

**“I’m sorry, that’s confidential!”**

*An overview of the challenges  
around IRT & information sharing*



# Our Key Challenges

- **The legislative framework for information sharing**
- **Cultural issues**
- **Technical Challenges**
- **Professional Practice issues**



# Legislative Framework

- **Absence of any national guidance – “just get on with it”**
- **DPA & Caldicott terminology mismatch:**
  - personal / sensitive vs. personal identifiable
- **Powers and duties for all parties**
- **Risk averse partners – need to move towards risk management**
- **BUT post-Soham / British Gas, progress is being made**
  - Statements from DCA, Information Commissioner, DOH Information Policy Unit etc



# Cultural Issues

- Professional preciousness – “I couldn’t possibly share that with you”
- The default position is generally “no” rather than “why & how?”
- Much use of informal networks – commendable and often effective, but leads to 2 key problems
  - what you know depends on who you know;
  - practitioners unwilling to confess to using them



# Technical challenges

**Piecemeal approach across government  
(local and national)**

- **Data issues**
  - Differing data types, purposes for collection, quality & accuracy
- **Enforced paralysis due to NHS procurement**
- **Development costs (especially replacement of legacy systems)**



# Technical challenges

- **Conflicting e-govt priorities, not tackled at centre**
  - e.g. how does revs and bens benefit IRT?
  - what is rationale for choosing e-govt priorities locally
- **NHS no. issues – cultural problems, plus technical issues**
- **Child index – problems in building it**



# Professional Practice

- Getting to an agreed common assessment (and shared approaches)
- Reconciling differences between agency procedures / requirements
- Common processes are hard to agree
- Risk and vulnerability indicators
  - some people want them, some don't