From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health & Social Care
Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

9 September 2019

Dear Matt,

No-deal Brexit: Flu vaccine

You will be aware that my Committee has taken an interest in the flu vaccine following high disease burden of flu in 2017/18 and discussions about the variable uptake of the flu vaccination among healthcare workers and the question of how we increase uptake among care workers. In the last flu season there was also a delay in the vaccine for over 65s reaching GP surgeries.

In this context I was therefore worried to see warnings from doctors and NHS leaders that a no-deal Brexit would make it "likely" there would be a delay in flu vaccine supply this season. Flu vaccine manufacturer Sanofi has also warned that over a million doses of flu vaccine will have to be imported after 31 October due to the delay in deciding which strains of flu to use in the vaccine. This will mean that again the over 65 group is likely to have delayed vaccination.

I would be grateful if you could provide my Committee with information on the steps that the Government is taking to mitigate these highlighted risks and what plans, if any, the Government has to prioritise vaccinating healthcare workers, care workers and vulnerable groups.

I would be grateful if you could provide a reply to this as soon as possible. I will be publishing this letter on my Committee’s website today.

I am copying this letter to the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours,

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair