



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Skipton House
80 London Road
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31 March 2022

Dear Colleague,

National Data Opt-out - COVID-19 response – Further extension to 31 July 2022

Staff across the health and social care system have risen magnificently to the challenges of COVID-19. As we move away from the initial response to the pandemic, we want to ensure that individual organisations are able to develop their approach to honouring the opt-out without compromising the ongoing work on pandemic recovery.

We have therefore reviewed the decision to extend the national data opt out (NDOO) to 31 March 2022 and have agreed to further extend the compliance deadline for the NDOO to be implemented by remaining organisations to 31 July 2022. We do not expect there to be further extensions.

Those organisations that are already compliant with the national data opt-out should continue to apply it in accordance with the policy. Other organisations should work towards compliance. We will work to support organisations to be ready to honour the opt-out by **31 July 2022**.

The NDOO applies to all confidential patient information which is processed under Regulation 5 of the Health Service (Control of Patient information) Regulations 2002 (COPI regulations) unless there is an exemption in place. The Confidentiality Advisory Group which considers all applications to process data under Regulation 5 of the COPI Regulations is able to consider requests for exemptions from the NDOO.

If you require further advice on the NDOO please refer to the NHS Digital NDOO web pages where there is a wide range of guidance available to support you. For information on the 'Check for National Data Opt-outs' service and how to use this see the guidance [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Simon Madden
Director of Data Policy