Dear Prime Minister

In 30 days from now, the UK is set to leave the EU. As doctors, our primary responsibility is to our patients. This requires us to not only provide high quality care, but to speak out as patient advocates: we believe there is no clearer immediate threat to the nation’s health than the impact of Brexit.

As we approach 29th March, we are no clearer to knowing whether the UK will crash out - by accident or design - with all the chaos this will entail for the NHS and our patients. We have repeatedly warned that a ‘no deal’ Brexit will have catastrophic consequences for patients, the health workforce, health services and the nation’s health. From the supply of medicines and medical radioisotopes, to access to reciprocal healthcare and implications for the NHS and research workforce, there isn’t a part of the health service that will be unaffected by the UK’s departure from the EU.

Contingency plans are being put in place, but we are yet to be reassured that they will work in all and every outcome. Any lapses in these plans, particularly around the supply of medicines, will detrimentally affect our ability to provide safe and effective care to our patients.

Surely no one who cast their vote in the EU referendum voted for this situation. No one voted for an impoverished or weakened health service, or for a situation in which thousands of highly skilled EU citizens would feel compelled to consider leaving the NHS.

As the Brexit negotiations reach their final, critical stages, we are asking you again to give the public the final say on a decision that will determine the country’s future for decades to come. We therefore ask you to delay our exit in order to allow sufficient time for this.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE
BMA Council Chair
Dr Lewis Morrison, Chair, BMA Scottish Council
Dr David Bailey, Chair, BMA Welsh Council
Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair, BMA GP Committee
Dr Rob Harwood, Chair, BMA Consultants Committee
Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair, BMA Council
Dr Helena McKeown, Acting Chair of the Representative Body of the BMA
Professor Dame Parveen Kumar, Professor of Medicine and Education
Dr Peter M B English, Chair, BMA Public Health Medicine Committee
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Chris Smith, Co-Chair of BMA Medical Students Committee
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Dr Peter Bennie, Consultant Psychiatrist
Dr Philip Banfield, Consultant Obstetrician
Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, GP
Dr Kevin O’Kane, Consultant in Acute Internal Medicine
Dr Anil Jain, Consultant Radiologist
Dr Hannah Barham-Brown, GP Registrar
Dr M McCarthy FRCGP, Vice-President UEMO (European Union of General Practitioners)
Dr Jacky Davis, Consultant Radiologist
Dr Pooja Arora, GP
Mr Ian S H McNab, Consultant Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon
Dr Andrew Collier, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist
Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, GP
Dr Kailash Chand OBE, Honorary Vice President BMA
Mr Radhakrishna Shanbhag, Associate Specialist Trauma & Orthopaedics
Dr Andrew Green MB ChB FRCGP, GP Clinical and Prescribing Policy Lead
Dr Jennifer Yell, Consultant Dermatologist
Mr Mike Henley, Consultant Urological Surgeon
Dr Peter Curry, Medical Reviewer
Dr. Lucie Kennedy-Cocker, Junior Doctor

Emma Runswick, Medical Student, BMA Council

Dr Jennifer Barclay, Clinical Fellow Trauma & Orthopaedics

Dr Nick Flatt Consultant Anaesthetist

Dr Wendy Savage, Retired senior lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Dr Cristina Costache, ST1 Paediatrics