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Annwyl Helen,

### **Collection of data for secondary use purposes by Digital Health and Care Wales**

Ahead of the official launch of Digital Health and Care Wales (“DHCW”) on 1 April 2021, I am writing to confirm the requirement to continue to utilise and provide the platforms, systems and services that were previously operated by the NHS Wales Informatics Service (“NWIS”) for data collection, processing and analysis, for both direct and indirect care purposes.

I am aware that in some areas there has been ambiguity around NWIS status with regards to the collection and dissemination of health service data, reflecting its historic hosting arrangements.

DHCW has a more certain status. Article 3(b) of the Digital Health and Care Wales (Establishment and Membership) Order 2020 provides that Welsh Ministers may provide direction to Digital Health and Care Wales in connection with “the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of health service data”. This is further confirmed through the Digital Health and Care Wales (No.2) Directions 2021 (“the Functions Directions”) and the Digital Health and Care Wales (Transfer of Staff, Property, Rights and Liabilities) Order 2021, which makes the provision for the transfer of NWIS functions from Velindre University NHS Trust to DHCW.

For the avoidance of doubt, Digital Health and Care Wales should collect, process, use and disseminate health service data, using those platforms, systems and services previously operated by NWIS, a list of these functions are set out in the Annex to this letter. In addition, Digital Health and Care Wales will provide further platforms, systems and services developed and delivered in line with the Functions Directions, and this information should be used for both direct and indirect care purposes, to support the improvement of health and care for Welsh residents.

Yn Gywir,

**Ifan Evans**

Director –Technology, Digital & Transformation  
Welsh Government – Health & Social Services Group



## ANNEX SECONDARY USE SERVICE DATA

### 1. Prescribed Data Uses

- (a) the provision, design, management, development and delivery of digital platforms, systems and services;
- (b) the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of health service data;
- (c) supporting bodies and persons identified in directions given by the Welsh Ministers to DHCW in relation to matters relevant to digital platforms, systems and services;

### 2. Collection of Data:

- (a) The Patient Episode Database Wales (PEDW)
- (b) National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD)
- (c) European Union Settled Status (EUSS) and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) data
- (d) Any episodic information on Welsh residents as processed by Health & Care establishments outside of NHS Wales
- (e) National Clinical Audits data

### 3. Processing and Dissemination of Data

In addition to the above datasets as the service require in the exercise of:

- (a) Direct care
- (b) Healthcare planning
- (c) Commissioning and validation of services
- (d) Value based healthcare
- (e) National Tariff reimbursement
- (f) The development of national policy
- (g) Supporting the information needs of the Health Boards in the management of their resources and services.
- (H) Support the management and planning of health services
- (I) Enable general medical research and statistical functions
- (J) Identify public health issues
- (K) Monitor improvements in public health on behalf of other organisations responsible for public health provision
- (L) Develop, monitor and evaluate government policies, and otherwise support the work of the Health & Social Services Group of the Welsh Government
- (M) Contribute to the production of Welsh Government statistical publications
- (N) Improve the patient or carer experience
- (O) In support of information processed as part of the collection and remuneration of dispensed drugs by Community Pharmacies
- (P) In support of information processed as part of transactions through the delivery of additional services by Community Pharmacies