



Jane Ellison MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health
Department of Health
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

28 April 2016

Dear Minister

We are writing as organisations concerned to see PrEP made available as soon as possible in the English health system, believing it is urgently needed to reverse the trend of increasing HIV transmissions.

We were of course delighted to see that NHS England is now reconsidering its view on whether PrEP can be commissioned through the specialised commissioning process. We are hopeful that PrEP will, as a result, be assessed and prioritised by CPAG this year. The case for PrEP as an immensely effective and cost-effective intervention is, we believe, compelling.

Without prejudice to our strong support for this process, we also believe that, in parallel, there should be high level discussions more broadly, and as soon as possible, on the need for PrEP. These discussions would cover how we can ensure PrEP is made equitably and consistently available from this year onwards.

Agreement to refer PrEP to CPAG by the Specialised Services Committee is not guaranteed nor, should it get to CPAG, is it certain that PrEP will be prioritised so as to be affordable within the budget available for new policies. There is also the need to consider the role of local authorities in the process.

We would therefore welcome your leadership to bring together and chair a meeting in the near future, attended by the signatory organisations of this letter, local government representatives and senior representatives of NHS England and Public Health England. Such a meeting would develop an agreed strategic commitment to the roll-out of PrEP, clarify its commissioning future, and come to a consensus as to likely uptake, cost and budgetary impact over the next two years.

It is essential that as a nation we regain a vision for HIV prevention, and the place of PrEP, which all stakeholders can unreservedly support and act on. As Minister for Public Health, we formally request that you steer this forward and bring us together before the end of May to make this a reality.

In order to facilitate this please do not hesitate to contact Ian Green's office. His e-mail address is ian.green@tth.org.uk and phone number is 020 7812 1855. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



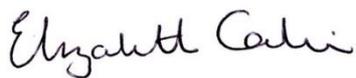
Ian Green, Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust



Deborah Gold, Chief Executive, National AIDS Trust



David Asboe, Chair, British HIV Association



Elizabeth Carlin, President, British Association for Sexual Health & HIV



Andrew Furber, President, Association for Directors of Public Health