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FAO
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Regional Directors
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Regional EPRR leads
Trust EU exit SROs
Trust CEs and Chairs
Trust Incident teams
CCG EU exit SROs
CCG AOs and Chairs
CCG Incident teams

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4 November 2020

Dear colleague,

As you know the UK exited the EU on 31 January 2020 and is now in a transition period that ends on 31 December 2020.

I am therefore asking the NHS to take steps now to prepare for the end of the transition period. Whatever the outcome of negotiations there will be changes that affect the health and care sector regarding, for example, how we import medical products. Should a Free Trade Agreement be finalised, we must be agile in order to implement what has been agreed, for example any changes to cost recovery charging arrangements.

As stated in my [previous letter](#) of 16 September, we will be using a single operational response model for COVID-19 and the end of the EU transition period to avoid conflict and reduce burden on the system. This means that any queries related to the end of the transition period should be raised with the EU Exit SRO within your organisation first, and then escalated to the regional co-ordination centre established for COVID-19, where appropriate. For primary care organisations, this will mean raising any concerns with the organisation that commissions their service in the first instance before escalating to regional co-ordination centres.

In the coming weeks we will be issuing guidance for the NHS on what mitigations need to be put in place to prepare for the default outcome. To support this guidance, I will be hosting an 'end of transition period' webinar. I would strongly encourage each NHS organisation to join.

Once guidance has been issued, we will carry out cross-system assurance to test the level of preparedness within the NHS and to guide us on any further work needed in preparation for 31 December.

Of course, as UK/EU negotiations continue, we will provide updates as any consequences for the NHS become known.

I want to thank you all for the work you have put in throughout what has been a challenging year and thank you in advance for your continued efforts in the months ahead.

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

Strategic Incident Director for COVID-19

Strategic Incident Director for EU Exit

National Director for Emergency Planning and Incident Response