

Speech: Exceeding expectations

Dr Alan Hassey provides an update on the work of the National Data Guardian's Panel on understanding people's expectations on data sharing

Last December [I wrote an article](#) about some work that we've been doing on the [National Data Guardian's \(NDG\) Panel](#).

We've been looking at how health and care information needs to be shared for people's individual care and how to ensure there are no surprises for patients and service users about this.

The article discussed implied consent, which is routinely used by health and care professionals as the legal basis to share information about patients and service users to make sure that individuals get the care they need. The article was called 'reasonable expectations'. This was a reference to the importance of ensuring that when information is shared on the basis of 'implied consent', it's important that this is done in a way that the patient or service user would reasonably expect.

The piece was published to provoke debate about an important issue, to open up discussion and help us decide whether any further work was needed to look at this subject. The response to the piece exceeded my own expectations.

It certainly did stimulate discussion and we are very grateful to all those who took time to reflect and respond. The viewpoints expressed were wide ranging. There were some who felt that the boundaries described to the use of implied consent were not restrictive enough. At the other end of the spectrum, some argued that the limitations described in the article would curb the flow of information in a way that would be against individuals' best interests.

The range of opinions reflects the continuing variation in understanding of how implied consent can and should be used in health and care. This is understandable. After all, a key question here is whether information is being used and shared in a way that meets people's reasonable expectations. And those expectations can and will vary and be influenced by a variety of factors. Perhaps most importantly, what efforts have been made to inform people about how information might be used and shared.

The need for more work to reach a consensus on this issue was highlighted in the [2013 Information Governance Review](#) led by Dame Fiona Caldicott prior to her appointment as National Data Guardian. It issued a recommendation for a piece of work to bring together the health and social care professional regulators to achieve this, which was echoed in the [report published a year later tracking progress](#).

In April this year, the [General Medical Council's \(GMC\) revised confidentiality guidance](#) came into force. This was updated after extensive consultation, during which the GMC heard that doctors wanted more clarity on

the circumstances in which they can rely on implied consent to share patient information for direct care.

There are resonances between what the GMC revised guidance says about implied consent and the thinking that the NDG panel has been doing. The guidance will be very helpful to doctors on the ground, but we believe there is still a need for a greater consensus across the whole of the health and social care system about how to ensure that information is shared in a way that aligns with people's reasonable expectations.

To progress this, the NDG will be testing with members of the public what their expectations are around data sharing, what the boundaries should be and think through how these expectations should be informed and assessed. To do this we will be undertaking a piece of public engagement work with partners – we will provide more details on our web pages later this summer. To help shape the questions and issues that should be put to members of the public, we will be holding a seminar with Sheffield University later this month to bring together clinicians, information experts, commissioners, lawyers and ethicists.

We're approaching this with an open mind, although I believe that running through this work will still be that vital test – would people reasonably expect how information about them is used and shared?

[Press release: Foreign investors see opportunities in Wales](#)

Foreign investors continue to see investment opportunities in Wales as new figures published today by the Department for International Trade showed the country attracted 85 inward investment projects in 2016-17.

This led to over 2,500 new jobs being created and nearly 9,000 safeguarded providing security and stability to thousands of families.

In another record year, the UK attracted 2,265 foreign direct investment projects which led to the creation of nearly 15,000 new jobs across the country.

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

The latest set of figures demonstrate the need to seek and drive further international business investment in Wales – bringing jobs, prosperity and opportunity for communities. That is why I am fully committed to ensuring Welsh businesses are central to UK Government trade missions.

Seeking new markets and investment partners will enable us to land the major deals that will grow the Welsh economy and help to forge lucrative relationships around the world. Our departure from the EU is an opportunity to step up to our commitment to attracting inward investment – not step away from it.

Enterprises – whether large or small – can be assured that the UK Government and the Department for International Trade is ambitious for Wales and is committed to doing all it can to provide certainty and stability. We must continue to make Wales an attractive destination, matching the commitment shown by companies like Aston Martin, in securing sustained investment for the long-term.

International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox, said:

Wales with its renowned pharmaceutical, life sciences and creative sector industries continues to be a draw for foreign investors who want to take advantage of the expertise this country has to offer. As an international economic department, the Department for International Trade will continue to promote the UK as a whole to potential investors and support the Business Wales to attract inward investment.

The figures published today show that the US retains the top spot accounting for 577 projects of all inward investment projects to the UK. China (including Hong Kong) remains in second place with 160 projects and last year's third place India is joined by Australia and New Zealand in joint third place with 127 projects each.

Demonstrating the diversity of the UK's economy, sectors that performed particularly well include technology, renewable energy, life sciences and the creative industries which all saw an increase in the number of projects.

As part of the government's drive to attract inward investment, in January this year the department launched a major global marketing campaign – Invest in GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland – to promote the UK's offering to international investors.

To date, the campaign has generated 1.4 million page views of the invest section of the great.gov.uk digital service and recorded over 540 prospective investor enquiries.

Notes to Editors

- The department records wider types of inward investment projects, including mergers and acquisitions and those that are not publicly announced by foreign investors
- Therefore, the FDI project figures reported are different from those reported by external organisations, such as EY and FT, who track FDI project flows mostly based on investment announcements

- These external organisations report on calendar year, while the department's statistics are for financial year
 - EY's UK Attractiveness Survey 2017 ranked the UK first in Europe for FDI projects in total
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Notice: CV47 2DB, Chapel Ascote Farms Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Chapel Ascote Farms Limited
 - Installation name: Chapel Ascote Farm
 - Permit number: EPR/KP3133UJ/V003
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Press release: New figures show UK attracts more investment than ever

Figures published by the Department for International Trade have today revealed that the UK attracted more [foreign direct investment](#) (FDI) projects than ever before for the year 2016 to 2017.

With more than 2,200 projects recorded, the post-referendum figures show an increase of 2% on the previous year. The data also shows that 75,226 new jobs were created, and 32,672 safeguarded, amounting to over 2,000 jobs per week across the country.

Overall, the UK is the number one destination for inward investment in Europe, with the technology, renewable energy, life sciences and creative industries all seeing an increase in the number of projects.

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, said:

Almost one year on since the EU referendum, the UK continues to attract record levels of inward investment and remains extremely attractive to foreign investors.

As an international economic department, we continue to promote the

strengths of the UK as a great inward investment destination, with an open, liberal economy, world-class talent and business-friendly taxation.

Overview

Of the record number of projects that the UK attracted, the Department for International Trade helped to secure over 80% of them.

The US retains the top spot investing in 577 projects in the UK, with China (including Hong Kong) remaining in second place with 160 projects. In third place is France with 131 followed by last year's third place India and Australia and New Zealand with 127 projects each.

Government support for investment

As part of the government's drive to attract inward investment, in January this year the department launched a major global marketing campaign – [Invest in GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland](#) – to promote the UK's offering to international investors.

To date, the campaign has generated 1.4 million page views of the invest section of the great.gov.uk digital service and recorded over 540 prospective investor enquiries. It is already producing positive results with Chinese e-commerce company Kuajing.com opening a London office and UpCloud, a Finnish cloud hosting company, setting up a UK base with plans in place to expand this – both investment decisions that were made after engaging with the campaign.

Investment across the UK

Looking across the UK, inward investment continues to spread to the regions and devolved administrations:

- the Northern Powerhouse attracted 348 projects, creating nearly 15,000 new jobs
- the Midlands Engine attracted 223 projects which resulted in 8,341 new jobs being created
- through 183 FDI projects, 5,547 new jobs were created in Scotland
- Northern Ireland secured 34 projects, which created a total of 1,622 new jobs
- Wales attracted 85 projects, with 2,581 new jobs created

Five reasons why the UK is a great place for overseas businesses to invest:

1. Opportunities: More than 420,000 new businesses set up in 2015 in the UK [Source: BankSearch].
2. Ease of doing business: UK is seventh in the World Bank Ease of Doing

Business ranking (2017).

3. FDI confidence: the UK comes fourth in A.T. Kearney's FDI Confidence Index in 2016, up one place on 2015.
4. Competitive tax environment: Tax system ranked in the top 10 most business friendly in the world according to the October 2016 World Bank: Ease of Doing Business report.
5. World-class talent and skills: In 2015 to 2016, the UK was the top-rated major European economy for growing, retaining and attracting global talent [Source: Insead, Human Capital Leadership Institute: The Global Talent Competitive Index 2015-16].

Notes to editors

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- These external organisations report on calendar year, while the department's statistics are for financial year
- EY's UK Attractiveness Survey 2017 ranked the UK first for FDI in Europe

[Notice: V A Barker & Son: application made to abstract water](#)

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by