



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

020 7210 4850

12 October 2018

Dear Chief Executive,

EU Exit NHS Trust Contract Review

I am writing to advise you of a forthcoming communication to your Trust's Head of Procurement. The communication will consist of a pack of materials, setting out what your Trust needs to do to step up preparations to ensure continuity of supply of goods and services in the event of a 'no deal' exit from the EU.

A scenario in which the UK leaves the EU without agreement (a 'no deal' scenario) remains unlikely given the mutual interests of the UK and the EU in securing a negotiated outcome. Following the publication of the [UK government's white paper](#) for the future relationship on 12 July 2018, we are working with the EU's negotiating team at pace to agree the terms of our future relationship alongside the Withdrawal Agreement later this year. However, it is our duty as a responsible government to prepare for all eventualities, including 'no deal', until we can be certain of the outcome of those negotiations. I have therefore asked my Department to put plans in place to ensure the continuity of supplies to the NHS.

DHSC has been working closely with Cabinet Office to implement a cross-Government approach to identifying contracts that may be impacted by potential changes to trading relations with the EU, and developing mitigating actions to help ensure that there are suitable arrangements in place at the point of exit.

As part of this activity, DHSC has developed a self-assessment methodology for NHS Trusts to use to identify contracts that may be impacted by EU exit. This methodology has been tested with four Trusts, covering Acute, Mental Health and Ambulance, and was presented and discussed at the recent DHSC Commercial Conferences.

DHSC will be sharing the details of this methodology with Trust Heads of Procurement today. The prompt completion of this methodology is of the upmost importance. I am therefore asking you to appoint a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) with a direct link to your executive board to oversee this. Please ensure that your staff



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prioritise this activity appropriately, and that updates on progress are incorporated into your existing governance arrangements.

Your Trust is asked to provide DHSC with a summary of those contracts deemed highly impacted, along with your Trust's planned mitigating activities, by 30 November 2018. The specific requirements for self-assessment will be set out in the letter to your Trust's Head of Procurement.

It is acknowledged that a number of categories/ suppliers are best engaged with at a national level. Today's DHSC communications will include a list for categories/ suppliers that are being managed by DHSC, such as the supply of medicines. This should reduce the scope of work for your Trust, and therefore the resource requirements within your organisation to complete the exercise.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Finance Director and Head of Procurement in your Trust.

I would like to personally thank you for your support with this important piece of work, which will safeguard patient care in the unlikely event of a 'no deal' EU exit.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK