MINI BULLETIN – 23 January 2024

**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has removed the statutory requirement for a full employment history with respect to volunteers in health and care settings.**

This amendment to [Legislation](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legislation.gov.uk%2Fuksi%2F2023%2F1404%2Fpdfs%2Fuksiem_20231404_en_001.pdf&data=05%7C02%7C%7C10536bc30d9641eb95de08dc1c13c95b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638416118510778399%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DpTFNxuF2DN7gnUQ3PajBbgc9SUyD%2FBacG6bfK4AP68%3D&reserved=0) follows the conclusion of a consultation last year and means that employers are no longer required to request this information from volunteer applicants if deemed unnecessary.

This will help to streamline volunteer recruitment processes, remove barriers for applicants, and reduce administrative burden for service providers.

Employers can still request a full employment history should they deem it appropriate when appointing a volunteer. However, it will no longer be a statutory requirement.

This change has been reflected in Section 2.3 of the [employment history and reference checks standard](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhsemployers.org%2Fpublications%2Femployment-history-and-reference-checks-standard&data=05%7C02%7C%7C10536bc30d9641eb95de08dc1c13c95b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638416118510788025%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=D5UoO1GY6C%2FBezHspPbjWVqaUlClvHQCkb6KmOX7wg4%3D&reserved=0).

The Government has committed to reviewing the impact of the change within two years.

Employers are still required to ensure that volunteer recruitment processes remain robust, safe and effective and should always refer to the six [NHS employment check standards](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhsemployers.org%2Frecruitment%2Femployment-standards-and-regulation&data=05%7C02%7C%7C10536bc30d9641eb95de08dc1c13c95b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638416118510795441%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x1t3La7IETNIz72zP1ATTXtae2Bx4Bx06bQcuy%2BzjGE%3D&reserved=0).

NHS App waiting list information

From Tuesday 30 January, the NHS App will show the **mean (average) waiting time** to patients who have been referred into a specialty in acute trusts. This national rollout follows a successful local trial.