

Dear LMC Secretary

It has come to our attention that a QMAS update communication from Practitioner Services Division on 7 April 2009 contained an attachment related to the Patient Access Survey.

This communication suggested that the survey results that practices have received are “pre-release” and that:

The data is restricted until full national publication of all survey results by the Scottish Government. You have a duty not to share the data with any other third party person or body ahead of official publication. This includes giving any indication over the content such as ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable’ comparisons of data.

BMA Scotland has sought legal view on whether practice results are confidential. The preliminary advice is as follows:

- The results cannot be disclosed to the public. Results of the survey cannot be published in an aggregate form except by the Scottish Government.
- **Practices can discuss their results with other practices, LMCs, NHS boards and/or the BMA.**

Practices should be aware that the Scottish Government does not share our view and believes that this information should remain confidential.

Could you please share this email with your practices.

Best wishes,

David Prince
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Scottish General Practitioners Committee
BMA Scotland