

Better Care Fund 2026-27 Numerical Template

Data Sharing Statement

Data Sharing Statement

Please see below important information regarding data sharing and how the data provided during this collection will be used. This statement covers how NHS England will use the information provided.

Purpose of data collection

NHS England is collecting data on behalf of Better Care Fund (BCF) partners to fulfil statutory duties, including improving healthcare quality, efficiency, and transparency. The data supports operational and strategic planning, financial management, workforce planning, and system feedback, as mandated by the NHS Act 2006 and relevant regulations.

Type and scope of data

Patient-level data, including identifiable information like NHS numbers, is not required.

Data includes finance, activity, workforce, and planning information as specified in the national guidance documents.

The BCF numerical template is categorised as "Management Information," and aggregated data, including narrative sections, will be published on the NHS England website and gov.uk.

Access, sharing, and publication

The BCF numerical template is categorised as 'Management Information' and data submitted will be published in an aggregated form on the NHS England website and gov.uk. This will include a narrative section. Please also note that all BCF information collected here is subject to Freedom of Information requests.

Internal Access: Data will be accessed by NHS England national and regional teams on a "need-to-know" basis and may be shared internally to support statutory responsibilities.

External Sharing: Data and information from this numerical template and associated narrative return may be shared with partner organisations and Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) including BCF partners (i.e. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England) for joint working and policy development.

Publication: Local Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) are encouraged to publish local plans. Until publication, recipients of BCF reporting data (including those accessing the Better Care Exchange) cannot share it publicly or use it for journalism or research without prior consent from the HWB (for single HWB data) or BCF national partners (for aggregated data).

Storage and security

Data will be securely stored on NHS England servers. Shared data will be minimised and handled per confidentiality and security requirements.

The BCF template is password-protected to ensure data integrity and accurate aggregation. Breaches may require resubmission.

Data analysis and use

NHS England will analyse data submissions for feedback, reporting, benchmarking, and system improvement.

Triangulation with other data may be conducted to support deeper analysis and insights and inform decision-making.

Concerns

For any questions about data sharing, please contact your regional Better Care Managers or the national Better Care Fund team england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net

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