Sir Chris Wormald
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Sir,

Treasury Minute response – Generic medicines

Thank you for the response to the Committee’s report on Spending on generic medicines in primary care, in addition to the further information you supplied in December.

Given the criticality and timing of the UK’s departure from the European Union, I was particularly interested in your summary of the actions the Department of Health & Social Care is taking to ensure medicine supply during this period. I would like some more information about the Department’s current plans, specifically:

- More information about the potential level of risk. For example, in relation to the Department’s analysis of the supply chain for medicines, what proportion of medicines are imported from the EU and the European Economic Area?
- Results of actions taken to date, specifically the response to the Department’s request for pharmaceutical companies that supply the UK with medicines from, or via, the European Economic Area to share their contingency plans and ensure they have a minimum of six weeks’ additional supply.
- How the Department is managing and monitoring progress against these plans including risk management and governance arrangements.

I would be grateful for a response by 18 February. In addition to the Treasury Officer of Accounts I am also copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts