

Joanna Cherry QC  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Dear Joanna

**Update on the negative impact of Brexit on providing palliative and end of life care to people in Scotland**

As an MP you may be in a situation in the coming days and weeks of balancing different considerations before voting in relation to Brexit. The Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care (SPPC) is a Scottish charity whose membership includes hospices, all territorial NHS Boards, Integration Authorities, a range of professional associations, many national charities, local authorities, social care providers and universities. We also engage regularly with the public and with communities across Scotland.

Before you participate in any vote SPPC wants you to be fully aware of its carefully formed view that **Brexit is likely to have negative effects across a range of key domains relevant to palliative and end of life care:**

- Brexit will make it hard to maintain an adequate health and social care workforce.
- Brexit will harm collaboration and funding of scientific research.
- Brexit (particularly a No Deal Brexit) will put medicines supply at risk.
- Brexit will make Britain poorer than it would have been, reducing resources available for care.

Our view, expressed in a recently updated position paper, is based on desk research and engagement with our membership. Our position paper draws upon and clearly references extensive credible primary sources, including many governmental and parliamentary reports. A copy of the paper is attached.

SPPC exists to improve palliative and end of life care in Scotland. It is not a role of SPPC to assess or to comment on the wider merits and demerits of Brexit. *However, in terms of what is best for the care of people approaching the end of their lives in Scotland, SPPC concludes that it would be better to avoid Brexit.*

56 728 people died in Scotland in 2016. The quality of care available at the end of life affects everyone and affects them deeply.

We have written today in similar terms to all MPs representing Scottish constituencies.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hazelwood, CEO

Dr Annabel Howell, Chair

Encs

cc Secretary of State for Scotland. First Minister, Scotland. Leaders of Scottish Parties.  
Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations

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