

DCB0086 Amd 71/2020 Change Specification

Data Security and Protection Toolkit
Version 3.1

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Information and technology
for better health and care

Data Coordination Board

This information standard (DCB0086) has been approved for publication by NHS England under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Standards Assurance Service (DSAS) and approved by the Data Coordination Board (DCB).

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance.

An Information Standards Notice (DCB0086 Amd 71/2020) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled copies of these documents can be found on [the NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

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1. Overview

The DSPT Standard is normally reviewed annually. Due to Covid 19 the v2 2019-20 deadline was extended to 30th September 2020, shortening the 2020-21 DSP Toolkit year.

The v3 2020-21 standard was approved (ref Amd 89/2019) prior to the 2019-20 deadline extension. As a result, the DSP Toolkit for 2020-21 has been reviewed again to support health and care organisations through this shortened year and align with updated policy on data protection and cyber security.

The proposed changes the 2020-21 standard will see improved clarity of language, a reduction in the number of mandatory requirements and an extension of the deadline from 31 March to 30 June 2021.

This Change Specification outlines the key differences between the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) version 2 (2019-20) and the updated DSPT version 3.1 (2020-21).

This document should be read in conjunction with the DSPT Requirements Specification (specifically Appendix 1 – Assertions and Evidence items) and Implementation Guidance.

2. Definition

The DSPT is an online tool that enables organisations to measure their performance against data security and information governance requirements set by the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Toolkit has been developed in response to The NDG Review (Review of Data Security, Consent and Opt-Outs)¹ published in July 2016 and the government response published in July 2017.

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit is the successor framework to the IG Toolkit.

3. Guidance by user group

In accordance with the requirements of the Government Digital Service, the design and content of the DSPT have been developed to ensure that the system is easy to use. The solution is designed to enable most users to be able to complete and publish an assessment without reference to detailed guidance documentation. The system has been developed in consultation with users and stakeholders.

Guidance materials are made available via the DSPT Help pages: <https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/Help>. As far as reasonably possible sector specific guidance will be avoided but language which is suitable for all sectors has been included, tested with users and updated following consultation.

For more information, please refer to Implementation Guidance.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-data-security-standards-for-health-and-social-care>

4. Statement of all changes to the published Requirements Specification

4.1 DSPT version 3.1 – overview of changes

The DSPT Standard is reviewed annually. The proposed 2020-21, version 3.1 standard sees a reduction in the total number of evidence items for all sectors. Changes have been made in order to:

- Ensure achieving standards met on the DSP Toolkit is aligned with policy on CE+ for NHS Trusts, CCGs and CSUs. As advised by NHSX .
- Improve the clarity of the wording of the evidence items for smaller organisations following extensive user research over the summer.
- Rationalise the evidence items where there is overlap between evidence items.
- Move the requirement for NHS Trusts, CCGs, CSUS and ALBs to submit a baseline (interim) publication to February 2021².

4.2 DSPT changes – rationale and examples

The [Lessons learned review of the WannaCry Ransomware Cyber Attack](#) from February 2018 recommended that all NHS organisations move towards [Cyber Essentials PLUS](#), as recommended by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). Equivalent requirements were incorporated into the DSPT in 2019-20 for NHS Trusts. Many of these requirements were “non-mandatory” to support organisations to work towards achieving Cyber Essentials PLUS equivalence. In 2020-21 the majority of these non-mandatory requirements will be mandatory for NHS Trusts.

More information is available in the Department of Health and Social Care document [Securing cyber resilience in health and care: progress update 2019](#)

The DSPT has been in place since April 2018. NHS Digital continues to review completed assessments, helpdesk queries and feedback submitted through the DSPT.

In response to this feedback and analysis, wording of many evidence items has been improved to ensure requirements are clear and explicit.

The proposed updates to the DSPT 2020-21 standard have led to a reduction in total number of evidence items for all organisations. Comparative breakdowns of both the total number of evidence items and total number of mandatory evidence items are provided in the tables below:

² Note that Version 1 of this Change Specification incorrectly stated February 2020

	Category 1 organisations	Category 2 organisations	Category 3 organisations	Category 4 organisations
Total number of evidence items 2019-20 v2	179	157	115	61
Total number of evidence items 2020-21 v3 (not launched)	150	146	95	50
Total number of evidence items 2020-21 v3.1	149	146	92	46

	Category 1 organisations	Category 2 organisations	Category 3 organisations	Category 4 organisations
Total number of mandatory evidence items 2019-20	116	106	56	42
Total number of mandatory evidence items 2020-21 v3 (not launched)	113	112	46	35
Total number of evidence items 2020-21 v3.1	111	89	45	31

4.3 DSPT version 2 and 3.1 comparison

Appendix A provides an overview of requirements of the previous iteration of the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (2019-20 version 2). The table identifies equivalent areas in the DSPT standard for 2020-21 (version 3.1) and any elements which will no longer fall within the scope of the DSPT.

5. Change control during 2020-21

System refinements and new functionality will be deployed throughout 2020-21. Details of these changes will be set out within the “System changes and release notes” page on the DSPT: <https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/News/1>. Material changes to the wording in the standards themselves will only be made in exceptional circumstances, such as where new legislation amends the requirement. This would be communicated to the users via email to those directly affected and set out within the “Standard changes and release notes” page on the DSPT help page.

Appendix A – DSPT 2020-21 (version 2) to 2020-21(version 3.1) mapping

Please refer to separate file:

[Appendix A - DSP Toolkit 2019-20 \(version 2\) to 2020-21 \(version 3.1\) mapping.xlsx](#)