

From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yours David,'.

**THE QUALITY INFORMATION COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TAKING FORWARD THE
FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF DATA RETURNS**

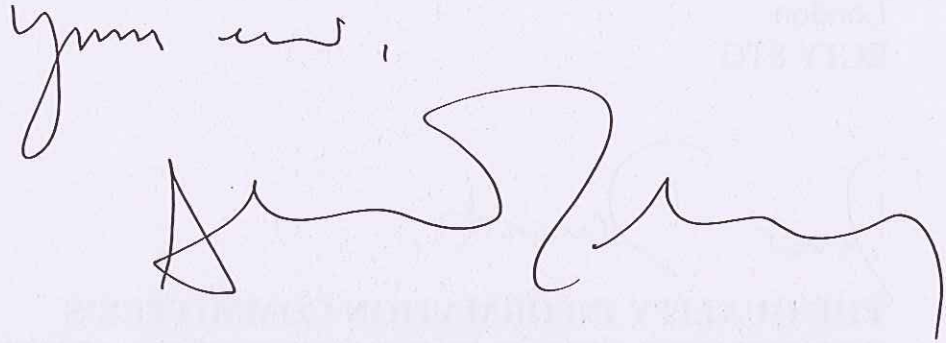
Thank you for your letter earlier this month that set out the Quality Information Committee's recommendations regarding the Fundamental Review of Data Returns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both you and the Committee for your commitment and valued input to this important piece of work. The external scrutiny you have applied to this work and the subsequent advice you have provided have positively shaped the outcomes.

I have seen the recommendations of the Fundamental Review of Data Returns and agree with your committee that these should be further validated through public consultation to obtain views from a wider audience. Following a consultation period, my officials will proceed with decommissioning relevant data returns to contribute to achieving the *Liberating the NHS: equity and excellence* vision.

The Fundamental Review of Data Returns consultation document will also signal the intention to undertake a further phase of work. I agree with your observations that this second phase should analyse in further detail across both the Department and Arms Length Bodies the proposed retained returns, with the aim of identifying and removing those individual data lines that are no longer required and the scope for more efficient and less burdensome collection systems and processes. The timing of the second phase will enable engagement with new

organisational entities in the form of the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England to ensure alignment with their future data needs.

I understand that plans on how to achieve this work will be detailed in the Government response to the consultation. I would like to invite QIC to have a continued key role in this further piece of work to provide external validation, scrutiny and advice, and look forward to receiving this advice in due course.

Yours sincerely,


ANDREW LANSLEY CBE