

Professional Issues Tutorial: Data Protection

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The following story appeared in the Sunday Herald in March 2015.

The UK's privacy watchdog has warned that plans to create a "super ID database" may lead to the creation of a national identity number for every Scot by default.

In what critics claim is a devastating blow to SNP proposals, the head of the Information Commissioners Office in Scotland has called "suitable safeguards" to be put in place for the plan to give more than 100 public bodies the right to request access to an NHS database containing private information about individuals.

Under the proposals, access would be granted to the HMRC, which would use the information to help build up an accurate database of Scottish residents ahead of the devolution of powers over income tax to Holyrood.

Other bodies that would be entitled to request access to records and update the database include the police, airports, Quality Meat Scotland and Scottish Canals.

- Name two data protection principles most relevant to the proposal, and explain why they are relevant.
- The Identity Management and Privacy Principles, published by the Scottish Government in October 2014, states in Section 4.6:

"If a public service organisation needs to link personal information from different systems and databases (internally or between organisations), it should avoid sharing persistent identifiers; other mechanisms, such as matching, should be considered."

Explain how this impacts on the above proposal.

- What might be the impact on data protection of Brexit?

Name _____