

Simon Bolton
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Digital
7 & 8 Wellington Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 4AP

8 March 2022

Dear Simon,

1. Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as **NHS England**) to provide Directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), section 260(2)(d), section 261(2)(e) and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**) and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013² (**the Regulations**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of NHS England as NHS England may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.

¹ 2012 c.7

² S.I. 2013/259

- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022** and come into force on the date signed.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to enable the collection and analysis of nationally consistent operational and clinical data from all Ambulance Services in England for Computer Assisted Dispatch system (**CAD**) and Electronic Patient Record (**EPR**) information.
- 2.2 In addition, these Directions will support the continuation of the collection and analysis of the CAD and EPR data collected under the Ambulance Data Set Discovery Directions 2020³ from Ambulance Services in England who agreed to participate⁴ in the CAD and EPR pilots.
- 2.3 The Directions will support the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan⁵ by bringing consistency to information held by the Ambulance Services, with a view to higher quality and more consistent reporting, removing the need for duplicated effort, and improving patient outcomes and reducing the burden on the Ambulance Service.

3. Establishing and operating information systems for the Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022 data collection

- 3.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS England directs NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of information described in the Ambulance Data Set Requirements Specification issued as Annex A of these Directions, which may be updated periodically (within the confines of the scope set out in these Directions) by NHS Digital and agreed in writing by NHS England (**the Requirements Specification**).
- 3.2 The system to be established is to be known as the **Ambulance Data Set Directions Information System**.

4. Analysis and linkage

- 4.1 Pursuant to NHS England's powers under 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to analyse the information collected pursuant to and/or obtained by NHS Digital complying with these Directions, as may be requested by NHS England or as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.
- 4.2 Such analysis referred to above includes:

³ <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/nhs-england-directions/ambulance-services-data-set-discovery-directions-2020>

⁴ Participant Ambulance Services are set out in the Requirements Specification

⁵ Section 1.33 of the NHS Long-Term Plan <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

4.2.1 analysis by reference or linkage to other data obtained by NHS Digital as described in the Requirements Specification;

4.2.2 analysis for data quality purposes, including undertaking comparison and consistency analysis of the same or similar information obtained through other information systems established by NHS Digital under any other direction under section 254 of the 2012 Act, and taking such steps as NHS Digital considers appropriate to maintain data quality, accuracy and consistency of information it has obtained under these Directions and across all information systems.

4.3 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Specification and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above.

5. Systems delivery functions for the Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022

5.1 In accordance with Regulation 32 of the Regulations, NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise such systems delivery functions of NHS England as are necessary for it to deliver the Ambulance Data Set Directions Information System.

5.2 NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise the functions described above in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by NHS England in writing to NHS Digital as at the date these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of NHS England in writing to NHS Digital from time to time.

6. Requirement for these Directions

6.1 In accordance with section 254(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS England considers that the information which could be obtained by complying with these Directions is information which it is necessary or expedient for NHS England to have in relation to its exercise of functions in connection with the provision of NHS services.

6.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

7. Publication

In accordance with section 260(2)(d) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish the information that is obtained by complying with these Directions.

8. Dissemination

8.1 In accordance with section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act, despite any prohibition on publication, NHS Digital may disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act the information it has obtained by complying with the Directions

where section 261(1) would otherwise not apply due to the restriction on publication, and where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so.

- 8.2 In accordance with section 262(3)(a), NHS Digital is directed to use its powers under section 261(4) of the 2012 Act to disseminate the information collected under the Directions to the Ambulance Service that provided the information.
- 8.3 Any information collected as a result of, or obtained by complying with, these Directions may also be disseminated in accordance with NHS Digital's powers under sections 261 of the 2012 Act.

9. Fees and Accounts

- 9.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act and regulation 32(2)(b) of the Regulations, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.
- 9.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022.

10. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate the Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022 Information System and undertake the system delivery function referred to above (the **Directed Functions**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of NHS England on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function. Where one of the Directed Function(s) is to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

11. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed when the Specification is amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital.

12. Revocation

The Ambulance Services Data Set Discovery Directions 2020 issued by NHS England on 2 November 2020 are revoked.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. B.', written in a cursive style.

Signed by authority of NHS England

Date signed: 08/03/2022

ANNEX - AMBULANCE DATA SET DIRECTIONS 2022

Published alongside the Ambulance Data Set Directions 2022 is:

- **Annex A** - Ambulance Data Set Requirements Specification