



Department of Health & Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

10 February 2021

Dear Sarah

1. **NHS Login Directions 2021**

- 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.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), section 260(2)(d), section 261(2)(e), 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**) 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 2013² (**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 for Health and Social Care and as the Secretary of State may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.
- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **NHS Login Directions 2021** and come into force on the date signed.

2. **Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to enable NHS Digital to provide the NHS Digital Citizen Identity Platform and related services, collectively the **NHS Login Services**. These Services will support the

¹ 2012 c.7

² S.I. 2013/259

provision of secure identity verification and authentication when providing digital health and social care services to individuals. The NHS Digital Citizen Identity Platform may be used by those digital services that are assessed by the Partner Integration Board (PIB)³ as being beneficial to health and adult social care services in England and to the recipients of health and adult social care services provided in England.

2.2 The data processed by the NHS Login Services will be used to support the following scenarios:

- Providing access to digital health and social care services which have been commissioned by the NHS in England and have been approved by the PIB;
- Providing access to other digital health and social care services where the services are considered to be in the interests of the health service in England or the recipients or providers of adult social care in England;⁴
- Delivery of an NHS login ID verification and authentication service which can be used as a ‘federated’ capability to provide access across multiple digital services;
- Providing personal data about NHS login users to health and care professionals for direct care purposes;
- Supporting commissioners and policy teams by providing statistical data to achieve positive health outcomes.

3. Systems delivery functions for the NHS Login Directions

3.1 In accordance with Regulation 32 of the Regulations, the Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to exercise such systems delivery functions of the Secretary of State as are necessary for NHS Digital to develop and operate the NHS Login Services described in the Purpose.

3.2 NHS Digital is directed to exercise the functions in accordance with the Citizen Identity (NHS login) Technical Definition attached at Annex A and in accordance with the NHS Login Services Requirements Specification attached at Annex B of these Directions, collectively **the Specifications**.

3.3 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

³ The NHS login Partner Integration Board (PIB), is a standing committee accountable to the NHS login Product Board. The PIB reviews and approves any activity related to third parties connecting to NHS login.

⁴ Applications will be considered by the DHSC, NHS England or NHS Improvement, dependent on the policy area concerned. Such considerations will also take into account any recommendations of the Partner Integration Board.

these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by the Secretary of State in writing to NHS Digital from time to time.

4. Establishing and operating information systems for the NHS Login Directions 2021

- 4.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to establish and operate such systems for the collection or analysis of information as are necessary to provide the NHS Login Services.
- 4.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Specifications and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above.
- 4.3 The Specifications may be updated periodically (within the confines of the scope set out in these Directions) by NHS Digital and agreed in writing by the Secretary of State.

5. Analysis and linkage

Pursuant to the Secretary of State's powers under 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is further directed to analyse the information collected pursuant to these Directions, including by such reference or linkage to other data held by NHS Digital as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.

6. Requirement for these Directions

- 6.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for these Directions to be given.
- 6.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

7. Publication

In accordance with section 260(2)(d) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish information that is specified as not for publication in the Specifications. Any other information 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.

8. Dissemination

- 8.1 In accordance with section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act, where there is any prohibition on publication, NHS Digital may disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act the information it has obtained by complying with these Directions, where section 261(1) would otherwise not apply due to the restriction on publication, and where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so.

- 8.2 Any information collected or obtained as a result of these Directions may also be disseminated in line with NHS Digital’s discretionary powers under sections 261(4) and (5) of the 2012 Act.

9. Fees and Accounts

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the NHS Login Directions 2021.

10. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to undertake the system delivery function for the NHS Login Directions 2021 and operate the related Information System referred to above (**the Directed Functions**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function. Where a Directed Function is to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

11. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed when the Specifications are amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the 2012 Act.

12. Revocation

These Directions will replace the **Health and Social Care Information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Citizen Identity Services) Directions 2018** issued on 16 July 2018 by the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England) which will be revoked in writing by NHS England once these NHS Login Directions 2020 from the Secretary of State come into force.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Naomi Radcliffe' written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Naomi Radcliffe- Deputy Director of Technology Policy, NHSX

Official sensitive –

ANNEXES - NHS LOGIN DIRECTIONS 2021

Annex A - Citizen Identity (NHS login) Technical Definition

Annex B - NHS Login Services Requirements Specification