



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

---

**Name:** Amy Holland

**Job title:** Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer

**Can you tell us a little about your role?**

I'm responsible for all kinds of different aspects of Information and how it is collected, stored, used, shared, disposed of or (hopefully not) lost. I provide advice, guidance, training and best practice to all parts of the organisation.



**What are the key moments in your career journey so far?**

I was determined as a child to become a Barrister, until I found out that you couldn't choose whether you represented the defendant or not, and as an 8 year old, you don't want to be representing "the bad guys" so I decided I'd be a Solicitor and choose my clients carefully!

After completing my Legal Practice course and moving to a couple of different places in search of an elusive training contract, I was offered one at firm I had been working in for about 18 months. Once it had started however, my employers' attitude changed and made the firm an uncomfortable place to work. I knew that this was not sustainable - you spend more time at work than pretty much anywhere else - so one day, I wrote my resignation, gathered my things, left the letter on my keyboard and walked out.

Whilst I was off work, I was searching for something else and found an NHS arms-length body were looking for an Information Governance Officer - I'd never heard of one so I did some googling, read the Caldicott Report and went to the interview hoping that what I had found out, and my willingness to learn more would get me the job. This is where I grew my knowledge in Information Governance.

Whilst off on maternity leave, considering my options around the redundancy I was facing from my IG job, I found out about the Information Governance Manager position advertised at Lancaster City Council and decided that I should apply!

**Are there any particular lessons or advice that you would like to share?**

It's absolutely OK to stick up for yourself and it's also absolutely OK to remove yourself from a situation that makes you unhappy or unwell. You cannot offer your best if half of your mind is taken up just trying to cope with being in the situation in the first place.