

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *The linking and use of biological and health data* between 17 October 2013 and 10 January 2014. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

The use of biological and health data outside of health care and research need a lot of thought and specific action to prevent the information from being misused. My major concern is that of security of the information. Although this data will be anonymised it is sometimes very difficult for this to occur in practice since data collected limited to a particular geographic area may “out” patient and doctor unintentionally.

The selling of data to commercial organisations is already a problem and this will only get worse. Commercial organisations such as insurance companies and employers may get hold of such information and it may be used against the patient resulting in difficulty securing insurance or in loss of job.

Lax security measures to protect such information is an ongoing problem. If robust multilayer levels of security is not in use the losers will be the patients.

Best wishes