

Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

20th August 2019

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the 38 degrees campaign on the supply of medicines should the UK leave the EU without a deal.

Ministers have had good engagement with industry and if sufficient preparation is undertaken, the supply of medicines to this country in the event of a no deal exit will be uninterrupted.

Following the change of EU exit date, the Department of Health and Social Care wrote to all medicine suppliers asking that they continue preparations for all negotiation outcomes. I believe that this is important in order to minimise the risk of disruption. Work also continues to ensure that medicines imported from the EU with a short shelf-life can be imported by air in a no deal scenario.

I understand your concern about statements made during the Conservative Party leadership contest about the UK leaving on the 31 October whatever the circumstances. The Article 50 process has already been extended on two occasions and I believe that any further extension would be deeply regrettable. The Prime Minister and the Government aim to secure an exit deal that MPs can support and avoid such a situation. However if the EU refuses to negotiate, I believe that it is sensible to prepare to leave without a deal by 31 October.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP

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