

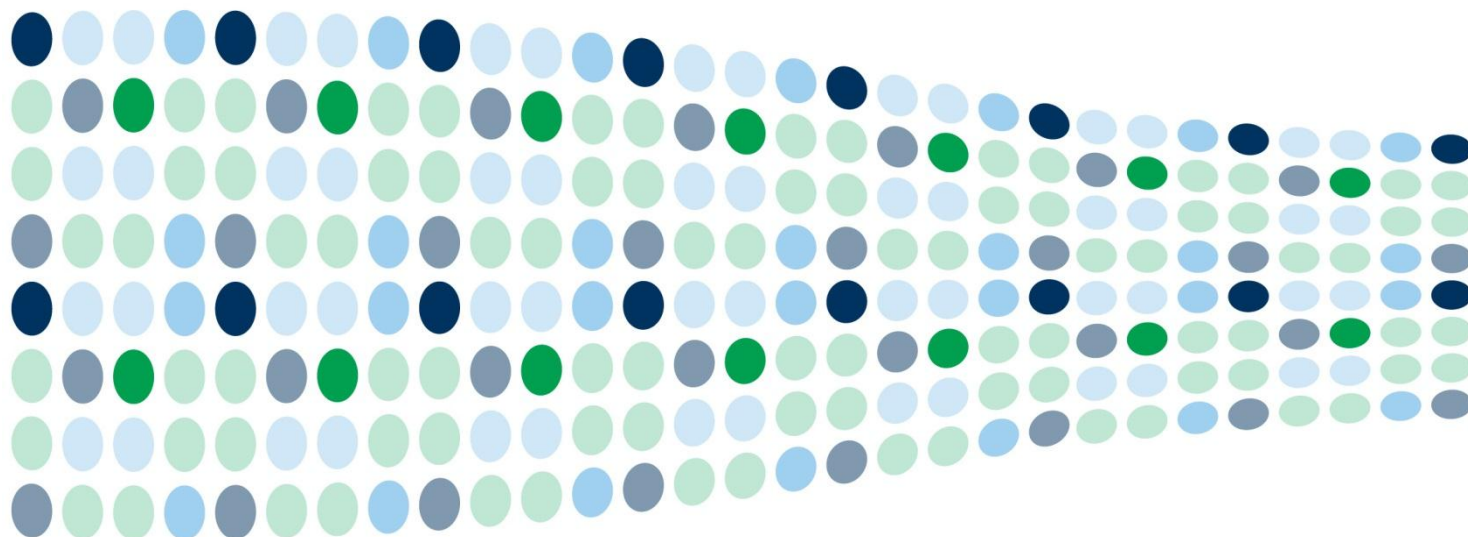


Health & Social Care
Information Centre

Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (England) Quarter 1 Return, 2014-15

1 April – 30 June, 2014-15

Data Quality Statement



Published 2 October 2014

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Data Quality

Relevance

This dimension covers the degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.

Since 2009, care homes and hospitals have had to seek authorisation from their Local Authority if they need to deprive an individual who lacks capacity of their liberty as part of their care and/or treatment. The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) currently collects data from Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs or councils) on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) at a case level on an annual basis. This information is then published in the annual report 'Mental Capacity Act, 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards'.

Supreme Court judgments handed down on 19 March 2014 have, anecdotally led to a substantial increase in the number of Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) applications received by councils. As a result of this situation, the Department of Health proposed the introduction of a temporary, voluntary data collection which has been approved by the DH/ADASS Outcomes and Information Development Board (OIDB¹) and the HSCIC Programme and Service Delivery Board. This quarterly collection will enable stakeholders to monitor the scale of the Supreme Court judgements' impact on councils in a timely manner, and will allow for any increase in the number of DoL applications to be quantified and evidenced.

The background information and key facts contain the following types of information about DoLS from participating councils in England:

- Background to the DoLS quarterly return
- The percentage of participating councils by region
- The percentage of participating councils by type of Local Authority
- The total number of DoL applications by month in quarter 1 2014-15
- The total number of DoL applications, including those granted and not granted for the previous year 2013-14 for councils participating in the quarter 1 collection
- The total number of granted and not granted DoL applications in quarter 1 2014-15

Information in this statement will be of interest to organisations monitoring DoL applications in England, such as the Department of Health, the Care Quality Commission, hospitals and care homes. It may also be useful to mental health charities, individuals being deprived of their liberty and their families who are interested in more information about DoLS and the extent of its use.

Accuracy and reliability

This dimension looks at factors affecting the accuracy and completeness of the data.

Steps to ensure accuracy

In Omnibus, the total number of granted and not granted applications were automatically calculated to ensure accuracy. Following this the HSCIC ran a number of validation checks on the data submissions sent via Omnibus. The validations checked the calculated total was less than or equal to the number of applications reported.

¹Now known as the Data and Outcomes Board (DOB)

England coverage

Of the 152 councils in England 130 submitted a timely return for quarter 1. Of the 22 councils that didn't submit quarter 1 data, the main reasons for this were due to heavy workloads or relevant DoLS contacts being absent during the submission time.

Eight councils submitted their data after the deadline of 12 September but before the closure of the Omnibus pro forma, which was 19 September. Four of these councils submitted their data in time to be included in the analysis, however the other four did not. Due to the tight turnaround required to publish the quarter 1 figures, these councils were excluded from the analysis. They will however, along with the other councils that were unable to submit their quarter 1 figures, be encouraged to do so during the quarter 2 collection. It is expected that the figures in quarter 1 will continue to change as further applications are completed.

The list of 22 councils that have not been included in the quarter 1 analysis can be found in the Excel document accompanying this statement.

Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reporting period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.

This statement contains data for the first quarter in the 2014-15 reporting year, which covers the period 1 April to 30 June 2014. This statement was published on 2 October 2014, which is approximately 2 weeks after the close of the collection period and 3 months after the close of the reporting period.

The deadline for councils to submit their quarter 1 DoLS data was 12 September 2014; however Omnibus remained open for submissions until 19 September 2014. Eight councils submitted their data after the deadline.

The statement was published on the planned date and is therefore deemed to be punctual.

Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.

Accessibility

The background information and key facts are available from the HSCIC website at the below address:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1415q1>

Reuse of our data is subject to conditions outlined here:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/data-protection/terms-and-conditions>

Clarity

A list of the data items collected in quarter 1 together with their definitions can be found in the guidance document available at the link below. This can be used to see what data has been collected from councils:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2015>

Coherence and comparability

Coherence is the degree to which data which have been derived from different sources or methods but refer to the same topic are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.

Coherence

Data has been taken from the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (England) Annual Report 2013-14¹. The annual report was based on the number of DoL applications completed within 2013-14. However for the purposes of comparison with the quarterly 2014-15 data, analysis has been focussed on the number of DoL applications received in the 2013-14 reporting year, and is limited to only those 130 councils who have submitted quarter 1 2014-15 data.

Comparability

As this is a new collection of quarterly data, currently there are no other sources collecting the same information with which this analysis can be compared. Following the collection of quarter 2 data, comparisons will be made with the quarter 1 figures.

Performance, cost and respondent burden

This dimension describes the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.

Submission of quarterly DoLS data is voluntary for all 152 councils in England. Councils are requested to record summary figures about applications for each month within the quarter and submit these data to the HSCIC at the end of the quarter. Data is submitted via Omnibus, a secure web based data collection system.

Confidentiality, transparency and security

The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.

All statistics are subject to a standard HSCIC risk assessment prior to issue. The risk assessment considers the sensitivity of the data and whether reporting products might disclose information about specific individuals. Methods of disclosure control are discussed and the most appropriate methods implemented.

The HSCIC aims to be transparent in all its activities. Any issues with the quality of the quarterly DoLS data are documented in the **Accuracy and reliability** section of this document.

The DoLS data is returned to the HSCIC through a secure data collection system called Omnibus. The submitted data is downloaded from Omnibus and stored on a secure network with restricted access folders. Only a limited number of analysts can access the DoLS folders.

¹<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/mentcap1314annual>

Please see links below for more information about related HSCIC policies.

Statistical Governance Policy (see link in 'user documents' on right hand side of page):
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar>

Freedom of Information Process:
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/foi>

Data Access and Information Sharing Policy:
<http://portal/Documents/Policies/DAIS%20Policy%20Final%204.0%20updated.pdf>

Privacy and data Protection:
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/privacy>

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