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Sent by email to: hannah@digitalhealth.net

To: Lisa Emery, Sarah Hanbridge and James Reed
From: Amanda Prichard, CEO and Dr Tim Ferris, National Director
In copy: Matthew Gould, Simon Bolton

22 December 2021

Dear Lisa, Sarah, and James

Many thanks for your letter which raises a number of excellent points. We're delighted to hear how positive you are about your relationship with NHSX and NHS Digital. The role you and your network members have played has been invaluable and has strengthened our shared work. It is essential that this cooperation continues as the health and care system faces the next phase - using technology to deliver for patients while recovering services, addressing backlogs, addressing health inequalities, and supporting staff.

The Transformation Directorate builds on the accomplishments of NHS Digital and NHSX, reinforcing how critical the use of digital and data are to improving health and wellbeing. As Laura Wade-Gery's report states: *"Progress has been made, with some outstanding delivery from national teams as well as the frontline."* We are proud of what NHS Digital and NHSX have achieved working alongside you and your members. Together, they have successfully delivered the NHS Covid Pass, virtual covid wards, the Shielded Patient list, the Vaccine Booking Service and Covid Testing Portal. They have overseen 20 million people become users on the NHS App, 28 million sign ups for NHS login, and powered a wide range of other frontline innovations. And all this is in addition to keeping the live services functioning for our clinicians, staff, and patients.

The merger ensures that digital transformation is at the heart of our strategy for the NHS, and NHS England's wider transformation ambitions by providing a clearer link with national programs and operations. With the elevation of Simon Bolton as interim CIO and Head of Profession to the NHS England executive team, we will strengthen this voice within the NHS leadership. To your point about boards, digital was recently included as a core element of the new NHS England CEO and ICS CEO role descriptions. We have also been embedding digital into how ICSs are developed, for example through our 'What Good Looks Like' and 'Who Pays for What' guidance.



This is an exciting time, where we are capitalising on the progress made by you and your colleagues over the past 18 months. CIOs, CNIOs, CCIOs are absolutely critical to delivering this vision and we are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Pritchard
CEO

Dr Tim Ferris
National Director for Transformation

