

Question:

No-deal Brexit - What planning is ongoing for the NHS in the north of Ireland and what repercussions are expected in a no-deal scenario for the NHS in the North'

Response:

In relation to planning for an EU Exit 'no deal' scenario, the Department of Health (DoH) and its 17 Arm's Length Bodies (ALB's) have undertaken an exercise to ensure services can continue to operate effectively both on Day 1 following the UK's EU Exit on 29 March 2019, and in the longer term with no, or minimal, disruption to services. The Department's ALB's include the five Health and Social Care Trusts and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

Five priority policy areas have been identified for day 1 planning:

1. HSC Workforce – Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (inc. Performers' list);
2. HSC Workforce – recruitment and retention of EU workers (including those working across the border, by all organisations providing health & social care in Northern Ireland);
3. HSC Workforce – cross-border movement of HSC staff;
4. HSC Workforce – pharmacy regulation;
5. Cross Border Healthcare and access to healthcare in other EU states post exit.

All ALB's have scoped the potential impact of a 'no deal' outcome on the services they deliver and have provided assurances to the department regarding the completion of this work.

In addition, DoH is engaged in developing plans coordinated with other Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments and relevant stakeholders to ensure public services are maintained in the event of a 'no deal' scenario. This work is ongoing.

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