



Department
of Health &
Social Care

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By email

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Dear Colleagues,

As you will have seen, the UK and the EU have agreed an extension of the Article 50 period to 31st January 2020. This means that the UK will not leave the EU on 31 October 2019. As a result, we are now making the necessary changes to our no deal plans.

The Government and EU Council have agreed a Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration. If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by both the UK and European Parliaments, the UK will leave with a deal. If ratification has not happened by 31st January 2020, the legal default is that the UK will leave the EU without a deal. The new date will require further thought about the approach to no deal preparations, and we will provide additional information about what happens next as soon as possible.

We will work closely with industry trade bodies and other stakeholders to review the position carefully before sharing further guidance. **In the meantime, all no deal plans remain applicable and should be maintained until further guidance is issued.** This includes: your plans to re-route away from the short straits; additional buffer stocks over and above business as usual levels; and, being ready for new customs and border arrangements (“trader readiness”).

I am extremely grateful for your continued engagement and support over the past few months. I want to reassure you that we are committed to keeping you updated and will do all we can to ensure you have the information you need to be able to plan properly.

Once we have considered all the implications and as soon as possible, we will provide additional information about the next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Oldfield
Chief Commercial Officer