



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Office for
Life Sciences

Sharing data for the "NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England" (Innovation Scorecard) publication

February 2018

<p>Title: Sharing data for the "NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England" (Innovation Scorecard) publication</p>
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Sharing data for the "NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England" (Innovation Scorecard) publication

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Executive Summary

The "NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England" (Innovation Scorecard) publication reports on the use of medicines and medical technologies in the NHS in England which have been positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) since 2012. NHS Digital has produced and published the Innovation Scorecard quarterly as an Official Statistic since January 2013 on behalf of the Office for Life Sciences. The Scorecard is produced using a range of data sources, some of which are entirely dependent on data provided by industry as there is currently no central data collection available.

This consultation is seeking views from companies who produce medical technologies, and diagnostic products, about sharing their data with NHS Digital so that it can be published on the Scorecard. This will enable wider awareness of what innovative products are available, improving patient access to these products and potentially increasing their adoption and uptake.

By data on **innovative products** we mean information on the number of units of medical technologies, diagnostic and digital products sold or bought, which we use as a proxy for uptake.

Introduction

The Innovation Scorecard is a quarterly publication which:

- provides the most up to date information on the purchasing of innovative medicines and medical technologies across the NHS in England, showing national trends and local variations in uptake;
- enables the NHS to use the information to act upon unwarranted variation;
- enables Government and industry to better understand innovation uptake;
- provides information to commissioners so they know where to find the latest innovations that can positively improve the health of their local populations;
- provides an essential tool for discovering what products are available to patients.

We would like access to company sales volume data in order to improve the information on uptake of innovative products which is published on the Scorecard.

Data Challenges

In order to improve the number of medical technologies captured and ensure new innovations are picked up, it is important that we can draw on a wide range of data sources but in most cases that data is only available from industry directly.

The key challenge for increasing the range of medical technologies on the Scorecard have centred on:

- Commercial sensitivities attached to the possible release of information provided to NHS Digital which might be disclosed if requested under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Note: The FOI Act gives you the right to access recorded information held by public sector organisations; except in certain circumstances where an exemption may apply.
- Often sales volume data, directly from companies, is the only data set available.
- Difficulty securing comprehensive datasets from just NHS sources which tend to be incomplete so do not present a full enough picture to meet the high threshold for an Official Statistic.

One of the guiding principles in publishing statistics is that where the numbers are so small that they could lead to the identification of an individual they should be suppressed. Our aim is to adopt the same approach in dealing with FOI requests for sales volume data.

This consultation aims to agree the principles that should guide data sharing between industry and NHS Digital for use in the Innovation Scorecard by:

- Agreeing the level and type of data that should be submitted and therefore would be released in response to FOI requests (and by extension, Parliamentary Questions).
- Making companies aware of the potential exemption to releasing company data on the volume of sales to the NHS that could apply under the FOI Act.
- Seeking company's views about what might encourage them to share this information.

Introduction

Why we are interested

- **This is why we are interested:** improving the Scorecard will enable us to identify variations in uptake and to raise awareness of what innovative products are available.
- **This is why you are interested:** the Scorecard has the potential to increase the sales of your products.
- **This is the difference your response will make:** it will result in a better understanding of your views on sharing this information and any barriers.

How to respond

Thank you for taking the time to complete the consultation survey.

You can fill out the consultation response online at: <https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/life-sciences/innovation-scorecard/>

Alternatively, you can email your response to: officeforlifesciences@beis.gov.uk

You don't have to answer all the questions in any section, but must enter a response to those questions marked 'required'. Please leave blank those questions you don't have a view on.

There are 19 questions in this consultation and it should take no more than 30 mins to complete (this includes reading the consultation document).

Consultation Questions

Introduction

1. What is your name?

- First name:
- Surname:

2. What is your email address?

This is optional, but if you enter your email address then you will be able to return to edit your consultation at any time until you submit it. You will also receive an acknowledgement email when you complete the consultation.

- Email:

3. Are you happy for the Department of Health to use your email address to contact you to clarify points in your response if necessary? (Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

4. Are you responding as an individual or as part of an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

If you selected organisation, what is the name of your organisation?

What is the role of your organisation?

5. Where are you/your organisation mainly based?

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- other

Consultation Questions

If other, please tell us where you or your organisation is based.

6. A company with fewer than 50 employees is defined in EU recommendation 2003/361 as 'small', between 50 to 249 employees is defined as 'medium-sized' and a company with 250 or more employees is defined as 'large'. (Required)

Are you a:

- Large technology company
- Medium sized technology company
- Small technology company
- Large pharmaceutical company
- Medium sized pharmaceutical company
- Small pharmaceutical company
- Member of the public
- Industry body
- Other

7. If you are responding on behalf of a company, are you authorised to release sales volume data on its behalf?

- Yes
- No

If No, would you be willing to discuss your organisations data release process?

Comment:

8. Please indicate how strongly you agree, or disagree, that sales volume data should be published at National, Regional, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), or Trust level in order to protect business confidentiality:

(Required)	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly agree
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Company sales volume data should be shared at National Level

Please select only one item

Company sales volume data should be

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(Required) Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

shared at Regional level

Please select only one item

Company sales volume data should be shared at CCG Level

Please select only one item

Company sales volume data should be shared at Trust level

Please select only one item

If you would not share this information below national level can you indicate why? Please insert 'Not Applicable' if appropriate.

Comment:

9. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act places a duty on public bodies like NHS Digital, to share the information it holds in response to FOI requests. Section 43 of the Act allows for information to be withheld if it would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. It is subject to a public interest test, for example, whether such disclosure would make it less likely that companies would provide NHS Digital with commercially sensitive information in future. Were you aware of this potential exemption?

- Yes
- No

10. If you were not previously aware of this potential exemption, would you be more comfortable sharing your sales volume information now that you are? (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

11. Would you be willing to share your sales volume data with NHS Digital knowing that it could be shared in response to a FOI request? (Required)

- Yes

Consultation Questions

- No
- Don't know

Please indicate at what level you would be willing to share sales volume data with NHS Digital. Tick all that apply.

Multiple choice checkboxes

- National
- Regional
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Trust

12. What would encourage you to share sales volume data? (Required)

13. Where information needs to be shared in response to a FOI request would you like NHS Digital to do its best to ensure you are made aware as soon as is practically possible?

- Yes
- No
- Unconcerned

If 'yes', how soon would you like to be notified?

Please select only one item

- 5 working days
- Unconcerned

14. Were you aware of the Innovation Scorecard before this consultation?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

15. Have you used the Innovation Scorecard publication before?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

16. How regularly do you use the Innovation Scorecard?

Please select only one item

- Weekly
- Fortnightly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Yearly

17. Please indicate for what primary uses you have used the information in the Innovation Scorecard?

18. Do you have any other comments on the sharing of company sales volume data for use in the Innovation Scorecard?

Help us improve how the department runs consultations by answering the following questions:

19. How satisfied are you with the consultation process?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Disappointed

Further comments:

20. How satisfied are you with the digital consultation experience?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Disappointed

Further comments:

How to respond

How to respond

You can fill out the consultation response online at: <https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/life-sciences/innovation-scorecard/>

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