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## D I R E C T I O N S

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# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

## The Exercise of Functions by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (Coronavirus) Directions 2020

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care gives the following Directions in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 253 and 272(7) of the National Health Service Act 2006(a).

The Secretary of State considers that the incidence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in England constitutes an emergency for the purposes of section 253(1) of that Act, and that accordingly it is appropriate to give these Directions.

### Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the Exercise of Functions by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (Coronavirus) Directions 2020 and come into force at 11.00 a.m on 28 March 2020.

(2) These Directions are given to the Board.

### Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

“the Act” means the National Health Service Act 2006;

“the Board” means the National Health Service Commissioning Board(b);

“coronavirus” means severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);

“coronavirus disease” means COVID-19(c);

“foundation trust” means an NHS foundation trust within the meaning given in section 30(1)(d) of the Act;

“NHS trusts” has the meaning given in section 25(1) of the Act.

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- (a) 2006 c. 41. Section 253 was amended by section 47(1) to (6) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7). By virtue of section 273(4)(c), directions under section 253 must be given by regulations or an instrument in writing.
- (b) The National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as “NHS England”) was created by section 1H of the National Health Service Act 2006, as inserted by section 9(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- (c) That is the official designation of the disease which can be caused by coronavirus.
- (d) Section 30(1) was amended by section 159(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

### **Board to exercise functions of clinical commissioning groups**

**3.—**(1) The Secretary of State directs the Board to exercise the following functions of clinical commissioning groups(a), in accordance with paragraph (2)—

- (a) functions under section 3 of the Act (duties of clinical commissioning groups as to commissioning certain health services)(b),
- (b) functions under section 3A of the Act (power of clinical commissioning groups to commission certain health services)(c).

(2) The functions mentioned in paragraph (1) must be exercised by the Board during the period ending on 31st December 2020, as the Board deems appropriate, for the purposes of commissioning health services from foundation trusts and NHS trusts for any purposes related to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of coronavirus and coronavirus disease.

(3) The direction given in paragraph (1) does not preclude the exercise of any function under section 3 or 3A of the Act by a clinical commissioning group.

### **Board to exercise functions of NHS trusts and foundation trusts**

**4.—**(1) The Secretary of State directs the Board to exercise the following functions in accordance with paragraph (2)—

- (a) functions of NHS trusts under paragraph 14 of Schedule 4 to the Act (general powers of NHS trusts),
- (b) functions of NHS trusts under paragraph 25 of Schedule 4 to the Act (NHS trusts: staff),
- (c) functions of foundation trusts under section 47 of the Act (general powers of NHS foundation trusts).

(2) The functions mentioned in paragraph (1) must be exercised by the Board during the period ending on 31st December 2020, as the Board deems appropriate, in connection with the provision by any foundation trust or NHS trust of goods and services for any purposes related to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of coronavirus and coronavirus disease.

(3) The direction given in paragraph (1) does not preclude the exercise of any function—

- (a) under paragraph 14 or 25 of Schedule 4 to the Act by an NHS trust,
- (b) under section 47 of the Act by a foundation trust.

### **Board to exercise functions of the Secretary of State**

**5.—**(1) The Secretary of State directs the Board to exercise the Secretary of State's functions under section 254A of the Act(d) (support functions of the Secretary of State), in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The functions mentioned in paragraph (1) must be exercised by the Board during the period ending on 31st December 2020, as the Board deems appropriate, for the purpose of assisting any person exercising functions in relation to the health service or providing services for its purposes, for any purposes related to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of coronavirus and coronavirus disease.

(3) In exercising a function under section 254A(3) of the Act, the Board may only make available the services of any person employed by the Board.

(4) The direction given in paragraph (1) does not preclude the exercise of any function under section 254A of the Act by the Secretary of State.

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(a) Clinical commissioning groups were established by virtue of sections 11 and 14A to 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006, as inserted by sections 10 and 25(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

(b) Section 3 was amended by section 13(1) to (7) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

(c) Section 3A was inserted by section 14 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

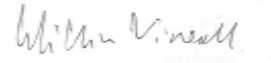
(d) Section 254A was inserted by paragraph 128 of Schedule 4 to the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

**Date on which these Directions cease to have effect**

6. These Directions cease to have effect at the end of 31st December 2020.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

*William Vineall*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Vineall', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

28 March 2020

Member of the Senior Civil Service  
Department of Health and Social Care