



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Our ref: TO-1202914

Dr Caroline Elston  
UKCFMA Chair  
Consultant, Respiratory Medicine  
4th Floor Hambleton North Wing  
Denmark Hill SE5 9RS

25 February 2020

Dear Dr Elston,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 January to Matt Hancock about the forthcoming triple therapy for cystic fibrosis (CF) and support for those with the condition. I have been asked to reply.

As you know, Vertex has agreed to submit its forthcoming triple therapy (Trikafta) to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for appraisal. NICE is now consulting stakeholders on the draft scope for the appraisal. Further information can be found on the NICE website, [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk), by searching for 'GID-TA10566'. It is important to note that, in order to recommend the triple therapy for routine NHS funding, NICE will need to be assured that Vertex has priced it at a level that is fair to both the NHS and UK taxpayers.

The Department can assure you that it is absolutely committed to the UK maintaining its position as a centre for excellence in innovation in the field of life sciences. The UK is already a strong and growing centre for life sciences, with a quarter of a million jobs in the sector, almost £74 billion in annual turnover, and unparalleled collaboration between Government, industry, academia, charities and the NHS. The Department fully intends to realise the Government's renewed commitment to making the UK a global hub for life sciences. The Department has already started, by creating the Accelerated Access Collaborative and launching the 2019 Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access. These will tackle barriers to patient access, provide greater flexibility between the NHS and the pharmaceutical industry, and increase patient access to the best new treatments and technologies.

Whilst the Secretary of State is very keen to be kept informed, I hope you will appreciate that this is an extremely busy time and he is unable to commit to a meeting at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Jeneba Charm  
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries