Written Answers

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons), Chair, Liaison Committee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the availability of medicines in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Edward Argar Minister of State (Department of Health and Social Care)

The Department is doing everything appropriate to prepare for leaving the European Union. We want to reassure patients that our plans should ensure the uninterrupted supply of medicines and medical products once we have left the EU.

The Department, as part of our EU exit preparations, is implementing a multi-layered approach to mitigate potential disruption to supply, which consists of stockpiling where possible, securing freight capacity, changing or clarifying regulatory requirements, procuring additional warehousing, working closely with industry to improve trader readiness and putting in place the National Supply Disruption Response to manage potential shortages. Further details can be found at the following link:


Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons), Chair, Liaison Committee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish the Government's worst case contingency plans related to his remit on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Edward Argar Minister of State (Department of Health and Social Care)

Operation Yellowhammer is a cross-Government programme of work to ensure that the United Kingdom is prepared to deal with the potential reasonable worst-case scenario impacts of leaving the European Union without a deal.

On 11 September, the Government published planning assumptions for exiting the European Union without a deal at the following link:


An updated version will be published in due course.

These include the Department's planning assumptions relating to the continuity of medicines and medicine supplies, the provision of healthcare to UK nationals within EU Member
States, and the provision of adult social care after we have left the EU. The Department maintains robust operational plans to ensure the continuity of services from the National Health Service and wider health and social care system, regardless of circumstances, and will continue to do so.