Reference Number:	FOI/2019/231
From:	Commercial
Date:	06 June 2019
Subject:	Social Media - policy; guidelines

Q1   Do you have a staff social media policy?

A1   Yes

Q2   Do you have a policy or guidance on staff use of messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, Siilo, Forward?

A2   Yes

Q3   Does your Trust actively discourage the use of WhatsApp?

A3   Work is ongoing between NHS England, NHS Digital, the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England to prepare guidance that will enable NHS organisations to implement policies balancing the potential risks to privacy against improvements in patient safety when using instant messaging technologies. Trust continues to monitor developments.

Q4   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?

A4   None

Q5   Are you aware how many staff use WhatsApp for work-based communication with colleagues? If yes, how many?

A5   Information not held

Q6   Have you recommended or implemented a messaging platform for use across your Trust? If yes, which app or platform do you use?

A6   The Trust continues to monitor developments on at a national level and would consider any requests on a case by case risk assessment basis