**ICO response in relation to SARS requests from patients**

Gillian Farmer

14:17 25/03/2020

Please note the following from the ICO in this regard:

“During the pandemic, we are worried that our data protection practices might not meet our usual standard or our response to information rights requests will be longer. Will the ICO take regulatory action against us?

No. We understand that resources, whether they are finances or people, might be diverted away from usual compliance or information governance work. We won’t penalise organisations that we know need to prioritise other areas or adapt their usual approach during this extraordinary period.

We can’t extend statutory timescales, but we will tell people through our own communication channels that they may experience understandable delays when making information rights requests during the pandemic.”

Best wishes,

Gill

Dr Gillian Farmer

Worcestershire LMC Secretary

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd