

The CAG and its remit	
What is the CAG?	The CAG was established by the Health Research Authority on 01 April 2013 to assess applications against the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002. It provides independent expert advice to the Health Research Authority and Secretary of State for Health on whether an application to process patient information without consent should or should not be approved.
How is it constituted?	<p>The CAG currently consists of 16 members. All new members were publicly appointed following a national recruitment exercise. A small number of National Information Governance Board Ethics and Confidentiality Committee members have continued to enable transfer of experience and expertise.</p> <p>Members are a mixture of expert and lay members and meetings take place on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The CAG terms of reference and biographies of existing members are available on our website</p>
What does the CAG do?	It is important to note that CAG is advisory and that it does not take the final approval decision. However, it provides detailed advice and recommendations that provide a basis for the approver's final decision on whether an application should or should not be approved.
Is the CAG a research ethics committee?	<p>The Care Bill has a provision requiring the HRA to establish a committee for the purposes of giving advice to the HRA itself and to the Secretary of State for Health (via the Department of Health) on applications to process confidential patient information.</p> <p>The CAG and research ethics committees have different responsibilities but work together to ensure that the processing of applications is streamlined.</p>
Where can I find details of the CAG considerations	The HRA is fully committed to supporting transparency of information and detailed minutes set out information on all items the CAG has considered
How can I apply to become a member?	When vacancies are identified, they have been advertised in national newspapers and through partner organisations and patient involvement groups such as INVOLVE.
What involvement has the CAG had in 'care.data'	'Care.data' involves the flow of GP data to the Health & Social Care Information Centre and the legal basis for this has been through the Health & Social Care Act 2012. This Act falls outside the remit of the CAG.

