

## **BCS Women in Cardiology Buddy Scheme Privacy Notice**

### **What is the purpose of the Buddy Scheme?**

**The Women in Cardiology Buddy Scheme** is an initiative designed to support colleagues as they return to work following maternity leave, illness, caring responsibilities, or other extended time away. This informal peer-support system connects returning cardiologists with experienced colleagues who can offer a listening ear, share practical advice, and provide encouragement during what can often be a challenging transition back to work.

### **How will the buddy scheme work?**

- Participants are matched based on role, experience, region, and preferences.
- The buddy makes the initial contact and provides informal support by checking in regularly, offering encouragement, and being available to talk through challenges.
- The relationship is flexible, informal, and confidential.

### **What personal data are you holding about me?**

The buddy scheme contains the information you provided when you signed up: your name, email address, grade, place of work, sub-specialty, why you would like a buddy/what support you can provide a buddy.

### **Where are you holding these data?**

The data is held on a password encrypted Google form. The BCS WIC lead, the BCS WiC Officer in charge of the Buddy Scheme, and the BCS WIC administrator are the only people who have access to this file. We will not 'give' the file or its contents to anyone else.

### **How long will you keep hold of these data?**

We will keep hold of your data for three years or until you ask us to remove you from the buddy scheme, whichever is sooner.

### **Will you use my data for any other purpose?**

No, we will never share your details for any other purpose.

**Can I change my mind and be removed from the buddy scheme?**

Yes, if you would like to be removed from the buddy scheme, please email [wic@bcs.com](mailto:wic@bcs.com) and we will remove you within 5 working days.

**What will you do with my personal data once I am removed from the buddy scheme?**

We will erase your personal data. It will not be stored or replicated anywhere else.

**Can I edit the information about me in the buddy scheme?**

Yes, if you would like to edit the information you have supplied, please email [wic@bcs.com](mailto:wic@bcs.com) and we can update your information as per your wishes.

**I still have some questions, who do I contact?**

Please email [wic@bcs.com](mailto:wic@bcs.com) if you have any other questions and we will answer them as soon as possible.