



Simon Bolton
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Digital
7&8 Wellington Place
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7th January 2022

Dear Simon

Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Directions 2021

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**.
 - 1.1 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), section 260(4)(a), and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**).
 - 1.2 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.
 - 1.3 These Directions are to be known as the **Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Directions 2021**.
2. **Purpose**
 - 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to enable the collection and analysis of information from Clinical Commissioning Groups, and any bodies corporate established with the function of arranging for the provision of services for the purposes of the health service in England, including

¹ 2012 c.7

Integrated Care Boards, about the numbers of individuals with personal health budgets.²

- 2.2 The information collected will provide evidence to assess progress towards meeting a key aim of the NHS Long Term Plan³ for more people to benefit from personalised care and the ambition to increase the uptake of personal health budgets to 200,000 people by 2023/24. This is outlined further in Universal Personalised Care.⁴

3. Establishing and operating information systems for the Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Directions

- 3.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS England directs NHS Digital to establish and operate such systems for the collection and analysis of information described in the Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Requirements Specification version 1 issued with 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 (**Requirements Specification**).
- 3.2 The system to be established and operated is to be known as the **Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Information System**.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Such analysis referred to above includes:
- 3.4.1 analysis by reference or linkage to other data obtained by NHS Digital under any other direction under section 254 of the 2012 Act as specified in the Requirements Specification.
- 3.4.2 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.

² A personal health budget is an amount of money to support a person's identified health and wellbeing needs, which is planned and agreed between the person, their representative, or, in the case of children, their families or carers and the local NHS team.

³ <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-plan/>

⁴ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/universal-personalised-care-implementing-the-comprehensive-model/>

3.5 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Requirements Specification. The Requirements Specification 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.

4. Requirement for these Directions

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

5. Publication

Pursuant to section 260(4)(a) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to publish the information obtained by complying with these Directions in a form, manner and timing as mutually agreed with NHS England and in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics⁵.

6. Dissemination

Because the information obtained by complying with these Directions is required to be published, under section 262(1), 262(2)(a) and (7) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to disseminate that information to NHS England and NHSX to support the Purpose of these Directions.

7. Fees and Accounts

- 7.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.
- 7.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Personal Health Budget (Data Collection) Directions 2021.

8. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate the Personal Health Budget (Data Collection Information System (the **Directed Function**) 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 the Directed Function is to cease, such written request will also

⁵ <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

9. Review of these Directions

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

10. Revocation

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Personal Health Budget Collection) Directions 2017 issued on 20/11/2017 by NHS England 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: