

# REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE N. IRELAND PRIVACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018

The NI Privacy Advisory Committee (PAC) has the following ongoing responsibilities:

- To oversee the implementation of the recommendations agreed by Minister on Protecting Personal Information;
- To manage a Project Team to complete a Programme of Work to give effect to the recommendations agreed by Minister;
- To report regularly to the Department on progress on implementing the recommendations;
- To keep consent and confidentiality matters in HPSS under continuous review and to provide timely and relevant best practice advice to HPSS bodies; and
- To consider current and new uses to which personal information is put in HPSS bodies and to authorise such uses of personal information, taking particular account of the legal and ethical issues surrounding privacy and confidentiality.

The following is an update on the work of PAC over the past twelve months.

## **1. Advice and guidance to inform service users and staff**

PAC responded to a DoH request to assure the Code of Practice's compliance with GDPR and DPA 18. Arising out of this request PAC has prepared a brief update of the Code of Practice.

## **2. Procedures to improve working practices**

**Personal Data Guardians.** PAC has continued its yearly meetings with Personal Data Guardians and Executive Directors of Social Work to share and discuss current issues relating to Service User Confidentiality and informational privacy. Members of the Information Governance Advisory Group were invited to this year's meeting at which Dr Ken McDonald, IC for Regions, provided a briefing on the new GDPR provisions.

**The Health and Care Number.** PAC continues to encourage the use of the Health and Care Number which should, among other things, facilitate arrangements for pseudonymisation. An example has been ongoing discussions with ICNARC on data flows from NI to the National Cardiac Arrest Audit database.

## **3. Training to increase awareness and understanding on confidentiality**

**Personal Data Guardian Training.** The new training arrangements, introduced in 2013 and organised by the HSC Leadership Centre, The Beeches continues to work well. A tenth training day for Personal Data Guardians was provided in 2018, including top-up training. PAC continues to review training arrangements. This year's participant feedback has again been very positive. Further training is being arranged for 2019.

**Staff Training.** The E-learning module, based on the Code of Practice on the Protection of Service User Information, is available for all HSC staff through the HSC Leadership Centre. PAC is exploring the possibility of assessing the uptake of the module by Trust staff.

#### **4. Information and communication technology improvements regarding access and security of personal information**

PAC has continued to promote privacy enhancing technologies, the incorporation of methods to record consent and the use of anonymised data for secondary uses, including the Honest Broker Service.

#### **5. New legislation**

PAC has supported the work to develop a Code of Practice and regulations for the HSC (Control of Data Processing) Act 2016.

#### **6. Advisory Role**

PAC, in fulfilling its responsibilities as outlined in the recommendations provided by the Minister, has continued to advise on existing and new uses of personal information and to generally advise on confidentiality issues in HPSS.

PAC provided advice on several national projects approved by the Confidentiality Advisory Group of the Health Research Authority, where access to HSC (NI) data or service users was being sought. These included a study of progressive intellectual and neurological deterioration in children (the PIND Study) carried out using the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit (BPSU) system, National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP), Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre.

PAC also provided advice to the DoH (NI), Trusts, the NI Cancer Network, the Cancer Registry and to individual researchers.

**Roy McClelland OBE**  
**Chairman, Privacy Advisory Committee N. Ireland**

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