

From the Director of Corporate Management
La'Verne Montgomery



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

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HSC EU Exit leads

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 29 August 2019

Dear Colleagues

As you will be aware, the UK Government has agreed with the EU a further extension of the Article 50 period to 31 October 2019. The UK Government and the EU have not yet agreed the basis upon which the UK will leave the EU. 'No deal' exit is not the UK Government's policy, but it is our duty to prepare for a range of scenarios.

The safety of people receiving health and social care is our top priority. It is important to note that at this stage, we do not anticipate any immediate impact on day-to-day provision of health and social care services, therefore, patients do not need to do anything new or different.

With around two months remaining until exit day, the Department continues to strengthen its 'no deal' preparations and has begun enacting key elements of our contingency plans. To that end, the attached EU Exit Operational Readiness Guidance (Version 2.0) has been updated to support the health and social care system in Northern Ireland to be prepared for a no-deal scenario (This Version 2.0 supersedes Version 1.0 which was published on 28 February 2019). It summarises the areas where the department is focusing our preparedness, where local action is required and represents the most up-to-date information available at the time of publishing.

This guidance is being shared directly with our Arm's Length Bodies EU Exit Contacts and you will note that this information will be publically available, so you are able to share the document and this letter with colleagues and contractors as you see appropriate.

It is also being shared with the Health and Social Care Board, and Regulation and Quality Improvement Agency with a request for onward dissemination to family health practitioners and wider independent sector contacts respectively. Grateful if the HSCB and RQIA can confirm when this has been completed.

Any further or updated health and social care specific guidance and information will be published on the Department's website EU Exit page – <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/eu-exit>. For wider public information, you may also wish to refer to <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/brexit>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'La'Verne Montgomery', written in a cursive style.

LA'VERNE MONTGOMERY