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A court decision concerning the release of patient records has been the subject of online discussion in recent days. Despite reports, the case didn't involve the issue of Subject Access Requests (SARs) but rather the release of patient records by order of the courts.

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As such, the legal position regarding GP practices responding to SARs remains unchanged and surgeries should follow ICO guidance and advice from the BMA on how to comply with the law.



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Data controllers are responsible for providing a SAR response to the individual or their appointed representative. A person should not have to take action to receive the information, such as by collecting it from the controller's premises, unless they agree to do so.



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The ICO plans to consult in the near future on providing further detailed guidance for organisations on how to comply with their SAR obligations.

Our current SARs guidance can be found here:

