If yes, how many?*  
**No**
6. *Have you recommended or implemented a messaging platform for use across your Trust? If yes, which app or platform do you use?*  
**Yes, Careflow**