



NHS England
PO Box 16738
Redditch
B97 9PT

**Publishing Approval
Reference 000119**

4 February 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is leading the response to the EU exit across the health and care sector. Along with other Government departments, DHSC has stepped up its planning for a 'no deal' scenario, as set out in previous [correspondence](#) including [Operational Guidance](#) published in December.

The Department is establishing a national Operational Response Centre (ORC) which includes NHS England, NHS Improvement and Public Health England. This will lead on responding to any disruption to the delivery of health and care services in England, that may be caused or affected by EU exit.

As NHS lead on the response to EU exit this is an update on preparations being taken to support the NHS through this transition.

Anyone who has not yet reviewed the [Operational Guidance](#) should do so now, and identify actions required by your own organisation. There are less than 40 working days before we are due to leave the EU.

The NHS England and NHS Improvement operational response will be based on enhancing our existing command and control structures used in emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) in common with a unified approach agreed across Public Health England and NHS Blood and Transplant. These modes of operating should be familiar including our approach to information gathering, assurance, issuing direction, alerts and advice.

Our national EU exit coordination centre is based at Quarry House, Leeds, and we have also established regional coordination centres, which will operate as the single point of contact for each region. Please contact them to flag issues and raise queries as follows:

Region	EU Exit Lead	Email Account
North East	Jo Richardson	England.euexitnortheast@nhs.net
North West	Jo Richardson	England.euexitnorthwest@nhs.net
Midlands	Sue Hart	England.mids-euexit@nhs.net
East of England	Veronica Gee	England.eoe-euexit@nhs.net
London	Richard McEwan	England.london-euexit@nhs.net
South East	Peter Hunt	England.se-euexit@nhs.net
South West	Ian Phillips	England.sw-euexit@nhs.net

National groups have been established to provide clinical and operational expert advice on any issues which are escalated.

Once the DHSC national Operational Response Centre goes live, we will be establishing routine reporting across health. This will take the form of national data collections as well as regional information gathering. The first collection will occur shortly and be managed by our regional EU Exit leads with the EU Exit SRO from each NHS organisation. The routine of regular reporting will remain under review, but we anticipate this may run for some months, with our own coordination centres remaining operational for up to six to 12 months post-EU exit.

I am keen to arrange regional events over the coming weeks to create an opportunity to discuss further details of the operational response and what is needed at a local level, give updates on the EU Exit workstreams and to provide the opportunity to raise questions and to give feedback on preparations.

It is also important to consider the potential impacts of EU exit on your local health economy and the actions you need to take to address these. I would strongly encourage you to engage with your Local Resilience Forum if you have not already. This is being overseen nationally through Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

All information published by DHSC – and other parts of Government - on EU Exit can be viewed [here](#). Information for NHS organisations will be published on the NHS England website shortly, information for the public and our patients will be hosted on nhs.uk website as it become available and we will publish regular updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support through EU exit, whilst we navigate the challenges this may present both for health and more widely across the country.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Willett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Keith Willett
EU Exit Strategic Commander
Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness