

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

22 February 2019

Dear Prime Minister

‘NO DEAL’ BREXIT AND HEALTH

We write as leaders, professionals and actively engaged individuals from across the health and social care sector, bringing the perspectives of patients, service users, unpaid carers, clinicians, charities and other experts. We are urging you to prevent the UK from leaving the European Union without a negotiated deal. Based on what we are learning from the front line, we are increasingly alarmed at the risks associated with a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

As the Government’s contingency planning demonstrates, a ‘no deal’ Brexit poses grave risks to public health and patient safety, and would require extraordinary measures in mitigation.

The immediate issue is the supply of medicines, medical devices and other essential products. But a ‘no deal’ exit would also have serious implications for the availability of staff in care and research settings, the arrangements governing reciprocal healthcare, the regulation of medicines and devices, and the UK’s involvement in pan-European research and innovation and in public health and prevention initiatives. All of these would be affected over an indefinite period of time. The most disadvantaged in society would be likely to be most at risk.

It is becoming ever clearer to us that the Government’s contingency plans are unlikely to cover all eventualities and work for all patients, carers and citizens.

We believe it is the responsibility of the Government, in cooperation as necessary with Parliamentarians and the European Union, to rule out the possibility of a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

A copy of this letter goes to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.

Yours sincerely

1st Floor, Bride House, 18-20 Bride Lane, London, EC4Y 8EE

Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive, National Voices (coordinator of this letter)

Professor Maureen Baker CBE, Immediate Past Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners

Neil Betteridge, Patient Champion

Ailsa Bosworth MBE, Chief Executive, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society

Rosalind Bragg, Director of Maternity Action

Paul Bristow, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Kidney Care UK

Vicky Browning, Chief Executive Officer, ACEVO

Chris Burghes, Chief Executive, Royal Free Charity

Professor Paul Burstow PC FRSA, Chair, The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust

Jabeer Butt, Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation

Dr Nav Chana, GP

Dr Angela Coulter, Health Policy Analyst/Researcher

Lynne Craven, Patient Leader

Angela Culhane, Chief Executive, Prostate Cancer UK

Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham, OM, KBE, PC, FRS

Peter Ellingworth, Chief Executive, Association of British HealthTech Industries

Professor Sir Sam Everington, GP, Bromley by Bow

Sue Farrington, Chief Executive, Scleroderma and Raynaud's UK

Greg Fell, Director of Public Health, Sheffield

Clare Gerada MBE, FRCP, FRCGP

David Gilbert, Director, InHealth Associates

Ceinwen Giles, Director, Shine Cancer Support

Dr Fiona Godlee FRCP, Editor in Chief, The BMJ

Deborah Gold, Chief Executive, NAT (National AIDS Trust)

Professor Trisha Greenhalgh OBE, Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford

1st Floor, Bride House, 18-20 Bride Lane, London, EC4Y 8EE

Dr Becky Haines, GP, Gateshead Clinical Lead for Diabetes NGCCG, RCGP
Champion for Person Centred Care

Professor Sir Chris Ham

Dr Phil Hammond, NHS doctor, journalist and broadcaster

Professor Robert Harris FCSI, Chief Executive Officer and General Partner,
Lakeside Healthcare Group

Dr Adrian Hayter, GP, Old Windsor Berkshire

Steve James, Chief Executive, Avenues Group

Asha Kasliwal, President, Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

Nicola Kingston, Patient and Public Representative

Dame Donna Kinnair, Acting Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal
College of Nursing

Roger Kline, Research Fellow, Middlesex University Business School

Sally Light, Chief Executive, MND Association

Dr Suzy Lishman CBE, Consultant Histopathologist, North West Anglia NHS
Foundation Trust

Ian Lush, Chief Executive, Imperial Health Charity

Chris Maker, Chief Executive Officer, LUPUS UK

Professor Rebecca Malby, School of Health and Social Care, London South Bank
University

Aseem Malhotra, NHS Consultant Cardiologist and Professor of Evidence Based
Medicine

Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive, LGBT Foundation

Zoe Matthews, Strategic Advisor, Friends, Families and Travellers

Margaret McCartney, GP, Glasgow

Professor Martin McKee CBE, Professor of European Public Health, LSHTM

John Middleton PrFPH, FRCP, President, United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health

Caroline Millar, Patient Involvement Campaigner, Hackney

Christine Morgan, Patient and Carer Champion

1st Floor, Bride House, 18-20 Bride Lane, London, EC4Y 8EE

Caroline Morrice, Chief Executive, Guillain Barre and Associated Inflammatory Neuropathies (GAIN)

Dr James Munro, Chief Executive, Care Opinion CIC

Carol Munt, Patient Partner & Advocate

Sir David Nicholson, Former Chief Executive Officer, NHS

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, The Queen's Nursing Institute

Alison Orman, Acting Chief Executive Officer, British Liver Trust

Ben Pearce, Director, Paintings in Hospitals

Peter Rees, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Patient and Lay Committee

Kathy Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mental Health Providers

Mandy Rudczenko, Patient/carer and Public Involvement Champion

Anna Schurer, Chairperson, British Dupuytren's Society

Dr Helen Seers, Penny Brohn UK

Jonathan Senker, Chief Executive, VoiceAbility

Michael Seres, Chief Executive Officer / Founder, 11 Health

Ian Silver, Chief Executive, Self Management UK

Merron Simpson, Chief Executive, New NHS Alliance

Andrew Spooner, Grosvenor Medical Centre

Derek C Stewart OBE, Patient Advocate and member of Cancer Research UK

Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners

Simon Stones, International Patient Advocate

Ms Alison Taylor, Chief Executive, Children's Liver Disease Foundation

James Titcombe, Patient Safety Campaigner

Duncan Tree MBE, Brighton, East Sussex

Dr Anna van der Gaag CBE, Visiting Professor, Ethics and Regulation, University of Surrey

Helen Walker, Chief Executive, Carers UK

Lucy Watts MBE, Patient Leader

1st Floor, Bride House, 18-20 Bride Lane, London, EC4Y 8EE

Professor Ian Welsh OBE, Alliance Scotland

Paul Wicks PhD, Patient Advocate

Professor Sir Simon Wessely, Consultant Psychiatrist

Catherine Williams, NHS England Lay Member for Maternity Transformation (South East)

Sarah Wooke, GP, Urgent Care Centre St Mary's Paddington

Dr Ellen Wright, GP, Vanbrugh Group Practice, Greenwich