



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Community and Social Care Group
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Simon Bolton
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square
Leeds
LS1 6AE

26 October 2021

Dear Simon,

**Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services
Direction 2021**

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 twice to 31 December 2021 by formal letters dated 20 March 2020 and 8 March 2021.

The Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction 2020 is therefore extended to 30 September 2022 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.

Considerable progress continues to be made and this date will remain under review, with any changes being instructed in writing. 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 has been proposed and agreed, and progress against this will be monitored.

NHS Digital should publish this confirmation letter alongside the Direction.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Seager
Deputy Director
Mental Health Policy and Delivery
Department of Health and Social Care