



National Services Scotland
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB

Ms Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

15 December 2020

Dear Ms Wilkinson,

1. **National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension - National Services Scotland Non-Mandatory Request**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of National Services Scotland to make a Request to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in this Request as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 This Request is made under section 255(1) and section 256(2) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**).
- 1.3 This Request is to be known as the **National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension - National Services Scotland Request (Request)** and comes into force on the date signed.

2. **Relevant duties and functions**

- 2.1 National Services Scotland ("**NSS**") is a Special Health Board operating as per sections 2(f) and 2(j) of the National Health Service (Functions of the Common Services Agency) (Scotland) Order 2008² (**the 2008 Order**) to provide information, advice and management services in support of the functions of Scottish Ministers, Health Boards and Special Health Boards

¹ 2012 c.7

² SSI 2008 No 312, as amended by the National Health Service (Functions of the Common Services Agency) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2014

and section 37 and section 10(6) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978³ (**the 1978 Act**).

- 2.2 The Scottish Government have arrangements in place pursuant to section 10(6) of the 1978 Act with NSS for NSS to provide *inter alia* information and intelligence services, health protection services, specialist healthcare services, logistics services, procurement services, programme management, facilities services, information technology services, blood, tissues and cells services, practitioner services and counter fraud services.
- 2.3 National Services Division (**NSD**), a directorate of NSS has a mandate given by the Chief Executives of NHS Boards in Scotland, and the Scottish Government, to commission specialist healthcare services for NHS Scotland. This includes the Scottish Pulmonary Vascular Unit in Glasgow.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of the Request (**Purpose**) is to enable NSS to measure the quality of care provided to people referred to pulmonary hypertension services in Scotland, by answering the following questions:

- Are pulmonary hypertension services appropriate?
- Are patients receiving the right treatment in a timely manner?
- What are the outcomes for patients with pulmonary hypertension?

4. Establishing and operating information systems for the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension - National Services Scotland data collection

- 4.1 Under section 255(1) of the 2012 Act, NSS requests that NHS Digital establishes and operates an information system for the collection and analysis of patient information from providers of pulmonary hypertension services in Scotland.
- 4.2 The system to be established and operated is the **National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension - National Services Scotland Information System**. The information to be collected and analysed is set out in the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension (NAPH) Dataset 2019-20 v2.1 190411 Scotland (**the Technical Specification**), and the form, manner and timing of the collection and analysis is documented in the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension for NHS Scotland Specification (**the Requirements Specification**). NSS requests that NHS Digital carry out the collection and analysis in accordance with the Specifications or with any subsequent final version of the same documents. The Specifications may be updated periodically (within the confines of the scope set out in this Request) in accordance with the Change Control Process set out in the Requirements Specification.

³ 1978 c.29

4.3 This Request is a confidential information collection request within the terms of section 256(1) of the 2012 Act because the information collected enables the identity of an individual to be ascertained. In accordance with section 256(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, NSS confirms that this is information that NSS could lawfully require NHS Boards in Scotland to disclose to it under section 10(6) of the 1978 Act and section 2(j) of the 2008 Order.

5. Requirement for this request

5.1 In accordance with section 255(2) of the 2012 Act, NSS considers that the information which could be obtained by NHS Digital complying with this Request is information which is necessary or expedient for NSS to have in relation to NSS's exercise of functions or carrying out of activities, in connection with the provision of health care in Scotland and in particular to promote the physical and mental health of the people of Scotland.

5.2 In accordance with section 257(4) of the 2012 Act, NSS have consulted with NHS Digital before making this Request.

6. Fees

NSS acknowledges that section 257(3) of the 2012 Act entitles NHS Digital to charge a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of complying with this Request.

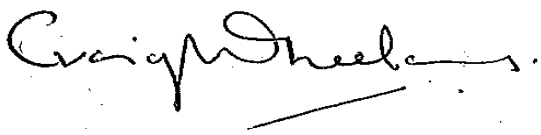
7. Duration

NHS Digital is requested to operate the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension National Services Scotland Information System (**the Requested Function**) unless and until requested in writing by an authorised officer of NSS on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Requested Function.

8. Review of this Request

This Request will be reviewed when the Specifications are amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 257(4) of the 2012 Act.

Yours,



Dr. Craig Wheelans
Interim Medical Director – National Services Division