



**EAVE-II Project Team  
Public Health Scotland**

13 May 2020

### **Covid-19 Data Extraction and Analysis**

Thank you for seeking the opinion of SGPC and RCGP on your intended extraction and analysis of data relating to patients with Covid-19 in general practice, using the public interest powers set out in the General Data Protection Regulations. The proposal that has been put forward represents an unprecedented extraction of identifiable patient information, but given the threat to public health of the Covid-19 pandemic we would in this instance be prepared to support this proposal, providing that the Scottish Government is satisfied that its approach is compliant with General Data Protection Regulations and that the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel in turn is fully satisfied that the information governance proposals associated with this request are appropriate.

It would be a source of considerable anxiety should this potentially sensitive information be used beyond the purposes currently stated and it would be essential for SGPC and RCGP as the professional bodies of General Practice in Scotland to be consulted before any further use of this data is considered.

We also note the assurance you have given to us that the extraction of this data will have no impact on general practice IT or the daily clinical work of practices. This is an important assurance and our support is contingent on that remaining the case, particularly given the current pressures being created by the Covid-19 outbreak.

We understand that the CMO will announce that this data extraction is taking place and members of the public will be directed to a specific Scottish Government webpage if they have any queries. It is likely that media coverage will be generated around this issue and we understand that these enquiries will be handled by Scottish Government.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Buist'.

Dr Andrew Buist  
Chair, BMA Scottish GP Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carey Lunan'.

Dr Carey Lunan  
Chair, RCGP Scotland

**National director (Scotland):** Jill Vickerman

**Chief executive officer:** Tom Grinyer

Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered No. 8848 England.  
Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.  
Listed as a Trade Union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.

