

## House of Commons Science and Technology Committee call for evidence in support of Brexit summit.

### About the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)

- IPEM is a professional association and Learned Society with more than 5,000 members working in hospitals, academia and industry, who are physicists, engineers and technologists working with applications of physics and engineering applied to medicine and biology.
- As a charity, IPEM's aim is to advance the application of physics and engineering to medicine for the public benefit and to advance public education in this field. We do so by supporting and publishing research, and supporting the dissemination of knowledge and innovation through project funding and scientific meetings; and by setting standards for education, training and continuing professional development for healthcare scientists and clinical engineers.
- We also produce information for the public about the role of physicists and engineers in their healthcare services, and hold a series of public lectures each year. Our members are also involved in outreach events for young people and university students, to promote healthcare science careers.

### IPEM's response

1. There are several areas which IPEM has commented on in a number of responses to consultations and calls for evidence by both Select Committees and other bodies which it considers still require attention.
2. In terms of healthcare resilience, the UK needs to ensure a sustainable daily supply of time critical deliveries of radiopharmaceuticals from the EU. We are dependent on the EU for our supply; deliveries cannot be delayed by prolonged Customs checks as the radiopharmaceuticals decay with time and are required to meet strict daily hospital treatment and diagnostic schedules. This has been raised in response to inquiries including the following:
  - [House of Commons Science and Technology Committee: Leaving the EU](#)
  - [House of Commons Health Select Committee: Brexit and health and social care](#)
3. The House of Commons [European Scrutiny Committee](#) made the very same point in its report about medical radioisotopes on 15 January 2018.
4. UK and EU legislation requires the appointment of Medical Physics Experts (MPEs) to work in the fields of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology/Radiotherapy. The UK Government should seek to encourage harmonised systems of training, education and competence of MPEs throughout Europe. This has been raised in the above-named inquiries.
5. In future, the UK Government will need to determine whether it should mirror EU legislation in the field of ionising radiation, or whether it should derive its own

legislation. UK law could, for example, be derived directly from the independent International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) guidelines and the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This has been raised in the Science and Technology Committee: Leaving the EU inquiry, the Health Select Committee: Brexit and health and social care inquiry, and the Health Select Committee: Brexit – medicines, medical devices and substances of human origin inquiry (see next point below for this).

6. IPEM has submitted evidence about medical devices and their regulation. This brings up issues around the transition period for new regulations which became part of UK law in May 2017. This needs to be confirmed post-Brexit and the transition periods allowed to run. Please see IPEM's response to:
  - [House of Commons Health Select Committee inquiry on Brexit – medicines, medical devices and substances of human origin](#)
  
7. The Institute has also raised concerns that the ending of free movement of EEA nationals into and out of the UK will critically threaten the medical physics and clinical engineering (MPCE) workforce in its response to the Migration Advisory Committee:
  - [IPEM's contribution to the Migratory Advisory Committee's call for evidence on EEA-workers in the UK labour market](#)
  
8. These are the main areas which IPEM has highlighted and which the Institute still feel are outstanding and require attention.

**ENDS**