



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Department of Health and Social  
Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

Sir James Mackey  
Chief Executive Officer  
NHS England

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Dear Sir James

## 1. NHS App Amendment Directions 2026

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the **Secretary of State**) to give directions amending the **NHS App Directions 2023**<sup>1</sup> (the **Original Directions**).
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), 304(9) to (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the **2012 Act**<sup>2</sup>), section 13ZC of the National Health Service Act 2006<sup>3</sup> and regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and NHS England (Information Functions) Regulations 2013<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.3 These Directions are to be known as the **NHS App Amendment Directions 2026** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

## 2. Purpose of these Directions

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions is to amend the Original Directions to remove reference to the NHS App Technical Specification.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/nhs-app-directions-2023>

<sup>2</sup> 2012 c.7. Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

<sup>3</sup> 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

<sup>4</sup> S.I. 2013/259 as amended by S.I. 2023/98

### 3. Requirement for these Directions

3.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that the information being obtained by complying with the Original Directions as amended by these Directions is information which is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England.

3.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.

3.3 In accordance with section 13ZC(5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.

3.4 In accordance with Regulation 32(1) of the Regulations the Secretary of State is requiring NHS England to exercise such systems delivery functions of the Secretary of State as specified in these Directions

### 4. Amendment to the Original Directions

4.1 The Original Directions are amended as follows.

4.1.1 In paragraph 4.2 substitute

*“NHS England is directed to exercise the Systems Delivery Functions in accordance with*

*4.2.1 the NHS App Technical Specification version 1 published with these Directions as the same may be updated from time to time; and*

*4.2.2 the NHS App Services Requirements Specification version 1 approved on 2 March 2023 published with these Directions as the same may be updated from time to time,*

*(together **the Specifications**).*”

with

*“NHS England is directed to exercise the Systems Delivery Functions in accordance with the NHS App Services Requirements Specification published with these Directions as the same may be updated from time to time, **(the Requirements Specification)**.*”

4.1.2 In paragraph 5.2 and paragraph 9 substitute ‘Specifications’ with ‘Requirements Specification’.

## 5. Continuing effect of the Original Directions

These Directions supplement the Original Directions, which continue in force, as amended by these Directions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. P. S.', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026