



Rt Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

27 February 2019

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chaand Nagpaul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE

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