

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

16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Sarah

**1. The NHS Digital (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Mental Health Services) Directions 2020**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as **NHS England**) to provide Directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), section 260(4)(a), and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012<sup>1</sup> (**the 2012 Act**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of NHS England as NHS England may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.
- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **Mental Health Services Directions 2020** and come into force on the date signed.

**2. Purpose**

The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to obtain national, comparable, standardised data about Mental Health Services, as such term is used and construed in Information Standard DCB0011: Mental Health Services Data Set

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

(the Information Standard)<sup>2</sup> that will support the NHS to monitor and plan services effectively for children, young people and adults who are in contact with mental health, learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorder services, and to investigate the impact and coverage of such services at a local level.

### 3. Establishing and operating information systems for the Mental Health Services Directions data collection

3.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS England directs NHS Digital to establish and operate such systems for the collection and analysis of information from the Mental Health Services providers in England described in the Mental Health Services Data Set Requirements Specification and in the form and manner described in the Mental Health Services Data Set Technical Output Specification, which are published as part of the Information Standard and can be accessed via the link in the Annex to these Directions. Such system to be known as the **Mental Health Services Directions Information System**.

3.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Information Standard or any subsequent published version of the Information Standard that covers the same topic, and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above.

### 4. Analysis and linkage

4.1 Pursuant to NHS England's powers under 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is further directed to analyse the information collected pursuant to these Directions, including by such reference or linkage to other data held by NHS Digital as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.

4.2 The information to be collected for these Mental Health Services Directions 2020 may also be analysed by NHS Digital in the manner described and provided for in the **Life Sciences Directions 2019**<sup>3</sup> issued to NHS Digital by the Secretary of State on 21 October 2019 (as the same may be amended from time to time), for as long as those Directions remain in force.

### 5. Requirement for these Directions

5.1 In accordance with section 254(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS England considers that the information which could be obtained by complying with these Directions is information which it is necessary or expedient for NHS England to have in relation to its exercise of functions in connection with the provision of NHS services.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0011-mental-health-services-data-set>

<sup>3</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/life-sciences-directions-2019>

5.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

## 6. Publication

Where, pursuant to section 260(1) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital publishes information obtained by complying with these Directions, in accordance with section 260(4)(a) of the 2012 Act it must do so in a form, manner and timing agreed with NHS England.

## 7. Fees and Accounts

7.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.

7.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Mental Health Services Directions 2020.

## 8. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate the Mental Health Services Directions Information System (the **Directed Function**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of NHS England on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function. Where the Directed Function is to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

## 9. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed when the Information Standard is amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the 2012 Act.

## 10. Revocation

The NHS Digital (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Mental Health Services) Directions 2015 issued on 10 August 2015 by NHS England are revoked.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. B.', written in a cursive style.

Signed by authority of NHS England

## **ANNEX - The NHS Digital (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Mental Health Services) Directions 2020**

The Mental Health Services Data Set Requirements Specification and the Mental Health Services Data Set Technical Output Specification are published as part of the Information Standard *DCB0011: Mental Health Services Data Set* and are available on the NHS Digital website at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0011-mental-health-services-data-set>