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Dear colleagues,

I last wrote to you on 29 March to inform you about an extension to the process by which the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union (EU). I'm sure you will have seen that the Government has now agreed with the EU a further extension of the Article 50 period to 31 October 2019.

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

You should be aware by now that we have stood down the requirement for daily situation reporting.

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 possibility of a no deal exit at the end of the extension period on 31 October.

We're working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and partners to review the position. We're keen to ensure that the EU Exit structures and preparations put in place nationally, regionally and locally are adapted for this extension and we will work to understand any implications for the NHS of any further developments relating to an EU Exit deal.

Necessary preparations for a no deal outcome must continue, though with sensibly adjusted timescales given the extension the Government has agreed.

Your organisation should continue to have an EU Exit SRO overseeing plans and preparations and you should be prepared to stand up your no deal plans again if required. If you have any concerns or queries please contact your regional EU Exit team via the usual mailbox.

I appreciate and am grateful for all your hard work in recent months to ensure that the NHS is as prepared as possible for a no deal EU exit. We are keen to ensure this effort is not lost as we move forwards.

I'll continue to keep you updated as this process unfolds so you have all the information you need to continue planning properly. Please cascade this message as

NHS England and NHS Improvement



appropriate to your staff and partners including those colleagues who are involved in local EU Exit preparations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Willett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Keith Willett**

EU Exit Strategic Commander, NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Medical Director for Acute Care and Emergency Preparedness