

Phil Walker
Confidentiality Issues Section
Information Policy Unit
NHS Executive
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds LS2 7UE

27 April 2001

Dear Phil

Re: Patient Confidentiality Issues

ACHCEW have become aware that the Department is preparing a strategy for the NHS for the use of patient information. Given our often expressed interest in this matter, we are surprised that we have not been invited to contribute to this.

We are also concerned that despite requests from ourselves and other patient organisations, we have not been invited to meetings of the expert group to consider applications under clause 68 of the Health and Social Care Bill

We would be grateful if you could advise us as soon as practicable why the Department has not involved us in this work, given our statutory role in representing the public interest in the health service.

We have obtained a copy of a draft of the strategy document dated 23 March and attach our initial comments. We trust that we will now be invited to contribute in the development of this strategy and that the document will be put out to public consultation.

Yours sincerely,