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Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: MA-P/VG/1300/19

29 March 2019

Dear Colleague,

We are writing jointly to all members of staff working in health and social care services in Wales to update you on the ongoing preparations for the possible UK exit from the European Union.

As you will no doubt have heard, the European Council has agreed to extend Article 50. If the UK Parliament is unable to agree a deal, we will leave the EU without a deal on 12 April. If Parliament agrees a deal before 12 April, the European Council has agreed to extend our leave date until 22 May to get the necessary legislation passed. You'll be aware that the UK Parliament are discussing other ways forward.

We have been clear from the outset that a no deal Brexit would be catastrophic for health and social care services in Wales. Whilst leaving the EU with a deal remains the stated priority of the UK Government, the prospect of a disorderly 'no deal' Brexit is still a very real and worrying possibility. So we at the Welsh Government continue to plan for every eventuality, and particularly to ensure we protect and safeguard the quality of our public services in the event of a no deal scenario.

Contingency planning

Firstly we would like to say that we wholeheartedly appreciate the effort which is taking place within your organisations and across Wales to prepare for a possible no deal situation.

We are confident there are clear and strong plans in place to make sure services are protected, as far as possible, from any disruption. This work has included detailed preparations for any disruption to medicines, medical devices and clinical consumables, non-clinical goods and services, vaccines, blood and organs, clinical trials, tissues and cells, food, laundry, and fuel.

These are uncertain times, but our message to you is please continue as you are and operate in your usual way. There may need to be some alternative planning or working arrangements in the next few months, but there are well tested contingency plans for this.

We know that your focus is on maintaining safe, high-quality health and social care for the people you care for. We urge you and your colleagues to remain vigilant in your advice to them particularly with regards over-ordering or over-prescribing medicines. Local stockpiling is unnecessary and could cause shortages which would put those that need medicines at risk. We appreciate your continued support with reassuring those you care for about this.

The rights of EU health and social care staff and the Settled Status Scheme

We recognise and value the significant contributions that EU nationals provide in delivering health and social care services. If you are an EU national, we want you to stay and you will always be welcome to live and work in Wales. We will continue to work closely with the Home Office to ensure you are aware of your rights.

We would strongly encourage all EU citizens working in the sector and living in Wales to apply for the Settled Status Scheme which opens on 30 March 2019. This is available either on a 'settled status' basis for those who have been in the UK for five years, or on a 'pre-settled status' basis for those who have lived in the UK for fewer than five years.

We want to ensure that every EU citizen has the information and support they need to apply to the Scheme. You can access direct information via these Home Office quick links below:

- [EU Settlement Scheme guidance](#)
- [Access assisted digital support](#)
- [ID document scanner locations](#)
- [Sign up to receive EU Citizen Email Alerts from the Home Office](#)
- [Sign up to receive the Community Bulletin](#)
- [European Temporary Leave to Remain Guidance](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications

We recognise the importance of maintaining mutual recognition of professional qualifications (MRPQ) for the health and social care workforce. This will continue to support the movement of health and social care professionals across Europe.

The UK Government and Welsh Government have put in place legislation that means European qualifications will continue to be recognised by all professional regulators covering the health and social care sectors. This includes the General Medical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, General Pharmaceutical Council, General Dental Council, Health and Care Professions Council and Social Care Wales.

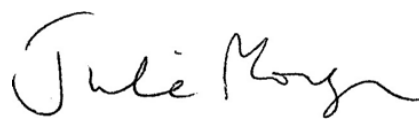
For healthcare and social care staff, this means that EU nationals who are currently practising in the UK can continue to do so and that professionals qualified in the EU can continue to be registered after exit day even if we leave without a deal. Further details are available from your relevant professional body.

Whatever your nationality, we want to thank all of you for your continued contribution to the safe and high quality delivery of health and social care services in your communities.

Yours sincerely,



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