



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

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

Amanda Pritchard  
Chief Executive Officer  
NHS England

16<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Amanda,

## 1. **The Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Data Services for Commissioners) (Amendment) Directions 2024**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the **Secretary of State**) to give directions amending the **Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Data Services for Commissioners) Directions 2015<sup>1</sup>** (the **Original Directions**).
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), 260(2)(d) and 304(9) to (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the **2012 Act**<sup>2</sup>) and sections 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006<sup>3</sup> (the **2006 Act**).
- 1.3 These Directions are to be known as **the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Data Services for Commissioners) (Amendment) Directions**

---

<sup>1</sup> [Data Services for Commissioners Directions 2015](#) - The Original Directions were given to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (NHS Digital) by NHS England on 10 August 2015. NHS Digital was abolished, and its functions transferred to NHS England, on 1 February 2023 by virtue of the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98). By virtue of regulation 3, the Original Directions have effect as if contained in a direction given by the Secretary of State to NHS England. These Directions amending the Original Directions are therefore given to NHS England. The Original Directions were previously amended by the (2022) Amendment to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Data Services for Commissioners) Directions 2015 which came into force on 15 September 2022.

<sup>2</sup> 2012 c.7. Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

<sup>3</sup> 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

**2024** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

## **2. Purpose of these Directions**

The purpose of these Directions is to amend the Original Directions to revoke the duty on NHS England to establish and operate a pilot system for the collection of Faster Data Flows Acute Data, as the pilot has now come to an end and a new Acute Collection has been established under the Healthcare Operational Data Flows Directions 2024.

## **3. Requirement for these Directions**

- 3.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers it to be in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for the Directions to be given.
- 3.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.
- 3.3 In accordance with section 13ZC(5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.

## **4. Amendment of the Original Directions**

4.1 The Original Directions are amended as follows.

4.1.1 In paragraph 2 omit the definitions of “Faster Data Flow Acute Data”, “Palantir Foundry Data Platform” and “Specification”.

4.1.2 Omit paragraph 3(5).

## **5. Continuing effect of the Original Directions**

These Directions amend the Original Directions, which continue in force, as amended by these Directions in accordance with their original provisions.

Yours sincerely



Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

16<sup>th</sup> August 2024