

Data Provision Notice

Planning: Monthly Activity

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Version: 3.0

Publication date: 19 November 2025

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) NHS England, statutory powers, under section 259(1), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide 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 or NHS England.

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. 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 purpose of the planning collection is to collect and assure information about NHS plans and how organisations intend to deliver against national expectations and deliverables, which are set out each in the planning guidance. A link to the latest guidance can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/medium-term-planning-framework-delivering-change-together-2026-27-to-2028-29/>

ICB and provider plans need to be agreed by NHS England, with a clear expectation that they must be fully aligned with local contracts. The collection is an essential component of the wider process of developing operational plans and agreeing contracts.

Benefits

Allows NHS England to assure plans with a focus on:

- Ensuring plans are stretching and realistic and show a bottom-line position consistent with the control totals set by NHS England.
- Ensuring milestones and deliverables are clear.
- Plans are the product of partnership working across Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Providers with clear triangulation between commissioner and provider plans and related contracts to ensure alignment in activity, workforce and income and expenditure assumptions
- That plans are directly derived from the projections agreed within each organisation and reflect historic growth levels moderated by agreed transformation and efficiency schemes. They enable agreed performance trajectories to be delivered within available financial resources.
- Whether plans include appropriate phasing profiles to reflect seasonal changes in demand, especially related to winter, and ensuring efficiency savings are not backloaded into the later part of the financial year.

- Operating plans need to show an integrated demand and capacity plan for elective and non-elective. This is underpinned by a bed plan, and a staffing plan. They should be completely aligned.
- That risks inside and outside of the direct control of the organisation are identified and mitigated. This involves considering both the assumptions in individual plans and the shared understanding across the system in terms of how the system will work together to manage risks, and,
- Focus on the assurance of system plans for integrated care systems.

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 migration and continued operation for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service. 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/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 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 Medium Term Plans, 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 to NHS England.
- Data providers - consulted regarding the use of the Strategic Data Collections Service (SDCS) platform.

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:

- Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)
- NHS Trusts

Under section 259(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisation types specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below:

Form of the collection

Data is aggregate level and collects planned activity for a number of measures - the measures included may vary each year. Data is provided by ICBs and Providers.

Manner of the collection

This data will be collected via the NHS England web-based system, Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS).

The Excel templates are completed by the submitting organisation and uploaded England via the SDCS online data collection platform.

Further information is available here: <https://England.nhs.uk/data-and-information/datacollections-and-data-sets/data-collections/strategic-data-collection-service-sdcs>

Period of the collection

Planning rounds take place annually in late Q3/early Q4 however the timescales for these vary each year. After each submission there is an assurance process, after which the collection may be reopened for a further submission.

Data quality

Data validations are built into the Excel submission template, and each submission round is accompanied by an assurance process during which NHS England works closely with data providers. Tools are supplied by NHS England to aid in the assurance and triangulation (with finance and workforce) of plans.

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.

This assurance is carried out by the Data Standards and Assurance Service (DSAS) which assures burden assessment evidence provided as part of the overarching Data Coordination 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.