

Witness Name: Dr Adrian James

Statement No.: WITN0365006

Dated: 18 May 2026

**NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY**

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**THIRD WITNESS STATEMENT OF**

**DR ADRIAN JAMES**

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I, Dr Adrian James, of NHS England, Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, will say as follows:

1. I make this statement further to NHS England's Corporate Witness Statement dated 8 December 2025 **[WITN0310001]**.
2. This statement relates to NHS England's role in relation to information governance and sharing between NHS providers and other agencies.

### Career and experience

3. A full description of my career and experience can be found in my First Witness Statement dated 19 January 2026 **[WITN0365001]**. In summary, I am currently NHS England's National Medical Director for Mental Health and Neurodiversity, and have held that role since June 2024. My clinical background is as a forensic psychiatrist, and I have held the role of Registrar and President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

### Information sharing

4. There is no nationally mandated pro forma issued by NHS England (or, to the best of my knowledge, the Department for Health and Social Care) for NHS providers to use when requesting information about a person from non-NHS organisations.
5. Each organisation (NHS and non-NHS) that holds information about a person is responsible for handling and sharing that information in line with the law. Accordingly, they will establish and operate their own forms, processes, and local procedures for handling such information, including determining how information is shared and how requests for information are managed.

6. NHS England has published guidance on sharing information with the police, which I understand has already been made available to the Inquiry [NHSE0000544]. This guidance is updated periodically, and provides links to guidance from other organisations including the British Medical Association, the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

#### National Guidance on Public Interest Disclosures

7. Prior to the establishment of NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care published '*Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice, Supplementary Guidance: Public Interest Disclosures*' [NUHT0000028] ("**DHSC Public Interest Disclosure Guidance**").
8. Since NHS England was established, it has assumed responsibility for issuing guidance on information governance to the system more generally.
9. NHS England has historically taken the view that it would not be appropriate to develop an overarching code to replace the DHSC Public Interest Disclosure Guidance. This approach reflects the position that professional regulators (including the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council) already issue guidance on public interest disclosure, which registrants are required to follow as a condition of their professional registration.
10. Introducing additional national guidance without a careful joint developmental approach would risk creating competing information-sharing frameworks across the system, potentially leading to inconsistency rather than greater clarity.

11. To avoid this, NHS England publishes guidance on information governance on a more granular, subject specific, basis (see for example paragraph 6 above on sharing information with the police).

#### Future guidance

12. In considering the potential value of national guidance, it is important to understand the underlying reason why information is not currently being shared (where appropriate to do so) within the current legislative framework.
13. If the conclusion is that information ought properly to have been shared by health bodies, or that the relevant information was held by other organisations and not shared with health bodies (when it should have been), under existing legal and policy frameworks, then targeted guidance may assist in supporting future decision making. This may be more appropriately addressed by individual organisations, particularly where the issues are organisation specific.
14. However, if the position is that existing frameworks, guidance or policies available to relevant agencies operate to prevent lawful sharing then this would indicate a need for further policy development, potentially at a national level.
15. Any national guidance would need to remain consistent with guidance issued by professional regulators and with relevant guidance applicable across other sectors. To ensure this alignment, such guidance would need to be developed jointly with the relevant sectors (which may include the police and education) and professional regulators.
16. Any national guidance would then need to be implemented on an organisation by organisation basis.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe the content of this statement to be true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed:

**GRO-B**

Dated: 18 May 2026

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3	NHSE0000544	Guidance, Re: Sharing information with the police, NHS Transformation Directorate
4	NUHT0000028	Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice, Supplementary Guidance: Public Interest Disclosures