Dear

Further to your request for information dated 13 December 2016 the information requested is below

1. **Does this CCG use a system, for example, a Rapid Specialist Opinion system to review patient referrals from GPs to hospital specialists?**
   
   If yes:
   
   NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not currently use a referral triage system for referrals to hospital specialists.
   
   a) how long has this system been in place for,

   N/A
   
   b) what consultation was undertaken before the decision to implement this system was made,

   N/A
   
   c) what company is used to carry out the review of the referral?

   N/A
   
   If no:
   
   a) do you have any plans in place to implement a Rapid Specialist Opinion system, or other system to review GP referrals to specialists?
NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group are currently considering a referral triage model within the musculoskeletal area, but these discussions are only at an early stage, therefore we have no detailed plans to share at the current time.

b) what are the details of the plan?

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group are currently considering a referral triage model within the musculoskeletal area, but these discussions are only at an early stage, therefore we have no detailed plans to share at the current time.

2. What is your policy for consultation with the public before contacting private companies to run NHS services?

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not contact private companies directly to run a new service as this would be against procurement rules. Private companies are able to bid for procurements we may put out to tender and we always endeavour to include a patient representative throughout each procurement process, including in the development of service specifications, scoring of bids and in mobilisation of new services.

3. Do you obtain consent from patients before passing their medical records and personal details to private companies?

Clinical Commissioning Groups are not legally allowed to hold or access any patient identifiable information therefore NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold any medical records.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service that you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision you should write to Complaints. NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group 2nd Floor Gravesham Civic Centre Gravesend Kent DA12 1AU or email at dgsccg.complaints@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.