



Department of Health & Social Care

Steve Oldfield

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By email

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Dear Colleagues,

As you will have seen, the Government has agreed with the EU a further extension of the Article 50 period to 31st October 2019. This means that today, the 12th April, is no longer the legal default to leave the EU without a deal.

If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by both sides before the 31st October the UK will leave the EU earlier but in that case it would leave with a deal.

However, it is important to note the legal default in UK and EU law remains that, until a deal is agreed and ratified, there is a risk of a no deal exit at the end of the extension period on 31st October 2019.

We will need to consider how best to prepare for this scenario and the impact on no deal preparations. We will work closely with industry trade bodies and other stakeholders to review the position carefully before sharing further guidance at the earliest opportunity. **In the meantime, all no deal measures (such as stockpiles, additional buffer stocks etc) should remain in place but on hold until further guidance is available.**

I am extremely grateful for your excellent engagement and support over the last few months. I want to reassure you that I am committed to keeping you updated as this process unfolds and I will do all I can to ensure you have the information you need to be able to plan properly.

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

Yours sincerely,

Steve Oldfield
Chief Commercial Officer