

# Daily Ambulance Collection (DAC)

**Data Point Definitions** 

May 2025, Version 1.9



Version #	Date	Revised by	Amended Section & Description of Change
0.1	20 Feb 2018	Geoff Coles	Initial Specification for internal review
0.2	05 Mar 2018	Geoff Coles	Updated after clarifications from Ian Kay and Alun Williams
0.3	09 May 2018	Alun Williams	Updated after further clarifications from Alun Williams, Tracy Rayment-Bishop and Richard Webber
0.4	10 May 2018	Alun Williams	Updated after further clarification
1.0	10 May 2018	Alun Williams	Updated after further clarification
1.1	07 Jun 2018	Alun Williams	Further clarification for Data Point ID's 80, 81, 82 In Appendix:  Corrected spelling to "AMBULANCE DAILY" Corrected Org_Code to "RDR"
			Changed date time examples
1.2	16 Aug 2018	Geoff Coles	Added rank hospital waits metrics from 6 to 10.
1.3	08 Nov 2018	K. Briggs	Metrics amended following review by UEC team:  Addition of metrics for Acute Trusts 11-14  Addition of "Handover delays >30 mins" per site  Addition of "total time lost due to handover delays" per site  Metrics re-worded New Metrics IDs added.
1.4-1.7	Jul 2019	Geoff Coles	Deprecated metrics from 64 to 78 and 85 to 139 - Removed the focused site metrics.  Added new metrics.  140 to 146 inclusive – see definitions page below for details of these new metrics.  New Data Points  The new datapoints are acute site level metrics. The Org_Code for these metrics will be the site code for which the metric is being submitted.  The Ambulance Trust level and Acute site level metrics are distinguished using the Org_Type. The Org_Type is 'Ambulance Trust' for ambulance metrics and 'A&E Site' for site level metrics.
1.8-1.8.2	Aug 2023	Glenda Webb	Deprecated metrics 1, 16 and 18  Updated guidance on Clock Start/Clock Stop  Recording Change of Metric name  80 to 82, 84 inclusive, 140 to 146  Clarified definitions for metrics:  80 to 82, 84 inclusive, 140 to 146  New Metrics  147 – 159 with ED/Non-ED definitions. 160 total hospital arrivals at Trust Level  Submission Window  Submissions are expected on a daily basis between 7am and 9am

Version #	Date	Revised by	Amended Section & Description of Change
			Resubmissions
			Added resubmission process for cases open for previous day following resubmission, inaccuracies up to 14 days prior, longer term inaccuracies
1.8.3	Sep 2023	Out of	Amendments to definitions
		Hospitals Policy Team	Metric IDs 80-82, 140-141, 146, 149-150, 155
		rolley realli	Time periods for handover delay counts in the above metrics have been updated as follows:
			Total Number of Handover Delays between 15 and 30 minutes: more than 00:15:00 and less than 00:30:01
			Total Number of Handover Delays between 30 and 60 minutes: more than 00:30:00 and less than 01:00:01
			Total Number of Handover Delays over the 60 minutes: more than 01:00:00
1.9	May 2025	Paul Steele	Addition of 45+ minute handover metrics
	, _0_0		Total Number of Handover Delays over 45 minutes - Trust Level Total Number of Handover Delays over 45 minutes - ED Total Number of Handover Delays over 45 minutes - Non-ED
			Removal of the former Appendix A detailing the previous newly added lines

### **Executive Summary**

The data from the ambulance data collection is used to indicate where there are pressures on the NHS around the country in areas such as number of calls, number of waits and ambulance handover delays.

This document outlines the data points to be submitted by ambulance trusts to NHS England as well how any calculations are applied.

The following guidance for clock start/clock stop should be adhered to when submitting data for hospital handover measures (Data Point IDs 80-82, 84, 140-165).

#### **Recording Clock Start and Clock Stop**

The Standard NHS Contract <a href="www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract">www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/23/24</a> provides definitions for how handovers should be recorded. However, these do not include all scenarios for the patients wait, and therefore can lead to variation. The below definitions expand on the standard contract in order to provide guidance to enable comparable reporting across services.

#### Clock start - Handover

#### **Standard Contract Definition**

When ambulance wheels stop in the patient offloading bay (handbrake applied and 'Red at Hospital' button is pressed on the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT)).

#### **Additional Guidance**

If an ambulance stops in the queue for the patient offloading bay this also counts as clock start.

Geofence times can also be used for clock start. Where both the 'Red at Hospital' button press and geofence data points are present and valid, the earlier time should be used.

Ambulance services must ensure their geofence trigger matches the ambulance waiting area at the hospital, to avoid incorrect early time triggers.

#### Clock Stop – Handover

#### **Standard Contract Definition**

The time at which clinical handover has been fully completed and the patient has been physically transferred onto hospital apparatus. Ambulance apparatus must have been returned enabling the ambulance crew to leave the department.

#### **Additional Guidance**

#### Operational (Resource) Clock Stop

Where a patient is handed over directly from the conveying crew to hospital staff, the handover clock stop is when clinical handover has been fully completed and the patient has been physically transferred onto hospital apparatus.

Where the patient is transferred to a second vehicle (for example, due to shift change) the clock stop is the time the second crew handover the patient's care to either the hospital or a cohorting function.

Where the patient is transferred to a cohorting function from the conveying vehicle, the clock stop is the time the conveying crew handover to the cohorting function who take over clinical responsibility of the patient, enabling the conveying ambulance staff to leave the hospital.

#### Patient (Incidents) Guidance

Where a patient is handed over directly from the conveying crew to hospital staff, the handover clock stop is when clinical handover has been fully completed and the patient has been physically transferred onto hospital apparatus.

Where the patient has been transferred to a second vehicle or a cohort from the conveying vehicle, the handover time is the time the second crew or cohort hand the patient over to the hospital and clinical handover is completed.

# For the purposes of this data submission, handover information submitted should use the Operational (Resource) Clock stop guidance.

Handover times should be agreed and recorded jointly between the ambulance service and hospital at the time of handover.

The capture of handover data by hospitals and ambulance services is essential for accurate reporting; we will also report missing data within the revised Ambulance Quality Indicators. Missing data should be routinely shared with acute providers to improve reporting and data quality.

The data points for handover information contain Ambulance Trust level metrics and conveying destination metrics. The Org\_Code for Ambulance Trust level metrics should be the ambulance service organisation code and for **conveying destination this should be the site specific code.** 

The site code used must be a live code at <a href="www.odsdatasearchandexport.nhs.uk">www.odsdatasearchandexport.nhs.uk</a> and ambulance trusts should also confirm they use the site code belonging to the correct acute trust

For clarity, data for hospital handover measures (Data Point IDs 80-82, 84, 140-165) **should adhere to the following principles** 

- For incidents spanning midnight the arrival at hospital time should be used for reporting purposes
- Conveyance should be reported for all conveyances, with ED and non-ED activity reported separately
- Ambulance Services should continue to report conveying destinations they currently report in this data submission, with those conveyances now split out into ED and Non- ED within those destinations
- Data should be exclusive of cohorting crews and should be reported against the conveying vehicle (or secondary vehicle in the event of a shift change direct handover) only
- Crew clear time should not be used as a proxy where the crew handover time is missing. In these incidents, cases should be excluded. Excluded cases should be reported under new metrics - ID 147 and 148 Total Number Of Handovers With Missing Handover Time
- Handover measures relate to operational (resource) based activity and should not be patient based.
- Data grain 'A&E Site' is an existing data structure that cannot be easily amended; refer to the
  data point name and definition to confirm whether the metric value reported should be an
  ED/Non-ED data point.

#### **Detailed List of Active Data Points**

The period start to period end is yyyy- mm-dd 00:00:00 to yyyy-mm-dd 23:59:59 unless otherwise stated

re 2500 20000	Integer Integer	
re 2500	Integer	
		Daily
20000		
	Integer	Daily
: 10	Integer	Daily
7	Integer	Daily
59	Integer	Daily
124	Integer	Daily
re 3000	Integer	Daily
re 339	Integer	Daily
re 3000	Integer	Daily
re 3000	Integer	Daily
: 10	Integer	Daily
: 10	Integer	Daily
	c 7 c 59 c 124 ure 3000 ure 3000 ure 3000 c 10	c 7 Integer c 59 Integer c 124 Integer ure 3000 Integer ure 10 Integer

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Data Point ID	Data Point	Grain	AQI Reference	Definition	Measure / Metric Flag	Example values	Data Type	Frequency
27	C2 Incidents	Ambulance Trust	A10	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
28	C2 Total response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A30	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
30	C2 - Mean response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A31	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
31	C2 - 90th percentile response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A32	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
32	C3 Incidents	Ambulance Trust	A11	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
33	C3 Total response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A33	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
35	C3 - Mean response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A34	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
36	C3 - 90th percentile response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A35	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
37	C4 Incidents	Ambulance Trust	A12	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
38	C4 Total response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A36	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
40	C4 - Mean response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A37	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
41	C4 - 90th percentile response time (Seconds)	Ambulance Trust	A38	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Metric	10	Integer	Daily
42	Total Incidents with conveyance to ED	Ambulance Trust	A53	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
43	Total Incidents with conveyance NOT to ED	Ambulance Trust	A54	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
46	C1 Incidents with conveyance to ED	Ambulance Trust	A53 for C1 Incidents	A53 from the Official Definition for C1 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
47	C1 Incidents with conveyance NOT to ED	Ambulance Trust	A54 for C1 Incidents	A54 from the Official Definition for C1 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily

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Data Point ID	Data Point	Grain	AQI Reference	Definition	Measure / Metric Flag	Example values	Data Type	Frequency
50	C2 Incidents with conveyance to ED	Ambulance Trust	A53 for C2 Incidents	A53 from the Official Definition for C2 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
51	C2 Incidents with conveyance NOT to ED	Ambulance Trust	A54 for C2 Incidents	A54 from the Official Definition for C2 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
54	C3 Incidents with conveyance to ED	Ambulance Trust	A53 for C3 Incidents	A53 from the Official Definition for C3 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
55	C3 Incidents with conveyance NOT to ED	Ambulance Trust	A54 for C3 Incidents	A54 from the Official Definition for C3 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
58	C4 Incidents with conveyance to ED	Ambulance Trust	A53 for C4 Incidents	A53 from the Official Definition for C4 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
59	C4 Incidents with conveyance NOT to ED	Ambulance Trust	A54 for C4 Incidents	A54 from the Official Definition for C4 incidents only (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
62	Incidents with no face-to- face response	Ambulance Trust	A17	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
80	Total number of handover delays between 15 and 30 minutes (arrival to handover) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 00:15:00 and less than 00:30:01</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ambulance trust level	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
81	Total number of handover delays between 30 and 60 minutes (arrival to handover) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place more than 00:30:00 and less than 01:00:01 from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ambulance trust level	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
82	Total number of handover delays over 60 minutes (arrival to handover) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 01:00:00</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ambulance trust level	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
83	Incidents with no conveyance - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust	A55	Link to Official Definition (AmbSYS Spec)	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
84	Total handover time excluding first 30 mins (seconds) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total time in seconds of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at ambulance trust level.  This measure should exclude the first 30 mins of all cases. Handover times of less than 30 minutes should be reported as 0	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily

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Data Point ID	Data Point	Grain	AQI Reference	Definition	Measure / Metric Flag	Example values	Data Type	Frequency
140	Total number of handover delays between 30 and 60 minutes - Conveying Destination – ED	A&E Site		Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 00:30:00 and less than 01:00:01</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
141	Total number of handover delays over 60 minutes - Conveying Destination - ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 01:00:00</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
142	Total handover time excluding first 30 mins (seconds) - Conveying Destination – ED	A&E Site		Total time in seconds of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at ED. <b>This measure should exclude the first 30 mins of all cases. Handover times of less than 30 minutes should be reported as 0</b>	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
143	Longest recorded delay (seconds) - Conveying Destination - ED	A&E Site		Time in seconds of the single longest handover time from time at of hospital arrival to time to patient handover or transfer to a cohort at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
144	Total post-handover time - Conveying Destination - ED	A&E Site		Time in seconds from patient handover or transfer to a new vehicle to the clear time of the conveying vehicle at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
145	Total hospital arrivals - Conveying Destination - ED	A&E Site		Total count of all arrivals at ED from 00:00:00 to 23:59:59	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
146	Handover delays between 15 and 30 minutes - Conveying Destination – ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 00:15:00 and less than 00:30:01</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
147	Total number of handovers with missing handover time - Conveying Destination – ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handovers at conveying destination that did not have a single or joint handover time recorded at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
148	Total number of handovers with missing handover time - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total count of patient handovers at conveying destination that did not have a single or joint handover time recorded at Ambulance Trust Level	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
149	Total number of handover delays between 30 and 60 minutes - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 00:30:00 and less than 01:00:01</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily

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Data Point ID	Data Point	Grain	AQI Reference	Definition	Measure / Metric Flag	Example values	Data Type	Frequency
150	Total number of handover delays over 60 minutes - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 01:00:00</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
151	Total handover time excluding first 30 mins (seconds) - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total time in seconds of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at non-ED.  This measure should exclude the first 30 mins of all cases. Handover times of less than 30 minutes should be reported as 0	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
152	Longest recorded delay - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Time in seconds of the single longest handover time from time at of hospital arrival to time to patient handover or transfer to a cohort at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
153	Total post-handover time - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Time in seconds from patient handover or transfer to a new vehicle to the clear time of the conveying vehicle at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
154	Total hospital arrivals - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total Count of all arrivals at non-ED sites from 00:00:00 to 23:59:59	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
155	Handover delays between 15 and 30 minutes - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place <b>more than 00:15:00 and less than 00:30:01</b> from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
156	Total number of handovers with Missing handover time Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total count of patient handovers at conveying destination that did not have a single or joint handover time recorded at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
157	Total handover time (seconds) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		Total time in seconds of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at ambulance trust level.  NB This does not exclude the first 30 mins	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily

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Data Point ID	Data Point	Grain	AQI Reference	Definition	Measure / Metric Flag	Example values	Data Type	Frequency
158	Total handover time (seconds) - Conveying Destination – ED	A&E Site		Total time in seconds of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at ED  NB This does not exclude the first 30 mins	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
159	Total handover time (seconds) - Conveying Destination - Non-ED	A&E Site		Total time in seconds of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place from the time of hospital arrival to handover time at non-ED sites  NB This does not exclude the first 30 mins	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
160	Total hospital arrivals	Ambulance Trust		Total count of all hospital arrivals at ambulance trust level from 00:00:00 to 23:59:59	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
163	Total number of handover delays over 45 minutes (arrival to handover) - Trust Level	Ambulance Trust		From 2025/26: Total count of vehicle handover to hospital or transfer to a cohort that took place more than 00:45:00 from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ambulance trust level	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
164	Total number of handover delays over 45 minutes - Conveying Destination - ED	A&E Site		From 2025/26: Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place more than 00:45:00 from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at ED	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily
165	Total number of handover delays over 45 minutes - Conveying Destination – Non-ED	A&E Site		From 2025/26: Total count of patient handover or transfer to a cohort that took place more than 00:45:00 from the time of hospital arrival to the handover time at non-ED sites	Measure	3000	Integer	Daily

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#### Submissions should be made between 7am and 9am.

NB. Messages submitted electronically will not be processed if the following are not adhered to:

- The data point period start and period end formats must be as specified as below
- A valid organisation code must be present
- A valid ID must be present
- A version number must be present
- A return type of "AMBULANCE DAILY" must be present and must be in capital letters.
- Org\_Type should be "Ambulance Trust" for Ambulance metrics and "A&E Site" for Site level/Destination metrics. (See Appendix A for more details)

#### Resubmissions

As incidents may remain ongoing from the previous day at the time of submission, some data may not be captured. As a result, reported data for the previous day will not represent the full profile of ambulance service activity. We also recognise that there will be occasions where data is updated following internal validation. The Vital Hub (formerly Beautiful Information) system can allow resubmissions of up to 14 days' worth of data. Data should only be submitted where information from previous submissions has changed.

Electronic Sitrep submissions are made using Vital Hub's automated scheduler. Adding the additional days of data to your electronic Sitrep submission will require you to update the data extract stored procedure used by the scheduler. You will require your local data **source to hold the last 14 days of data** and you will need to extract and send the required metrics for each day.

This may significantly increase data being submitted and as a consequence could breach the 2MB file limit on the NHS England endpoint. This means it will be necessary to break up your submission into multiple feeds (by day) which require additional stored procedures to be added to the Appconfig3 table. Each stored procedure will then need to be scheduled to submit the data. We recommend that there **is at least a 5-minute gap** between each submission to allow each message to be processed efficiently.

Please contact the Vital Hub Support Desk <u>Beautiful-Support@vitalhub.com</u> if you have any questions or require more detailed information on how to do this.

Appendix A contains an example of the JSON message structure and a code snippet of how trusts can submit to this information to NHS England.

For full instructions on the implementation process, login to the online implementation guide: <a href="https://nhsi.beautifulinformation.org/">https://nhsi.beautifulinformation.org/</a> If you do not have your login details, please request them from the Vital Hub Support Desk: Beautiful-Support@vitalhub.com.

For changes to data exceeding the previous 14 days, and bulk updates to historical data, this will need to be completed on an exemption basis; as a first step you will need to contact <a href="mailto:england.eecpolicy@nhs.net">england.eecpolicy@nhs.net</a> where you will be advised of the action to take.

## Appendix A

This section details an example of the JSON message structure and a code snippet of how trusts can submit to NHSE.

#### **Ambulance Collection JSON Structure**

]	Description	Туре
"EndPoint_ID":"001",	The endpoint id represents a unique message sending application / device	Header
"Version":"1.1",	The version of the submission.	Header
"Submission_DateTime":"2016-11- 20 17:48:28",	The date time that the sending application sends the message	Header
"Returntype":"AMBULANCE DAILY",	The return type associated with the message (i.e., "AMBULANCE DAILY" )	Metric Detail
"Metrics": [		Metric Detail
{"Org_Code":"RDR",	The code of the organisation for Ambulance Trust metrics	Metric Detail
"Org_Type":"Ambulance Trust",	The type of organisation	Metric Detail
"Metric_ID":1,	The ID of the Metric	Metric Detail
"Metric_Value":79.17,	The Metric value	Metric Detail
"Period_DateTime_Start":"2018-05- 31 00:00:00",	This attribute marks the start of a period. For a range the format will be: "Period_DateTime": {"From":"2018-05-31 00:00:00","To":"2018-05-31 23:59:59"}	Metric Detail
"Period_DateTime_End":"2018-05- 31 23:59:59" },	The end of a period	Metric Detail
{"Org_Code":"RVV01",	The code of the organisation for Acute Site metrics	Metric Detail
"Org_Type":"A&E Site",	The type of organisation	Metric Detail
"Metric_ID":1,	The ID of the Metric	Metric Detail
"Metric_Value":79.17,	The Metric value	Metric Detail
"Period_DateTime_Start":"2018-05- 31 00:00:00",	This attribute marks the start of a period. For a range the format will be: "Period_DateTime": {"From":"2018-05-31 00:00:00","To":"2018-05-31 23:59:59"}	Metric Detail
"Period_DateTime_End":"2018-05- 31 23:59:59" },	The end of a period	Metric Detail
1	The end of an array of metrics	
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