



**Department
of Health &
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29th October 2019

Dear colleagues,

As you will have seen, the UK and the EU have agreed an extension of the Article 50 period to 31 January 2020. This means that the UK will not leave the EU on 31 October 2019. As a result, we are now making the necessary changes to stop our no deal plans coming into force on 31 October.

The Government and EU Council have agreed a Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration. If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by both the UK and European Parliaments, the UK will leave with a deal. If ratification has not happened by 31 January 2020 the legal default is that the UK will leave the EU without a deal. The new date will require further thought about the approach to no deal preparations, and we will provide additional information about what happens next as soon as possible, including decisions on resourcing. In the meantime, our published guidance on [no deal planning](#) remains in force.

We will continue to work closely with our partners and stakeholders, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association, the Care Provider Alliance, and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, to review the position carefully before sharing further guidance at the earliest opportunity.

I am extremely grateful for your excellent engagement over the past months. We will provide additional information about next steps as soon as possible, once we have considered all the implications of the extension.

Yours sincerely

JONATHAN MARRON
Director General, Prevention, Community and Social Care