

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:

Chief Executives – NHS Wales

5th October 2018

Dear Colleagues

Preparations for Leaving the European Union

My colleague and Director of Local Government, Reg Kilpatrick, wrote to Chairs of Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in Wales on 26 July asking them to consider the implications of Brexit as part of their forward work programmes and develop local planning and response arrangements to the risks which may potentially emerge. I am now writing to set out the actions and measures I expect you as leaders in the health and social care sector to take in support of this work and to ensure the smooth and effective running of services for our patients and service users, in the event of disruption to supply chains following our withdrawal from the European Union.

While the final shape and timetable for Brexit remains unclear we do know that what happens in the coming months will determine the future prosperity of Wales and the sustainability of our public services. You will be aware that Welsh Government Ministers have set out a clear policy position on the terms of our withdrawal, but control of most aspects of EU transition remains with the UK Government and the final shape of any settlement may not be known until the last minute.

Potential Impact of no-deal Brexit on continuity of supply

Although there are recognised medium and long term impacts of Brexit, all of which are being considered, our collective preparations at this stage must necessarily focus primarily on preparedness for the impact of a potential no-deal Brexit on 29 March 2019. Accordingly, I am asking each of you to review and rehearse promptly the existing business continuity and resilience/contingency arrangements within your organisations, and to do so working with your local and regional partners, including through your local resilience forums.

This work should give particular consideration to preparing for the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit on the continuity of supply of medicines and consumables, taking account of the work already underway nationally and described by Simon Dean and Albert Heaney in their letters dated 23 and 28 August respectively (copies attached for ease of reference).



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Arrangements for continuity of supply of medicines remain as outlined in the letter from Simon Dean. Welsh Government is working with NWSSP procurement to commission a review of devices and consumables supply chain in Wales to complement the work already completed at UK level. The scope of this work will include local just in time contracts and blood supply and appropriate contacts will be made within your organisations to take this work forward. Further details will be confirmed as they become available, but in the meantime if you have any particular concerns regarding the supply of consumables please refer these to your local head of procurement.

National communication and co-ordination

Welsh Government has put in place national communication and co-ordination arrangements, including:

- A Brexit Ministerial Stakeholder Advisory Forum made up of senior leaders from across the sector, and led by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care;
- An EU Transition Leadership Group, chaired by Welsh Government, focusing on ensuring operational readiness arrangements for both health and social services in Wales (terms of reference attached);
- Regular meetings of NHS emergency planners, chaired by Welsh Government, as part of established resilience arrangements;
- A 4 Nations public health group addressing public health associated risks and health security concerns, and a joint Welsh Government – Public Health Wales working group considering specific Welsh issues;
- Working in partnership with the Welsh NHS Confederation to ensure ongoing flexible and effective communication and engagement between us and other stakeholders in the health and care system; and
- Regular updates on Brexit to the monthly NHS Wales Executive Board meetings.

Key actions to take

As part of this national co-ordination work, and having listened to concerns you have raised we have prepared the attached 'checklist' of key actions for NHS organisations to take in readiness for a potential 'no deal' Brexit, post March 2019.

We will also continue to engage closely with the UK Government, issuing updates to your organisations whenever possible.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Goodall

Annex 1 –

Checklist of key actions to consider:

- Resilience and continuity

- Confirm that existing business continuity and resilience arrangements are up to date
- Confirm engagement with local and regional partners, through Local resilience Forums, to jointly review arrangements with particular consideration to the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit
- Confirm plans in place for a rehearsal of 'no deal brexit' business continuity and resilience arrangements during January 2019 (which would be cancelled in the event of a negotiated deal having been confirmed)

- Continuity of Supply

Current guidance is not to stockpile inventory locally. However NHS Wales organisations should review the accuracy and timeliness of their medicines, devices and consumables inventory management, in order to ensure that they are able to track actual and forecast inventory as close to 'real time' as is reasonably possible.

- Identify 'high volume' or 'rapid turnover' items and categories
- Identify any items and categories directly supplied to the organisation from outside the UK
- Review the organisation's ability to take an accurate real time 'snapshot' of inventory on at least a daily basis
- Prepare an 'inventory management risk register' and an 'inventory pressures management plan'

- Critical machinery and equipment

As well as goods and materials, NHS Wales organisations should review 'services supply chains' for potential risks, with a particular focus on repair and maintenance of critical machinery and equipment

- Identify machinery and equipment which is both:
 - 'critical', meaning for example that there are no 'spares' or 'spare capacity' across Wales and that they are essential to the delivery of key health and care services; and
 - 'intensively serviced' for example on a regular weekly or monthly maintenance schedule, or where there are known to be repeated failures and repair, or where service contracts include consumables which are delivered weekly or monthly
- Prepare a 'services supply chain risk register' for these items, in particular personnel or parts which are sourced from outside the UK