

NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

29th July 2021

Retrospective report: 16th – 29th July

19 July

On 19 July, the Government [announced in a letter to GPs](#) that it will be **halting its GP data sharing scheme**, admitting to previous mistakes in the way the project has been run. It said that it will be dropping the previous target date (1 September) to launch significantly increased patient data collections by NHS Digital from GPs, and that the project would only go live once four conditions have been met. These four conditions are: 1) The ability to delete data already collected prior to a person choosing to opt out; 2) The backlog of existing opt outs being fully cleared; 3) The development of a “trusted research environment” — a repository into which the data will be collected and accessed only by NHSD-approved users without further extracting the data; and 4) Greater patient awareness of the scheme.

21 July

On 21 July, the Government [announced](#) that **NHS staff will be receiving a 3% pay rise**, following heavy criticism of its previous recommendation for a 1 per cent increase. The announcement applies to hundreds of thousands of NHS staff, including nurses, consultants, non-clinical staff, paramedics and salaried GPs. It does not apply to junior doctors who are subject to a separate process, or partner GPs. Ministers said the offer meets the recommendations from pay review bodies. Several unions have released public statements which criticise the offer. Unison general secretary Christina McAnea said: “The government’s acceptance of the NHS pay review body recommendation is an improvement on its earlier miserly 1 per cent proposal. But the increase falls short of what NHS staff deserve after the past 16 months. It’s less than the wage rise given to Scottish health colleagues and not enough to protect the NHS.”

22 July

On 22 July, [a statement by health minister Edward Argar](#) confirmed the **details of the key changes to the Integrated Care System (ICS) boundaries**. Only six ICS’ will have their boundaries changed, to match the boundaries of their local authorities. Former Health Secretary had said previously that other ICS’ were also expected to change to match upper-tier local council areas, but Sajid Javid had reversed this decision. NHS Providers chief executive Chris Hopson described the minister’s decision as a “change of heart” but warned there remained a “risk to patient care” in those ICSs which must change. He said the boundary switch must be “co-designed and co-controlled by the trusts affected so they can do all they can to preserve the gains in integrated care that have been made over the last few years and minimise disruption to services”.

28 July

On 28 July, it was [announced that Amanda Pritchard has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NHS England](#). Pritchard will be the first woman in the health service’s history to hold the post, which she will take up on Sunday August 1. As NHS chief executive, she will be responsible for an annual budget of more than £130 billion while ensuring that everyone in the country receives high quality care. Elsewhere, it was announced on 27 July that **Andrew New has been appointed as the CEO for NHS Supply Chain**. He was chosen following an external, fair and open recruitment campaign and will join NHS Supply Chain from his current role at JCB, where he held the position of Group Executive Director, Purchasing and Supply Chain. Prior to that, he held senior procurement and supply chain roles for Magnox (a subsidiary of the NDA) and Babcock International Group.

Lookahead: 29th July – 12th August (*Parliament is in recess until September*)

The Health and Care Bill was debated at second reading on Wednesday 14 July 2021 and has now been sent to a Public Bill Committee which will scrutinise the Bill line by line and is expected to report to the House by Tuesday 2 November 2021.

The first sitting of the Public Bill Committee is expected to be on Tuesday 7 September. [Written evidence can now be sent in to the Public Bill Committee.](#) Your submission should be emailed to scrutiny@parliament.uk.

Relevant Select Committee Inquiries that are currently open

- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Digital Transformation in the NHS](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** - [NHS nursing workforce](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Adult social care markets](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** - [COVID-19: Government procurement and supply of personal protective equipment](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Social Care: funding and workforce](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Coronavirus: lessons learnt](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Coronavirus: recent developments](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Department's White Paper on health and social care](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Treatment of autistic people and individuals with learning disabilities](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Safety of maternity services in England](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Supporting those with dementia and their carers](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [General Practice Data for Planning and Research](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Cancer Services](#)

- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Clearing the backlog caused by the pandemic](#)
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee** - [Long term funding of adult social care](#)
- **COVID-19 Committee** - [The long-term impact of the pandemic on parents and families](#)

Relevant Consultations that are currently open

- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Standard adult ready-to-drink oral nutritional supplements: ACBS policy](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [The appointment and operation of the Patient Safety Commissioner](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Aligning the upper age for NHS prescription charge exemptions with the State Pension age](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Changes to giving free prescriptions to people aged 60 and over](#)
- **Department for Work and Pensions** - [Shaping future support: the health and disability green paper](#)

Upcoming events

- **Tuesday 3rd August:** NHS Confederation - [Comprehensive Spending Review roundtable 2](#)
- **Thursday 5th August:** NHS England - [Introduction to the Model Health System](#)
- **Wednesday 11th August:** NHS Confederation - [Connecting primary care to place and system](#)

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