



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

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Simon,

## 1. **NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions 2023**

- 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 (**NHS Digital**).
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by 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<sup>1</sup> (**the Regulations**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing to NHS Digital.
- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions 2023** and come into force on the day after the day on which they are signed.

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 2013/259

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to enable NHS Digital to establish a system to send electronic communications about wider opportunities for health research participation to those individuals registered on the Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry who have indicated, whether at the time they provided their data or subsequently, that they were willing to be contacted by NHS Digital about broader health research opportunities.

## 3. Systems delivery functions for the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions

3.1 In accordance with Regulation 32(1) of the Regulations, the Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to exercise such systems delivery functions of the Secretary of State as are necessary to enable and facilitate the **NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System** described in the Purpose.

3.2 NHS Digital is directed to exercise the functions to deliver a system that meets the terms of the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions Requirements Specification version 1 attached at Annex A of these Directions, as may be updated in accordance with these Directions (**the Requirements Specification**).

## 4. Service Levels etc.

The Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to exercise the functions described above in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by the Secretary of State in writing to NHS Digital as at the date these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State in writing to NHS Digital.

## 5. Fees and Accounts

5.1 In accordance with regulation 32(2)(a) of the Regulations, the Secretary of State may make payments to NHS Digital for things done in connection with the exercise of the systems delivery functions referred to above.

5.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions 2023.

## 6. Duration

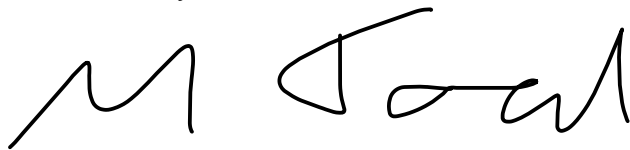
NHS Digital is directed to operate the system delivery function under the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System Directions 2023

until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of DHSC on behalf of the Secretary of State

#### 7. **Review of these Directions**

These Directions will be reviewed when the Requirements Specification is amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Toal'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'M' and a distinct 'Toal'.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Date signed: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**ANNEXES - NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications  
System Directions 2023**

**Annex A - NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Research Registry Communications System  
Requirements Specification**