

Privacy Notice - Public Health

The Isle of Wight Public Health team improves and protects the health of the whole population on the Isle of Wight. We do this in a number of different ways. For example, we:

- Work with other departments in the council, the NHS, and other local and national organisations to make changes that will improve and protect the health of the population as a whole, for example to reduce social or environmental risks to health
- Use a range of information from different places to understand health and wellbeing issues and trends for the local population as a whole and for different communities or areas of the city. This allows us to allocate our scarce resources more effectively.
- Pay for public health services that are provided for local people, like school nurses and health visitors.

What information we use and why

To do our job we need information about the health and wellbeing of people on the Isle of Wight - both now, and how this might change in the future. This information comes from lots of different places. Some is data we collect ourselves through the services that we pay for or provide, and some is data which comes from our partners in other parts of the local authority, the NHS, and other national or local organisations, for example registrations of births and deaths. Using data from these sources can help us to understand patterns of disease and ill-health, what we can do locally to stop people experiencing ill-health, and improving care for those who are in poor health.

In bringing together this information we have one aim – to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of people on the Isle of Wight

Different kinds of information we use

There are four main types of information that we use:

1. Identifiable data – containing personal data which can identify individuals, such as name, date of birth, gender, address, postcode and NHS number.
2. Pseudonymised data – this contains information about individuals, but with unique codes in place of the identifiable details.

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3. Anonymised data – this information is at an individual level, but has all identifying details removed.

4. Aggregated data – this is when all anonymised information has been grouped together so that it doesn't identify individuals.

How is my information used in Public Health?

We hold the following data sets under license from NHS Digital (previously the Health and Social Care Information Centre) that contain various different types of data about individuals and populations. Only the Public Health analysts have access to these data sets and there are strict data disclosure controls in place to protect the security of the data.

- 1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)** – We hold pseudonymised records about health care and treatment you may have received in any English hospital in the form of Hospital Episode Statistics. This includes inpatient and day case admissions, outpatient appointments and Accident and Emergency attendances. We do not hold identifiable HES data.
- 2. Primary Care Mortality Database (PCMD)** – The PCMD provides us with access to identifiable mortality data as provided at the time of the registration of the death, along with additional General Practice details, geographical indexing and coroner details where applicable. This includes the address, postcode of residence of the deceased, postcode of the place of death, NHS number, date of birth, date of death, name of certifier, and cause of death. Our access to the data is based on our geographical boundaries as an Upper Tier Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group. We are only able to securely access the database by use of an NHS Secure Electronic File Transfer (SEFT) system.
- 3. Births data tables** – This dataset provides us with access to identifiable data about the number of births that occur within our geographical boundaries as an Upper Tier Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group. It includes the address of usual residence of mother, place of birth, postcode of usual residence of the mother, postcode of place of birth of child, NHS number of child and the date of birth of the child.
- 4. Vital statistics tables** – This dataset is aggregated so that it does not identify individuals. It contains data on live and still births, fertility rates, maternity statistics, death registrations and cause of death analysis by our geographical boundaries as an Upper Tier Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group.

What is the legal basis for the flow of Public Health Data?

We have different legal responsibilities for different types of information we hold and analyse in the Public Health Information Team. We follow *Section 42(4) of the SRSA (2007) as amended by section 287 of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) and Regulation 3 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002.*

How we protect the information we use

We take our legal and professional obligations to protect the confidentiality of personal information very seriously. As well as limiting the amount of personal information we hold, we make sure that our staff can only see information that is essential to their job. All of the data sets referenced above are kept safely and securely within our IT systems. We have processes to securely protect these records and to permanently delete any information that we no longer need to hold.

Who we share information with

Much of the information we produce is in the form of anonymous statistics published through our website (www.iwight.com/factsandfigures) and in reports and papers to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners. We never publish information that could be used to directly identify an individual.

We do not disclose any data to a third party who is not identified on our license agreement with NHS Digital. Any data requests received from a third party will only receive anonymised and aggregated data to a level that complies with the [Office of National Statistics Disclosure Guidance](#) unless we are required to do so for legal reasons.

Can I opt out of Public Health datasets?

You have the right to opt out of the Isle of Wight Council Public Health team receiving and processing your personal identifiable information. The process for opting out will depend on what the specific data is and what programme it relates to. You can choose not to have information about you shared or used for any purpose beyond providing your own treatment or care. Simply contact your GP for further information about registering an opt-out or to end an opt-out you have already registered. The NHS Choices website explains how your personal information is held, accessed and shared with organisations such as the Isle of Wight Council.

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There are occasions where service providers will have a legal duty to share information, for example for safeguarding or criminal issues.

Further queries

More information about how the Council protects your privacy is available from our website at <https://www.iwight.com/council/OtherServices/Data-Protection/Introduction>

This privacy notice was written to be clear and concise. It does not provide exhaustive detail of all aspects of Isle of Wight Public Health's collection and use of information, including personal information. However, we are happy to provide any additional information or explanation needed. Any requests for this should be sent to the address below.

You may also ask to find out if we hold any personal information about you by making a 'subject access request' under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) using the contact details below.

For independent advice about the use of your data, contact the Information Commissioners Office at <https://ico.org.uk/>

Changes to this privacy notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review. This privacy notice was last updated on 14 March 2019

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