



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

NHS Policy and Performance Group  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

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

22 August 2022

Dear Simon,

**Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services  
Direction 2024**

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care to instruct the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as, and hereafter referred to as NHS Digital, to continue to operate the Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Information System. This is in response to the Direction, known as the Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction 2020 which allowed for the collection to continue from 13 February 2020 to 31 March 2020. This was extended three times to 31 September 2022 by formal letters dated 20 March 2020, 8 March 2021 and 22 October 2021.

The Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction 2020 is therefore extended to 31 March 2024 in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), (2)(b) and (6), 260(1) and (2)(d), 262(1) and (2)(a), 274(2) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013.

I, along with NHS England/Improvement and NHS Digital, have a strong commitment for this collection to cease as soon as information of sufficient quality is available through the Mental Health Services Dataset (MHSDS). A revised approach and timeline was proposed and agreed, and progress is being monitored.

NHS Digital should publish this confirmation letter alongside the Direction.

Yours sincerely,

Shamim Rahman  
Deputy Director  
Mental Health and Disabilities Analysis Team  
Department of Health and Social Care