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REDUCTION IN DATA REQUESTS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL NHS ORGANISATIONS

The reduction in central data collection requirements announced by the Department of Health today is good news for all NHS organisations, says the NHS Confederation. The Foundation Trust Network is also encouraged by the new guidance from Monitor on information requests for Foundation Trusts.

Dr Gill Morgan, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said "We are delighted with these measures, which will be welcomed across the NHS. We have long called for a reduction in central reporting requirements and these measures will free time and resources to focus on improvements in patient care."

Responding to the Department of Health announcement and Monitor's guidance, Sue Slipman, director of the Foundation Trust Network, said:

"The Department of Health's decision to significantly reduce the reporting burden for foundation trusts is a great step forward. Monitor's guidance is also good news. It is a welcome statement of intent to streamline information requests and creates a workable system to ensure information demands are reasonable."

"However, just six months into their existence, Foundation Trusts have already been besieged by information requests from a variety of sources. While 48 existing demands have been removed, a further 58 remain, and we are concerned that these could soon start to mount up. We want to work with Monitor to ensure that Foundation Trusts are able to make representations to Monitor if they feel that the burden of requests is increasing."