



Department of Health & Social Care

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1 May 2018

Data Security and Protection Toolkit Data Collections Service Direction 2018

I am writing to direct the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as NHS Digital, to establish and operate a system to be known as the Data Security and Protection Toolkit Data Collections Service to enable the collection and analysis of information from health and social care organisations about their data security.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care by sections 254(1), (2)(a), (5) and (6), and 260(2)(d) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act).

In accordance with section 254(2)(a) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that this information is necessary or expedient to have in relation to his functions in connection with the provision of health services or of adult social care in England.

The Direction is to be known as the **Data Security and Protection Toolkit Data Collections Service Direction 2018** and comes into effect on 1 May 2018. Data collection against this direction will adhere to the Data Security and Protection Toolkit information standard DCB0086 Requirements Specification only.

This information can be found at:
<https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb0086>

Purpose

The purpose of the Data Security and Protection Toolkit is to provide a means for health and care organisations (or those providing services to NHS organisations) to measure their compliance against Data Protection legislation and the National Data Guardian's Data Security Standards to see whether information they hold is handled correctly and protected from unauthorised access, loss, damage and destruction.

Where partial or non-compliance is revealed, organisations must take appropriate measures to raise standards. The aim is to demonstrate that the organisation can be trusted to maintain the confidentiality and security of information. This in-turn increases public confidence that the NHS and its partners can be trusted with their sensitive data.

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit is the successor framework to the Information Governance Toolkit and draws together the legal rules and central guidance set out by the Department of Health and Social Care and presents them in a single standard. Relevant organisations are required to carry out self-assessments of their compliance against the assertions and evidence items contained within the Data Security and Protection Toolkit.

In accordance with section 260(2)(d) of the Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish the data obtained by complying with the section 254 Direction except for a summary level of each organisations' completed Data Security and Protection Toolkit which will be made available online to the public.

In accordance with section 254(5) of the Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

Please accept this letter as a Direction given under section 254(1) of the Act to NHS Digital to establish and operate a system to be known as the Data Security and Protection Toolkit Data Collections Service to enable the collection and analysis of information from health and care organisations about their data security.

Yours sincerely,

Iain O'Neil
Deputy Director of Digital and Technology Strategy

