

British Medical Association

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Mr R Beerten
Director of Public and Professional Affairs
Royal Statistical Society
12 Errol Street
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**Annual Representatives
Meeting**

17 June 2014

Dear Mr Beerten

Thank you for your letter of 9 June and enclosed position statement regarding the use of patient data which has been passed to me as Chairman of the Representative Body. We agree with many of the principles in the statement with regard to transparency in relation to uses of data and safeguards to prevent re-identification.

With regard to care.data, the BMA's current position is to support an opt-out model. The Representative Body, which will hold its annual meeting starting on 23 June, is the BMA's main policy-making body and it will make a decision on future policy having heard the debate.

In view of the wide-range of sensitivities and controversial topics we debate we limit the materials circulated to delegates to material produced by the BMA. We are therefore unable to circulate your letter. The BMA has, however, produced a factual briefing on care.data and this will be shared with representatives in advance of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Ian Wilson
Chairman of the Representative Body