

# Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Database

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## Project method

Recording of DoLS data had previously been completed using Microsoft Excel, which led to a number of quality assurance issues. In order to manage the administration of the DoLS function and the sharp increase in DoLS activity, a Project Officer in the DoLS administration team has developed a dedicated DoLS Microsoft Access database. The database provides a centralised, automated information-management system which:

- Creates a unique record for each authorisation of DoL
- Provides at-a-glance information at a micro and macro level
- Automates the completion of standard forms, documents and letters
- Provides accurate, up-to-date reports and the ability to analyse data to support quality assurance
- Supports completion of the annual DoLS data return to HSCIC

The database continues to be updated in response to any changes in data collection requirements, or changes to the documentation used.

## Project results/evaluation

Recording of DoLS activity is now standardised, as client information needs only to be entered once. This has eliminated variations in recording (e.g. spelling of client/managing authority names). Errors passing through the system have been significantly reduced. Automation of the documentation, forms and letters has resulted in greater efficiencies, and the development of the database to support the completion of the annual data return has dramatically reduced the time spent by staff on the collation, formatting and validation of the data.

## Project area classification

Hospital care		Emergency care	
GP care		Dementia	
Social care	X	Learning disability	
Voluntary sector		Other mental health	
Financial services		Palliative care	
Police		Advance planning, LPAs	
Legal		Commissioning	
Community health care		Training	
Nursing and care home		For professionals?	X
Acute care		For public and service users?	
Chronic care			