



Mark Oakley and Nikola Brigden
Forgotten Lives UK
[By email](#)

The Rt. Hon. Andrew Gwynne MP
Minister for Public Health and Prevention DHSC

23rd July 2024

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to this position, so crucial in making long overdue changes and improvements in the way the most vulnerable patients are protected.

Following our numerous discussions with your office over the last 2 ½ years and our recent meeting at the start of the year, we know you are well aware of the very difficult issues facing the immunocompromised, both in terms of physical health but also linked issues, such as their mental health, employment and economic position, which is also echoed amongst many of their family members too.

We are extremely keen to set up a meeting between you and ourselves in order to discuss the following pressing issues, which after 4 years of the last government simply ignoring and neglecting these issues are now extremely urgent.

1. Access to protective covid prophylactic drugs and an overhaul of the assessment system for covid drugs to enable quick and decisive decisions to be made to allow these to be utilised faster at their optimum efficacy, in line with the Government's current manifesto, and in step with both the European Union and the United States, amongst other countries.
2. Reassessment of non-pharmaceutical measures in health settings to protect immunocompromised patients from the risk of infection.
3. Review and reassessment of the current scheme in place to access lateral flow tests, which is proving to be problematic both in access and supply.
4. Review and reassessment of the current individual ICB system for access to Covid antiviral treatments for the most vulnerable patients testing positive with Covid, which after being in place for one year is still underperforming in many areas, making access difficult or impossible for many of the most vulnerable patients who need it in a timely manner.

We fully understand that both the new government and yourself face a long list of problems surrounding healthcare that need to be addressed, but for the many thousands who are still facing the prospect of shielding and living restricted lives, there can be no more of an urgent issue for them

as many have a limited life span and especially after the way they have simply been forgotten so shamefully by the last government. The time has come to put right these mistakes.

We look forward to your speedy reply and hope that we can meet in the immediate future, to start to push forward on these issues in an extremely positive and constructive way to effect fast change on these critical issues to benefit those that we represent who are so desperate to see an end to the situation they face.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Oakley
Nikola Brigden

For and on behalf of Forgotten Lives UK
www.Forgottenlives.uk