

# Data Provision Notice

## NHSmail Account Registration Data

Information Asset Owner: Emma Summers on behalf of Neil Bennet

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**Information and technology**  
**for better health and care**

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## Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as [NHS Digital](#) and hereafter referred to by this name, 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 Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) (on behalf of the Secretary of State) or NHS England.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support a direction from NHS England to NHS Digital. 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 of the collection

NHS Digital is the Controller for personal data processed for the purposes of the NHSmial Live Service. The NHSmial Live Service provides secure email, directory capabilities and collaboration tools to health and care organisations.

NHSmial is commissioned by NHS England to develop processes and tools to allow mass enablement of NHSmial accounts to the following user groups (but is not limited to):

- Pharmacy
- Dentistry
- Social Care
- Optometry
- Locums (Pharmacy and GP's)

NHSmial has developed portal registration tools to support the mass enablement for these user groups each including a data authentication process.

The National Performers List (NPL) dataset will be uploaded into the NHSmial registration portal database to authenticate users and sites from across health and care.

- Users will be asked to enter both publicly and non-publicly available information to confirm their identity, location and applicability to practise across health and care.
- As the primary data key, [Organisation Data Service](#) (ODS) data will be cross referenced against NPL data to aid the authentication process.

NHSmial is a national service, provided by NHS Digital (Joint Controller) via a contract with Accenture (Data Processor), as directed by the Secretary of State.

This agreement will allow the National Performers List (NPL) to be shared with NHSmial Live Service (NHS Digital and Accenture) and the NHS Digital Live Service to aid registration and growth of products and services managed by the Live Services directorate.

## Benefits of the collection

The National Performers List (NPL) data set will support authentication of users or organisations registering for NHSmail accounts. Some of the organisation types in scope are yet to establish digitised business processes and the resultant efficiencies they bring such as:

- Providing access to electronic and secure messaging, enabling the transfer of patient confidential information between Practitioners and other appropriate providers of care on the patient pathway.
- Providing access to electronic and secure messaging thus reducing call handling time of services such as NHS111, resulting in a reduction in the overall waiting time for patients.
- Providing access to electronic referral between Primary, Secondary and Social care providers reducing waiting times and enhancing patient experience.
- Providing a safe and secure method for medical and prescription-based letters and messages, reducing medicine waste and patient mis-prescribing or mis-treatment.
- Establishing a mechanism for local (and national) health and care organisations to communicate effectively with all registered organisations and sites across England. This includes establishing a definitive list of email addresses for all the sites in scope giving NHS England and other public bodies the ability to issue emergency and urgent communications about drug recalls or pandemic flu warnings.

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

On 7 February 2017, NHS Digital was directed by the Secretary of State for Health<sup>1</sup>, under sections 254 and 274 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Social Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013 to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of information and to exercise such systems delivery functions as were necessary to deliver NHSmail.

A copy of the Direction is published on the NHS Digital website at:<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/secretary-of-state-directions/electronic-prescription-service-health-and-social-care-network-nhs-choices-n3-nhs-e-referral-service-secondary-uses-service-spine-2-named-programmes-directions-2016>

A copy of the National Performers List (NPL) is required by NHS Digital, under section 259(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to support the implementation of NHSmail across health and care organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> Since January 2018 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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 Digital 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 Digital duty under section 259(8).

## Persons consulted

NHS Digital has, as required under section 258 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England (Sponsor), British Medical Association (BMA), Care Quality Commission (CCQ) and Health Education England (HEE) representatives to ensure that, where appropriate, policy objectives are effectively addressed through the data set.
- NHS England (Sponsor) Joint General Practice IT Liaison (JGPIT) Group who fully support this initiative and are keen to bolster the authentication elements.
- NHS Digital Clinicians and Information Management custodians of the National Performers List (NPL) in other NHS Digital services.
- Also see Appendix A – Individuals consulted.

The above stakeholders have been consulted both formally and informally through workshops, meetings, events and written communications, and feedback from stakeholders has been incorporated into the development of the data set.

## Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1) 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:

The Information Asset Owner (IAO) for the National Performers List (NPL) is NHS England. Delivery of the NPL will support the establishment of processes and tools to implement NHSmail for all health and care organisations including:

- Pharmacy
- Dentistry
- Social Care
- Optometry
- Locums – in relation to Pharmacy and GP Locums. The dataset will include personal sensitive data such as date of birth, residential address and professional registration identifier status. This information is captured during the National Performers List registration process - <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/services/performers-lists/#2>

Please see registration requirements for NHSmail here:  
<https://portal.nhs.net/Help/joiningnhsmail>

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

- The requirement relates to the extraction of National Performers List (NPL) data set and any subsets.
- This data will be cross-referenced with Organisation Data Service (ODS) data held by NHS Digital to confirm each location in scope.
- For transient members of staff, such as GP or Pharmacy Locums, sensitive data held within the National Performers List (NPL) such as a Clinician's date of birth and dates of registration or residential address for example will be used to confirm their identity. This will also be used to confirm identify if a Clinician calls the NHSmail helpdesk.
- This data will be securely stored and updated on a weekly basis (or as data feeds allow) by the NHSmail Live Service Data Processor - Accenture.

## Manner of the collection

- The data will be collected via the Primary Care Support England (PCSE) or NHS England services in an encrypted format.
- Or alternatively via a secure automated feed into the NHSmail Live Service database (held by the Data Processor - Accenture).

## Period of the collection

This data will be required on an ongoing basis to coincide with NHSmail portal registrations. The requirement will be reviewed annually to ensure it:

- Remains fit for purpose
- Maintains alignment with clinical practice and coding
- Responds to policy requirements
- Is corrected in light of errors highlighted by stakeholders.

A new Data Provision Notice may be issued following any amendments to the data set resulting from an annual review.

## Burden of the collection

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

In discharging its statutory duty to seek to minimise the burden it imposes on others NHS Digital has:

- Checked with NHS England (including PCSE) to ensure the supply of the National Performers List (NPL) can be achieved in the same format as it is currently being supplied to other teams within NHS Digital.

- Confirmed that this requirement is to gain a copy of the data set for processing and therefore the burden has been spent by NHS England in collating the National Performers List (NPL) already.
- Agreed that all requirements for this type of extraction will rely upon pre-collated information.

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 Digital has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and extractions.

This assessment is carried out by the Data Standards and Assurance Service (DSAS) which undertakes a Detailed Burden Assessment (DBA) as part of the overarching Data Coordination Board (DCB) process. The DCB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the development, assurance and acceptance of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.

## Help us to identify inappropriate collections

NHS Digital's Challenging Burden Service (CBS) offers a Collection Referral Service which is a simple and confidential way to allow data providers to refer data collections they feel would benefit from further scrutiny.

For more details and information on how to refer a collection, please visit:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/the-challenging-burden-service/collection-referral-service>

## Appendix A – Individuals consulted

NHS Digital / GP Locum Doctor – General supportive comments regarding system design, process and data sets.

Care Quality Commission Doctor – General supportive comments regarding the overall process and the security of the checks carried out.

Health Education England / National Association of Primary Care Doctor – General supportive regarding links to the onboarding of GP's and Trainee doctors and overall process and the security of the checks carried out.

British Medical Association Doctor – General supportive comments regarding the overall process, the security of the checks carried out and advertising.

National Performers List Information Asset Owner (Informed).

### For further information

[www.digital.nhs.uk](http://www.digital.nhs.uk)

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