

Data Provision Notice

COVID-19: Collection of Unpaid Carers' Data from Local Authorities in England

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre (“NHS Digital”) statutory powers under section 259(1)(b) to request data from bodies corporate where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England.

The Secretary of State has directed NHS Digital to collect, process and analyse data in connection with COVID-19 to support the Secretary of State’s response to COVID-19 and support various COVID-19 purposes including those set out in the COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020, 17 March 2020 (as amended) (“COVID-19 Direction”). NHS Digital is directed to do this where either requested or as NHS Digital reasonably considers to be necessary to achieve COVID-19 purposes as part of the COVID-19 co-ordinated response.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required for a COVID-19 purpose. Accordingly, organisations that are in scope of the notice are requested, pursuant to section 259(1)(b) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

Purpose of the collection

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS England has been commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to operate the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. NHS Digital is the owner of the Personal Demographics Service (PDS) and is the Controller for the data contained within the PDS.

As the organisation with operational responsibility for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in England, NHS England needs to identify members of the public who act as unpaid carers so that it can invite them for vaccination immediately as part of a priority cohort. It is necessary to identify these individuals and then determine their contact details so that they can be invited to book a vaccination urgently.

Many Local Authorities in England hold information about members of the public who are unpaid carers within the community. This will include information about unpaid carers who do not claim, receive or who are not eligible for Carer’s Allowance and/or Universal Credit with a Carer’s Element. These individuals may, nevertheless, be entitled to a COVID-19 vaccination immediately as part of a priority cohort. It is, therefore, necessary for NHS Digital to collect this data (consisting of the demographic details for such individuals (who Local Authorities reasonably believe to be unpaid carers) so that it can then link the demographic data with each respective individual’s NHS Number using the PDS. A list of NHS Numbers can then be provided by NHS Digital to NHS England so that the individuals in question can be invited for vaccination by NHS England.

NHS England and NHS Digital have agreed that they should each be a Controller of the data set that will be produced under the [COVID-19 Public Health \(NHS England\) Directions 2020](#) (COVID-19 Directions).

NHS England has requested NHS Digital, under the COVID-19 Direction, to:

- Analyse the data received from Local Authorities under this request and identify the NHS Numbers for each respective individual.
- Provide the NHS Numbers only to NHS England so that NHS England can contact each individual and invite them for a COVID-19 vaccination.

Benefits of the collection

The benefits of the collection to the data subjects are that, as a direct result of the processing, they will be invited to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination immediately as part of a priority cohort. This will mean that these individuals will be able to obtain a vaccination much sooner than they would ordinarily be able to. It will protect their health and wellbeing from the COVID-19 virus as well as protecting the health and wellbeing of the individuals for whom they care. This will reduce the risk of vulnerable individuals contracting COVID-19 from the people who care for them. It will also reduce the burden on health services by reducing the transmission rate and subsequent hospital admission rate.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

Collection and Analysis

The Secretary of State has directed NHS Digital, under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of information about COVID-19. A copy of the Direction is published here.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/secretary-of-state-directions/covid-19-public-health-directions-2020>

The Directions include provisions to enable NHS Digital to collect and analyse information at the request of the directing organisation or as NHS Digital otherwise determines necessary to achieve the COVID-19 purposes as part of the co-ordinated health and care sector response to COVID-19.

This information is requested by NHS Digital as a Controller under section 259(1)(b) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS Digital's duty under section 259(8) of the Act.

The legal basis for the collection and analysis of the personal data will be under Article 6(1)(c) (legal obligation) and Article 6(1)(e) (public interest task) of the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR").

Dissemination

There will be no dissemination of the data collected from the Local Authorities.

Persons consulted

NHS Digital has, as required under section 258 of the Act, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England and NHS Improvement
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Representatives of Local Authorities in England

Scope of the collection

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

- Local Authorities in England

Under section 259(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the organisation types specified in the above Scope may choose as to whether they comply with the requested Form, Manner and Period details below.

Form of the collection

NHS Digital has requested to collect, as Controller under section 259(1)(b), a list of the demographic data held for individuals who are, at the time of the request, believed by the respective Local Authority to be unpaid carers.

The data set is comprised of:

Data set	Composition
Individuals who Local Authorities believe to be unpaid carers	For each person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First name • Surname • Postcode • Gender • Date of birth

Under section 259(1)(b) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on Local Authorities in England as the Controllers for this information.

Manner of the collection

NHS Digital will collect the data by way of secure data transfer from each Local Authority.

Period of the collection

The collections will commence shortly after the date of publication of this notice and will take place over a period of 14 consecutive days. Once the NHS Numbers have been supplied to NHS England, the data will be retained by NHS Digital for a period of 3 years.

Burden of the collection

In discharging its statutory duty to seek to minimise the burden it imposes on others, NHS Digital has limited the request to only the data required to meet the objective of the processing. A Burden Assessment has not taken place due to the urgency of the collection.

For further information

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