**Documentation for all\_organisational\_changes\_paths\_2000\_2018**

This file shows all complete paths of changes among NHS organisations between 2000 and 2018.

A 'complete path' is a path which follows through from the first organisational change in this period to the last in a sequence. For example, if trusts A and B merge into trust C in 2008, and then trust C changes name to trust D in 2012, then this entire sequence of changes from trusts A and B onwards will be captured, but the name change from trust C to D will not be recorded separately. Therefore, this file is not appropriate as a lookup, as it does not map all past trust codes to the 2018 organisational structure.

*Variable descriptions*

* old\_code: the is the original code before any changes in this time period
* new\_code\_X: this is the next code this organisation has in the sequence, after the Xth organisational change in the time period
* date\_change\_X: this is the date of the Xth organisational change in the time period
* change\_type\_X: this is the type of the Xth organisational change in the time period
  + merger: the new organisation code is the result of a merge with another organisation
  + split: the new organisation code is the result of a split of the original organisation
  + name\_change: the new organisation code is just a nominal change of the original organisation's code
* experiences\_split: 1 if a split occurs at some point in this row (notice that a zero here does not necessarily mean that this row may not be a part of a generally complicated larger trust; sometimes, trust A might 'merge' into trust C, which is the result of a prior split of trust B into trusts C and D)
* direct\_path\_complicated: 1 if this direct path (i.e. path on this row) is complicated, which can happen if
  + there is a merger and a split at some point in this path
  + this is complicated because e.g. a split followed by a merger with another organisation by one of the split branches means we cannot create a single synthetic organisation to track through time
  + there is a name change and a split at some point in this path
  + the new organisation is the result multiple organisations splitting into common branches, e.g. trust A splits into D and C, and trust B splits into C and E. In this case, both have split into D, so that branch will be classified as "direct\_path\_complicated = 1"
* adjacent\_to\_complicated: 1 if this direct path (i.e. path on this row) is part of a more complicated network. e.g. trust A merges into trust C, which is the result of a prior split of trust B into trusts C and D
* part\_of\_complicated\_path: 0 if the final code is not the result of a sequence of paths where an organisation was at some point adjacent to complicated, or the direct path was complicated