



PHE call for evidence: Memorandum of understanding on data-sharing between NHS Digital and the Home Office

A tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Home Office (HO), and NHS Digital came into effect in January 2017. This MoU describes the processes under which information requests submitted by the HO are made to and processed by NHS Digital.

PHE's response to DHSC reported evidence about migrant health and illness behaviours showing that fear of deportation is a barrier to seeking care. There is currently however much less evidence about the impact of data sharing arrangements and specific knowledge of those arrangements on deterring undocumented immigrants from seeking healthcare and treatment. As a consequence, DHSC asked 'PHE to undertake a review within two years of the impact on public health and health seeking behaviour arising from the disclosure of personal data in relation to the investigation of criminal offences, including immigration offences'.

As part of this review, PHE is launching a call for evidence on the impact of the MoU on health and healthcare seeking behaviour among migrant populations. All types of evidence from interested parties with relevant knowledge or insight would be welcome. Such evidence might be in the form of peer reviewed publications, narrative accounts and case studies, or more formal analyses employing qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods. Evidence submissions should be succinct and relevant to the following question:

What is the public health impact of the Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing between NHS Digital, the Home Office, and the Department of Health, particularly on health seeking behaviour and health outcomes of the migrant population?

Please note we are equally interested in evidence of an effect or of "no effect".

For further information about the call for evidence, please contact callforevidence@phe.gov.uk.

Submissions should be sent to callforevidence@phe.gov.uk by **30 March 2018**.