

2021 No. (WG21-30)

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, WALES

The Digital Health and Care Wales (No.2) Directions 2021

The Welsh Ministers make the following Directions in exercise of the power conferred by sections 23(1) and 24(1) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006(1).

Title and commencement

1.—(1) The title of these Directions is the Digital Health and Care Wales (No.2) Directions 2021.

(2) These Directions come into force on 1 April 2021.

(3) These Directions are given to Digital Health and Care Wales.

Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

“the Act” (“*y Ddeddf*”) means the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;

“DHCW” (“*IGDC*”) means Digital Health and Care Wales established by article 2 of the Digital Health and Care Wales (Establishment and Membership) Order 2020(2);

“digital platforms, systems and services” (“*platfformau, systemau a gwasanaethau digidol*”) means hardware, software and other arrangements for the digital collection, storage, processing, analysis, use and dissemination of health service data;

“digital workforce” (“*gweithlu digidol*”) means those who are employed or engaged, or considering becoming employed or engaged, in the design, development, or delivery of digital platforms, systems and services;

“health service data” (“*data gwasanaethau iechyd*”) means data processed for or in connection with the provision or promotion of services under the Act.

(1) 2006 c. 42.

(2) S.I. 2020/1451 (W. 313)

Functions

3.—(1) In order to secure the provision or promotion of effective digital platforms, systems and services the Welsh Ministers direct DHCW to—

- (a) design, develop and deliver, either directly or by entering into arrangements with others, digital platforms, systems and services;
- (b) support and assist others in the design, development and delivery of digital platforms, systems and services;
- (c) support the development and implementation of common standards for digital platforms, systems and services;
- (d) advise and assist the Welsh Ministers in relation to the security of digital platforms, systems, services and health service data;
- (e) support the development of the digital workforce through education, training and promotion of professional standards.

(2) DHCW may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of its functions.

(3) DHCW may provide advice and make recommendations to the Welsh Ministers on any matter connected with its functions.

(4) In exercising its functions, DHCW must not disclose information if disclosure of the information is prohibited by any enactment or other rule of law.

Improvement

4. DHCW must exercise its functions with a view to—

- (a) securing that digital platforms, systems and services are effective for the purpose of the provision of health services under the Act; and
- (b) promoting improvement in—
 - (i) the quality of digital platforms, systems and services;
 - (ii) the digital workforce; and
 - (iii) the provision of health services under the Act.

Annual plan

5.— (1) DHCW must prepare, and deliver to the Welsh Ministers, for each financial year an Annual Plan specifying how it proposes to exercise its functions under these directions.

(2) In preparing its Annual Plan DHCW must take into account—

- (a) the likely future demand for health services under the Act; and
- (b) health service providers' priorities in relation to digital platforms, systems and services.

Guidance set by Welsh Ministers

6. DHCW, in exercising its functions, must have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers.

Name

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Minister for Health and Social Services

Date 21 March 2021