



NHS England  
Quarry House  
Leeds LS2 7UE

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

14 February 2022

Dear Simon,

**1. Amendment No. 2 to the COVID-19 Public Health NHS England Directions 2020**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the NHS Commissioning Board (**NHS England**) to give directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (**NHS Digital**), amending the COVID-19 Public Health NHS England Directions 2020<sup>1</sup> issued on 17 March 2020 (the **Original Directions**). Before giving these Directions, NHS England has consulted with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012<sup>2</sup> (**the 2012 Act**).
- 1.2 These directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6) and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/nhs-england-directions/covid-19-public-health-nhs-england-directions-2020> as amended by the 'Amendment to Covid-19 Public Health Directions 2020' issued on 31 March 2020, <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/nhs-england-directions/covid-19-public-health-nhs-england-directions-2020>

<sup>2</sup> 2012 c.7.

Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013<sup>3</sup> (**the Regulations**) and come into force on the day after the day on which they are signed.

## 2. Purpose of these Directions

The purpose of these Directions is to extend the Original Directions by omitting the expiry date contained within them and to make a consequential amendment to the review provision.

## 3. Amendment of the Original Directions

3.1 For paragraph 10 of the Original Directions substitute:

“NHS Digital is directed to operate the COVID-19 Public Health NHS England Information Systems and to undertake the system delivery functions referred to above (the **Directed Functions**) until further notice. Where a Directed Function is to cease, NHS Digital will be notified in writing by an authorised officer of NHS England giving them reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function.”.

3.2 For paragraph 11 of the Original Directions substitute:

“These Directions will be reviewed annually, with a view to carrying out the first review during December 2022.”.

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: 15/02/2022

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<sup>3</sup> S.I. 2013/259