

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL DEVICES

The below letter was issued by NHS Providers to all Chairs and Chief Executives of Trusts on 11th October 2018

We expect the DHSC to write shortly to trusts and suppliers to provide further information on contingency plans to protect the supply of medical devices to the NHS in the event of a no deal Brexit. These plans result from a detailed analysis of routes to market, via NHS Supply Chain and from manufacturers, and an assessment of current stockholding, the availability of warehousing and capacity at ports.

The Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI), the industry association whose members supply upwards of 2/3 of all medical devices used in the NHS, has been closely involved with this planning process. Discussions between DHSC and ABHI members have helped inform plans, and there is an ongoing dialogue between the two. ABHI members have received a steady stream of information and resources since the referendum and the Association has brokered a number of interactions to help officials understand the complex, international nature of supply chains in the health and care sector. The ABHI is therefore keen to reassure trusts about the level of detailed planning underway both nationally and locally.

ABHI fully recognises that NHS trust boards will need assurance that adequate local contingencies are in place. Clearly there can be no absolute guarantees should we exit the EU next March without a deal, but the industry is taking as many steps as is practicable to avoid delays and disruptions to supply. The ABHI is also offering support for their own membership to help them in responding accurately to questions about local supply.

Best regards

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