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21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Dear Lady Kramer,

I am writing to you to respond more fully to your question in the House of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March about the transfer of health records to DeepMind.

Firstly, I would like to clarify that the app you mentioned in your question that has been developed by DeepMind, called Streams, is not based on artificial intelligence. As you will know, the app is designed to detect early signs of acute kidney injury.

The Royal Free made the decision locally to enter into an agreement with DeepMind. The Information Commissioner's Office and the National Data Guardian have both made statements and rulings on the matter of how the data was shared by the Royal Free and Government respects their judgements.

NHS patients rightly expect to receive the best possible care, and new technologies have the potential to revolutionise the way treatment is delivered. However, they must be used in a way that keeps patient data safe and secure.

The experience of the Royal Free demonstrates that this new era of digital technologies is complex and protection of patient data is paramount. However, I am sure we are all agreed that we must continue to harness the benefits of the digital revolution responsibly to support the NHS to deliver the highest quality care for patients now, in this its 70<sup>th</sup> year, and in the future.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library.

Yours sincerely,  
James Younger

VISCOUNT YOUNGER OF LECKIE

Baroness Kramer  
House of Lords