



# Department of Health

Sarah Wilkinson  
Chief Executive  
NHS Digital  
1 Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane  
Leeds  
LS1 6AE

19 September 2017

*Dear Sarah,*

I am writing to provide a Direction to the NHS Digital (previously HSCIC) to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of client-level Adult Social Care data from certain Local Authorities to support local health and care systems by providing a holistic view of how services are used.

This is specifically for the following purposes which will assist Local Government and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in fulfilling their statutory functions (which includes, for example, the functions of local authorities under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014):

- a. Monitoring, at a population level, particular cohorts of service users and designing analytical models which support more effective interventions in health and Adult Social Care
- b. Monitoring service and integrated care outcomes across a pathway or care setting involving Adult Social Care
- c. Developing, through evaluation, more effective interventions across a pathway or care setting involving Adult Social Care
- d. Designing and implementing new payment models across health and Adult Social Care
- e. Understanding current and future population needs and resource utilisation for local strategic planning purposes.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), 260(2)(d), 261(3), 274(2) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012<sup>1</sup> and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Social Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013<sup>2</sup>.

This Direction is to be known as the Collection of Client-Level Adult Social Care data and comes into force on 19/09/2017.

Under section 254 of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is required to:

- Collect client-level data from certain Local Authorities (see Annex 1) relating to adults in receipt of Local Authority-funded social care services that includes NHS Number, date of birth, postcode and information about care provision (see Annex 2).

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 c.7

<sup>2</sup> S.I. 2013/259

- Check the data supplied is as expected and carry out validation and data quality checks for any significant issues
- Trace any missing NHS Numbers (using NHS Digital datasets) where possible
- Anonymise the datasets in line with the ICO Code of Practice and insert consistent pseudonyms to enable them to be linked to health-based datasets

NHS Digital is directed to not publish information collected or produced by complying with this Direction, in accordance with section 260(2)(d). By virtue of section 261(3), NHS Digital is required to disseminate information generated as a result of compliance with this Direction.

NHS Digital is directed to restrict the onward dissemination of the anonymised linked data to the LAs who submitted the social care data and those CCGs that have some of their population included in the data and their data processors, including NHS England Commissioning Support Units (CSUs). Such data will only be shared following approval via NHS Digital's Data Access Service.

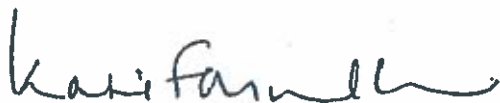
NHS Digital must take steps to ensure that no data collected under this direction is shared or published by any means which may lead to the identification of an individual. Local Authorities will have local arrangements for data sharing preferences. NHS Digital must also have regard to such policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing to NHS Digital.

This service may be extended in the future subject to this approach being proven to meet the intended purposes and to demand from Local Authorities. This would be enabled through a further direction.

Please accept this letter as a direction given under subsection (1) of section 254 of the 2012 Act to NHS Digital to exercise the functions in relation to the system for the collection and processing of client-level Adult Social Care data from certain Local Authorities.

In accordance with s254(5), NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

Yours sincerely



Katie Farrington  
Director of Primary Care, Digital and Data

Ends

**Local Authorities from whom the data is to be collected**

Liverpool City Council

Manchester City Council

Rochdale Borough Council

**Technical Specification**

**Frequency:** At most monthly, with a schedule agreed with the Local Authorities for a rolling 12-months

**Historic:** Up to 2 years (not before April 2014)

**Dataset:**



Microsoft Excel  
97-2003 Worksheet