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Dear Mr Ruskell,

At Portfolio Question Time on 13 August, as a supplementary question to PQ S5O-04465 you asked whether additional funding will be allocated to NHS Scotland for stockpiling essential supplies ahead of the potential chaos of a no-deal Brexit. This letter follows my commitment to you then to respond in writing.

I can confirm that our understanding is that to date HM Treasury has not confirmed any additional funding to the Department of Health and Social Care for any costs relating to stockpiling for the end of the Transition Period. Therefore the current position is no Barnett consequential for 2020-21 in respect of these activities.

We are working with all UK administrations, NHS NSS National Procurement and other partners to ensure that all stock build activity is carried out in a way that maximises safety and minimises cost.

However, our ability to stockpile medicines, medical devices and clinical consumables will be dependent on the co-operation of pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers who will be fatigued from previous EU Exit planning, and are likely to be experiencing stock shortages as a result of COVID-19. Our health boards and social care organisations will also find having to prepare for a potential no deal or basic deal really challenging at this time.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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It is completely unacceptable that the question of ensuring essential supplies, and how this is to be paid for, should even arise, especially during a pandemic. This is a result of the UK Government's reckless approach to Brexit.

I trust that this response is helpful.



KATE FORBES

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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