



Department of Health

Sarah Wilkinson,
Chief Executive,
Health and Social Care Information Centre
1 Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

19 October 2017

Dear Sarah,

Direction to NHS Digital in regards to the 'Health and Social Care Network' (HSCN)

I am writing to provide a Direction to NHS Digital (also known formally as HSCIC) to establish and operate such systems for the collection and analysis of data as set out in Annex 1, and exercise a system delivery function for use within the sector by health care providers, whose data will traverse the network. This supports the Government's drive towards the integration of health and social care. An overview of HSCN is provided in Annex 2 for clarity.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by section 254(1) and (6), 274(1), 274(2) and 304(9)-(12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 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.

This Direction is to be known as the **Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCN Services) Direction 2017** and comes into force on 19 October 2017. In exercising the functions described in this Direction, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.

In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers it to be in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for the direction to be given.

In exercising the functions under this Direction, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing to NHS Digital.

In accordance with regulation 32(2)(a) of the Regulations, the Secretary of State may make payments to NHS Digital for things done in the exercise of the function described in this direction.

Please accept this letter as a direction given under subsection (1) of section 254 and 274 of the 2012 Act to NHS Digital to exercise the functions in relation to the Health and Social Care Network.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simone Bayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simone Bayes

Deputy Director

Digital Oversight, Information and Social Care