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Acting Chief Executive  
NHS Education for Scotland  
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28 January 2020

Dear Stewart

### **Nursing and Midwifery Council communication plans for EU exit**

You will be aware that we are rapidly approaching the 31 January 2020 when the UK is due to leave the European Union.

As the professional regulator of nurses and midwives, we know that the professionals on our register or those seeking to join the register may have questions about how an EU exit will impact them and the wider profession.

Nurses and midwives from the EU are a vital part of the health and care workforce, providing better and safer care to thousands of people across the United Kingdom. Their commitment and dedication to the delivery of high standards of care is recognised by us and the large number of people they come into contact with each year.

We are writing to update you about:

- What leaving with a deal will mean for registrants and applicants
- How we will be sharing information with registrants and applicants

### **What leaving with a deal will mean for registrants and applicants**

Once the UK leaves the EU on 31 January 2020, we will enter into a transition period until 31 December 2020. During this period there will be no change to the way that we register nurses and midwives from the EU, EFTA<sup>20</sup> and Switzerland and no change to the way UK registrants can apply for registration in other EU countries.

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<sup>20</sup> EFTA countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

## Immigration requirements

To be able to remain and work in the UK beyond the end of 2020 all EU/EFTA and Swiss nationals (who do not already also hold UK citizenship) must apply for settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. This requirement does not apply to Irish nationals.

## **How we will be sharing information with registrants and applicants**

We will be providing clear information on [our website](#) from Wednesday 29 January, and will be sign-posting people to our [contact centre](#) where will be able to support with additional queries.

## Website

- From Wednesday 29 January 2020, we will publish a banner on our homepage directing people to our [‘What Brexit means’](#) webpage, outlining information on how EU exit will affect registrants and applicants.
- We will be promoting our ‘What Brexit means’ webpage via our social media channels from Wednesday 29 January.

## Communication with registrants and applicants directly

- On Wednesday 29 January, we will be writing to nurses and midwives who have joined our register from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland, reassuring them that their registration will not be affected by EU exit.
- On Wednesday 29 January, we will also be writing to applicants from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland who have started their applications, notifying them that the EU exit will not affect their application.

I hope this letter has provided a helpful overview of what information the NMC will be sharing about how the EU exit may impact current and future registrants from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland.

I would be grateful if you could signpost the nurses and midwives in your networks or the organisations that employ them to the information on our website if you receive any queries about this.

If you have any questions about what I have outlined in this letter, please contact the stakeholder relations team at [stakeholders@nmc-uk.org](mailto:stakeholders@nmc-uk.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Sutcliffe'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Andrea' and the last name 'Sutcliffe' clearly distinguishable.

Andrea Sutcliffe CBE  
Chief Executive and Registrar