



Department  
of Health

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care and Mental Health

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PO-1103445

Mr Mark Hazelwood  
Scottish Partnership For Palliative Care  
CBC House  
24 Canning Street  
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20 NOV 2017

Dear Mr Hazelwood

Thank you for your letter of 25 October to David Davis about end-of-life care. As the matter you raise concerns health, your letter was passed to the Department of Health.

I note your concerns about Brexit and continuing to meet the care needs of people who are dying.

The Government is committed to ensuring leaving the EU is a success for the health and social care sector as well as the UK as a whole.

We value the enormous contribution of all the staff working in health and social care from across the EU and the rest of the world. We are committed to ensuring that the NHS and social care sector has the nurses, midwives, doctors, carers and other health professionals that it needs, including for sectors such as those who deal with the needs of people as they approach the end of their lives.


There are over 60,000 European Economic Area nationals working in the NHS and around 90,000 working in adult social care. The Government has been clear that any EU citizen resident in the UK at a specified date with five years' continuous residence will be able to apply for UK settled status, allowing them to live here broadly as they do now.

Turning to the matter of research, the Government acknowledges the importance of continued research within the health sector, including scientific research in improving end of life care and working with the EU and the European Medicines

Agency (EMA) on this matter. The UK will need to continue to seek the closest possible association with EU and international research funding and collaboration programmes. The future of UK access to EU programmes is an important issue which the Government will address during negotiations on exiting the EU. As you are aware, although health is a devolved matter in Scotland, we will continue to negotiate as one United Kingdom, as we have done from the very first round of negotiations.

Our intention is to achieve a smooth transition following the UK's exit from the EU on all matters and that includes maintaining a good future relationship between the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the EMA to ensure that, as far as possible, there are no delays in patient access to new drugs.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jackie', written in a cursive style.

**JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE**