



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and Social
Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

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

16th November 2021

Dear Simon,

1. Amendment to Electronic Prescription Service, Health and Social Care Network, NHS Choices, N3, NHS e-Referral Service, Secondary Uses Service (SUS), Spine 2 (Named Programmes) Directions 2016

1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the **Secretary of State**) to provide directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**, to amend the **Electronic Prescription Service, Health and Social Care Network, NHS Choices, N3, NHS e-Referral Service, Secondary Uses Service (SUS), Spine 2 (Named Programmes) Directions 2016**¹, dated 7 February 2017 (the **Original Directions**).

1.2 These directions to amend the Original Directions (the **Directions**) are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6) and section

¹ <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/secretary-of-state-directions/informatics-systems-for-the-collection-or-analysis-of-information-directions-2016>

304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012² (the **2012 Act**) and will take effect from the date above.

2. Purpose of these Directions

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions is to provide NHS Digital with a power to publish information which it could otherwise publish under section 260(1) of the 2012 Act, but which it has been prohibited from doing by virtue of the direction contained on page 2 (paragraph 3) of the Original Directions.
- 2.2 The amendment will enable NHS Digital to publish anonymous information relating to the services delivered under the Original Directions, including through dashboards relating to the [NHS e-Referral Service](#).


3. Publication and dissemination

- 3.1 Information obtained by complying with the Original Directions must be published in line with NHS Digital's duty under section 260(1) of the 2012 Act unless it falls within section 260(2) of the 2012 Act. Any information collected as a result of, or obtained by complying with, the Original Directions may also be disseminated by NHS Digital in accordance with its powers under section 261 of the 2012 Act.
- 3.2 Paragraph 3 of page 2 of the Original Directions is hereby amended by replacing this with paragraph 3.1 above.

4. Continuing effect of the Original Directions

These Directions supplement the Original Directions, which will continue in force, as amended by these Directions from the date above, in accordance with their original provisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. P. Madden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Date signed: 16th November 2021

² 2012 c.7