

**From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Cathy Harrison**



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Dear Mr McBride

Ref: DoH Updates and Analysis on the EU UK Deal

Thank you for your email of 13 January 2021 in which you asked about any work ongoing within the Department in terms of assessing the implications of the agreed deal and what this means for health in Northern Ireland.

I recently wrote to Health and Social Care service organisations and providers regarding the UK:EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and its impact on health in Northern Ireland, including information relating to the end of the transition period and the Northern Ireland Protocol. The letter is available on the [Department of Health EU Exit webpage](#), and includes updates on key areas as follows:

- Reciprocal Healthcare
- Health Security and Science
- Data
- Professional Qualifications and other preparatory activity
- Continuity of supply
- Northern Ireland Protocol and Trader Readiness

As outlined in the letter, it is important to note that the Trade and Cooperation Agreement does not alter the need to comply with the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Work will continue throughout 2021 to fully understand and implement both Agreements, and to identify and mitigate any potential impacts of EU withdrawal in relation to health and social care.

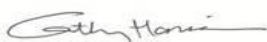
A consequence of the NIP is that goods moving from GB to NI now require import declarations and this includes medical supplies. The Department has been working and will continue to work closely with the pharmaceutical industry, the HSC and our stakeholders within the health care supply chain to manage issues as they arise and ensure continuity of supplies for our patients.

In your email you also asked about any web updates and stakeholder engagement that may emerge. The [DoH EU Exit web page](#) has been updated with refreshed [Operational Readiness Guidance](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Slides are also available from a number of [EU Transition Stakeholder Events](#) that took place for specific groups in December. It is anticipated that a further stakeholder event will take place in the coming weeks and we will be pleased to share the details with you when they become available.

The Department has undertaken wide-ranging stakeholder engagement prior to EU transition and has regular meetings with various stakeholder groups. We would be very happy to speak with you concerning any specific issues or concerns the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health may be facing if this would be useful.

I hope you will find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer