



Department of Health & Social Care

Steve Oldfield

Chief Commercial Officer

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By email

15th March 2019

Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware, over the last few days Parliament voted against leaving the EU without a deal and in favour of extending Article 50, meaning that the UK might not leave the EU on 29 March.

It is still possible that we are able to leave on 29 March with a deal, although time is very short.

Nevertheless, unless and until a Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by the UK and European Parliament, or any extension is agreed by the EU, the legal default in UK and EU law remains that the UK will leave the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal.

Therefore, as a responsible government **we must continue to plan for a no deal scenario** on 29 March.

Please continue the work you are undertaking to prepare your organisation for leaving the EU without a deal on 29 March and do not wind-down your contingency plans at this stage.

The Department of Health and Social Care will continue to implement its no deal plans in full, and we are writing in similar terms to all other organisations in the health and care system to ask them to continue their plans.

I am very grateful for your excellent engagement over the last few months - our plans are well advanced as a result. While we never give guarantees, we are confident that, if everyone – including suppliers, freight companies, international partners, and the health and care system - does what they need to do, the supply of medicines and medical products should be uninterrupted in the event of exiting the EU without a deal.

I will update you as soon as I have further information.

In the meantime, please cascade this email to your staff, key stakeholders and any other interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Oldfield
Chief Commercial Officer