**Google and NHS Patient Data**

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The Government has sought a “full explanation” for why an app developed using NHS patient data has been transferred to tech giant Google, where it will receive less independent oversight.

In response to written Parliamentary questions, Health Minister Lord O’Shaughnessy said he had met with Google DeepMind to raise the issues.

He said: “We will seek a full explanation from Google about its plans, including why they have halted the Independent Review Panel and how they intend to replace this function.

“We will work with regulators, including the Information Commissioner’s Office, and the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation to ensure anything that happens as a result of the transfer of Streams respects patients’ privacy and complies fully with the law.”

The Government had received assurances that no identifiable patient data has been transferred from Google DeepMind as a result of the change, he said.

It comes as a new report [[https://reform.uk/the-reformer/making-nhs-data-work-everyone-i-value-nhs-data](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Freform.uk%2Fthe-reformer%2Fmaking-nhs-data-work-everyone-i-value-nhs-data&data=02%7C01%7C%7C40f609f2b292467e6b1508d65f59c996%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636801236564545701&sdata=sX99R6qUfwWLFxxCq8jZoATaghUS3dbCtiZAbNop6ZQ%3D&reserved=0)] said that revenue from selling access to NHS patient data, which could generate an estimated £10bn a year for the service, was being put at risk by “a messy patchwork” of NHS partnerships with the private sector.