

# Data Provision Notice

## Ambulance Systems Indicators (AmbSYS)

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## Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives NHS England statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide publicly funded health or adult social care in England, where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The data, as specified by NHS England in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support a direction from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to NHS England. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

## Purpose

The NHS England Ambulance Quality Indicators (AQI) monthly publication comprises this Ambulance Systems Indicators (AmbSYS) collection, and the separate Ambulance Clinical Outcomes (AmbCO) collection. The Ambulance Quality Indicators (AQI) are for:

- Ambulance services to manage the service they provide,
- Commissioners to commission ambulance services,
- NHS England to monitor the service, and respond to enquiries from the media and the public,
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to brief ministers on performance and account to Parliament,
- Parliament, the media, and the public to hold the public service organisations to account.

NHS England has a statutory obligation to keep collections under review on an ongoing basis. As such a review date must be set at which point NHS England will review the continuing need for this collection.

## Legal basis for collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

NHS England has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service.

Direction and accompanying requirements specification:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/secretary-of-state-directions/the-migration-and-continued-operation-of-the-unify2-collections-through-the-strategic-data-collections-service-direction-2017>

This information is required by NHS England under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS England in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of an NHS England duty under section 259(8).

## Persons consulted

Following receipt of a direction to establish and operate a system for the migration and continued operation to collect Ambulance Systems Indicators (AmbSYS) v2 DPN, NHS England has, as required under section 258 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England – the organisation that issued the original direction (under the commencement order).
- Department for Health and Social Care – the organisation from which the current Direction was issued.
- Stakeholders including representatives of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE), National Ambulance Commissioners Network (NACN), National Ambulance Information Group (NAIG), National Ambulance Service Medical Directors (NASMeD), Clinical Coding Review Group (CCRG), and Emergency Call Prioritisation Advisory Group (ECPAG).

## Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS England duty under section 259(8) on the following persons:

- Ambulance services

The organisation types specified above must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below.

## Form of the collection

Ambulance services provide aggregated counts (such as 999 telephone calls answered, Category 1 incidents, and incidents with conveyance to an Emergency Department) and information on those (such as 95th centile call answer time, mean average Category 1 response time, and ambulance resources allocated to Category 3 incidents).

The AmbSYS specification is published alongside the data and further guidance at [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators).

The latest version is dated in 2026 and comprises 128 indicators.

## Manner of the collection

This data is collected via the NHS England web-based system, Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS). The pro forma template should be completed by the submitting organisation and uploaded to NHS England via the SDCS online data collection platform.

Support materials for submitters can be found here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/ambulance-systems-indicators-ambsys>

## Period of the collection

AmbSYS is an ongoing collection, the data are published one month at a time, usually on the second Thursday of the following month (for example, the 11 December 2025 publication included data for the full month of November 2025).

The submission timetable is published at [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators).

## Data quality

Data quality validations are present in the Excel template used to collate the data, to ensure the data from all submitting organisations is consistent and compliant with data quality measures. For example, SDCS will not accept the template if an organisation puts a 99th centile call answer time that is smaller than the 95th centile call answer time.

Once the template is accepted by SDCS, NHS England staff examine the data further and often ask submitting organisations about unusual numbers, which they sometimes then resubmit before publication.

## Burden of the collection

### Steps taken by NHS England to minimise the burden of collection

In seeking to minimise the burden it imposes on others, in line with sections 253 (2a) and 265(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS England has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and extractions.

Burden assessment evidence is provided as part of the overarching Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) process. The DAPB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the assurance and approval of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.