



To: Welsh NHS Suppliers

28th June 2019

Dear Welsh NHS and Social Care Suppliers,

Preparations for leaving the European Union

Further to my letter of 15th April, I want to update you on arrangements for ensuring the continued supply of medical devices and clinical consumables (MDCCs) in the event of a no-deal exit on 31st October.

The UK Government has recently written to its suppliers of MDCCs updating them on their no-deal contingency programme. The letter informs them that the centralised stockpile of fast-moving MDCCs put in place in March will remain in place in readiness for 31st October, with some small adjustments being made to reflect changes in demand and the time of year. The UKG notes that this stockpile does not cover all product lines and, therefore, there will be a requirement for suppliers to implement their own preparedness arrangements, considering the balance between stockpiling and re-routing to achieve the most effective and robust mitigation plan in the context of the anticipated disruption at the short straits.

In addition, the UKG has announced that it is taking the following steps to ensure continuity of supply:

- The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) will commence a procurement exercise for 'Express Freight Services' to provide access to commercially operated services that deliver small consignments on a 24-hour basis and pallets over two-to-four-days.
- The Government also intends to commence procurement of 'roll-on, roll-off' freight capacity on which medicines and medical products would be prioritised to ensure the flow of all these products may continue unimpeded.

A copy of the letter can be found in the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812523/Letter_to_suppliers_-_continuity_of_medicines_medical_products_26-june-2019.pdf..pdf

We will continue to engage with the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations to ensure the continuity of supply of MDCCs for our patients. We will also be continuing to work with NHS Wales Shared Services, Health Boards and Trusts, and other partners to refine Wales' no-deal contingency programme. As part of this programme,

our additional stock arrangements for MDCCs in Wales remains in place, which gives additional robustness to our no deal contingency preparations.

I am very grateful for the work that you did in advance of 29th March and 12th April. Thank you in advance for your continuing engagement and collaboration. I will keep you updated over the coming months to ensure you have the information you need for further developing your preparations for 31st October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ifan Evans'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the 'n'.

Ifan Evans

Director, Technology, Digital, Transformation & EU Transition
Health & Social Services Group