

**NHS 24
NHS 24 BOARD**

**14 FEBRUARY 2019
FOR ASSURANCE
ITEM NO 10.4**

BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

Executive Sponsor:	Director of Finance and Performance
Lead Officer/Author:	Head of Risk Management and Resilience
Action Required	The report is provided to the NHS 24 Board for information, on the preparations for Britain exiting the EU. Further information will be provided on an ongoing basis.
Key Points	<p>As Britain prepares to exit the EU in March 2019, NHS 24 continue to review the potential impacts on the NHS 24 Board and NHS Scotland.</p> <p>An update is provided on the initial impact areas (identified below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce • Supply chain • Public health response • Access to treatment in the UK and Europe • Impact on the economy • Medical <p>Next steps include continuing to engage with planning structures established to prepare for Brexit and to understand the impacts of Brexit on NHS 24 as information becomes available.</p>
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications associated with this paper.
Timing	<p>Britain plan to exit the EU on the 29 March 2019.</p> <p>An update will be provided monthly to the EMT Strategy Group.</p>
Contribution to NHS 24 strategy	This paper supports the overall strategic objectives of NHS 24 by highlighting areas of potential and providing assurance that the risk management processes are in place to support the delivery of the NHS 24 Strategy.

<p>Contribution to the 2020 Vision and National Health and Social Care Delivery Plan (Dec 2016)</p>	<p>This report aims to provide assurance to the committee that NHS 24 will manage the operational and strategic uncertainties of Brexit. This will include the contribution to the 2020 vision and National Health and Social Care Delivery Plan (Dec 2016).</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p>	<p>There are no direct E&D implications in this report. Equality and Diversity has been considered by the Participation and Equalities Manager.</p>

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1. The Board is asked to note the update of Brexit. Executive Directors will continue to highlight uncertainties that will be managed through the risk management processes.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. It is projected that the UK will withdraw from the European Union at 11pm on 29 March 2019, commonly referred to as Brexit. There remains a significant degree of uncertainty around the terms of Brexit and what it will mean for the UK and the NHS.

- 2.2. The uncertainty of Brexit may provide a challenge to delivery of the NHS 24 strategic objectives. This paper aims to outline uncertainties and current planning arrangements in place. It should be acknowledged that this is an evolving picture.

- 2.3. Scottish Government are engaging with the NHS Boards to ensure proportionate plans are being made in the context of the emerging information in relation to Brexit. This includes considering the potential for NHS 24 to provide a platform for communication with the public using our telephony and digital capacity and capability. The scale of this has yet to be determined. A series of NHS and Multi-agency workshops will support a joined up response to any potential impacts as a result of Brexit.

3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1. Potential impact areas previously highlighted to the Board were identified as:

- Workforce
 - Supply chain
 - Public health response
 - Access to treatment
 - Finance
 - Information Security
 - Medical
- 3.2. Workforce impacts are not expected to have any immediate impact on NHS 24 service delivery. The immediate challenge is anticipated to be on the wider NHS Scotland, which may indirectly affect NHS 24 recruitment of clinical staff in the longer term.
- 3.3. The NHS 24 Procurement Lead has assessed the NHS 24 key contracts and has not indicated any areas of concern for the organisation.
- 3.4. NHS 24 may require to provide special helpline capability and NHS Inform content to support the public communication of certain wider service impacts.
- 3.5. The planning assumption for public health surveillance and response to public health threats is expected to rely on WHO alert systems in the absence of systems such as ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control).
- 3.6. Reciprocal access to treatment is currently an issue that Scottish Government is addressing. Detailed information will be provided on NHS Inform when this position is agreed.
- 3.7. Greater certainty on impact will be required prior to the assessment of any financial implications for the organisation.
- 3.8. Information security standards and in particular key stakeholders are not expected to be impacted as a result of Brexit.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1. Service Delivery, HR, civil contingencies and communications colleagues are engaged in the appropriate national planning discussions.

- 4.2. A series of workshops across Scotland will be used to inform, involve and engage with Health Boards and multi-agency partners on the impacts of Brexit. NHS 24 will be represented by Executive and Senior management at all events.