



**Health and Care Bill:  
Committee Stage briefing – January 2022  
Amendment 307:**

**NHS number as a single unique identifier for children in health and care**

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists very much supports Amendment 307.

If accepted, it could help to better facilitate data and information sharing in health and care, including for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

- The current system makes it difficult for information about individual children to be shared between professionals working in the NHS, and those working within local authorities, preventing these children from getting the best joined up support.
- It also presents a barrier to conducting research and planning services for children and young people with communication needs across a local area, as the data on who these children are, and what their needs are, is held in different places, at different times, by different people.

With appropriate safeguards, anything that facilitated better data and information sharing would be a good thing and could help to improve outcomes for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

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