



Simon Bolton
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Digital
7 & 8 Wellington Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 4AP

17 February 2022

Dear Simon,

1. Amendment No. 2 to the COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to give directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (**NHS Digital**), amending the COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020¹ dated 17 March 2020 (**the Original Directions**). Before giving these Directions, the Secretary of State has consulted with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012² (**the 2012 Act**).
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), 260(2)(d), 261(2)(e), 262(1), 262(3) and 304(9) to (12) of the 2012 Act and regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013³ and come into force on the day after the day on which they are signed.

2. Purpose of these Directions

The purpose of these Directions is to extend the Original Directions by omitting the expiry date contained within them and to make a consequential amendment to the review provision.

¹ <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/covid-19-public-health-directions-2020> as amended by the 'Amendment to Covid-19 Public Health Directions 2020' issued on 31 March 2020, <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/covid-19-public-health-directions-2020>.

² 2012 c.7.

³ S.I. 2013/259.

3. Amendment of the Original Directions

3.1 For paragraph 10 of the Original Directions substitute:

“NHS Digital is directed to operate the COVID-19 Public Health Information Systems and to undertake the system delivery functions referred to above (the **Directed Functions**) until further notice. Where a Directed Function is to cease, NHS Digital will be notified in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State giving them reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function.”

3.2 For paragraph 11 of the Original Directions substitute:

“These Directions will be reviewed annually, with a view to carrying out the first review during December 2022.”

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. P. Madden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Date signed: 17 February 2022