**Press Statement**

RE:  ICO

**Anthony Farnsworth, who was Chief Executive of Torbay Care Trust at the time of the breach prior to the organisation’s separation into commissioner and provider organisations, said:**

 “This was an organisational issue, in which the absence of sufficient checks within our processes made an error possible, and we have treated this with the utmost seriousness.

“We have no evidence that the information was accessed by anyone other than the individual who reported it, and it was removed as soon as it was brought to our attention. Nevertheless, we reported the incident both to our staff and to the Information Commissioner as quickly as possible.

“We have since implemented far more robust procedures for managing staff information to make this more secure, and to remove the risk of any such incidents occurring in the future. The Information Commissioner has clearly noted that this was an organisational failing and not due to failings by individual staff members.

“We are of course disappointed that the Information Commissioner has found it necessary to impose a fine for this incident, but we accept the findings and will be taking advantage of the early payments discount to minimise the financial impact of the fine. Provision was made to potentially pay such a fine, so there is no affect on budgets for staff, or health and social care services.

“It is important to clarify that this information did not contain any clinical or patient data. Neither have we received any evidence to suggest the information has been used inappropriately.

 “The Care Trust has always had extremely hard working and dedicated staff, so it is of particular regret that in this instance we failed in our responsibilities to them. I would like to apologise, again, to these individuals for any concern that has been caused.”

Ends

**Note to editors:**

1. On 1 April 2012, Torbay Care Trust separated its constituent commissioner and provider elements to form two new organisations: NHS Torbay and Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust
2. Anthony Farnsworth is now Chief Executive of Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust, a provider organisation
3. NHS Torbay is a commissioning body, and is part of the Commissioning Cluster of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.
4. Please note that this statement represents the full response regarding this issue to the media. Requests for media interviews will be declined.