



Chris Heaton-Harris

Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

July 2020

A number of misleading posts are currently circulating on social media with regard to the Trade Bill and our NHS, and I believe it's important to set the record straight on this issue.

On July 20th, I voted on the Trade Bill, which will maintain the free trade agreements that the UK has been party to throughout its EU membership. An amendment tabled by the Opposition with regard to trading quality standards ignored the fact that the Trade Bill is continuity-based, and therefore it cannot be used to implement new free trade agreements. This was thus nothing more than a political stunt.

Any claims that the NHS is at risk in future trade deals are absolutely false. At the election I stood on a manifesto which made it clear that the NHS will not be on the table, nor will the price that it pays for drugs or the services it provides to patients. I can assure you my position has not changed, and you can read my full response to recent events below:

<https://www.heatonharris.com/nhs-and-international-trade>

This Government has put historic amounts of money into our National Health Service. We have invested in more Doctors and Nurses than ever before and when the coronavirus pandemic struck, we made sure our NHS was ready, resilient and well-funded.

Unfortunately, a small group of people - who can no longer campaign to say there are only "24 hours left to save the NHS" and so on - have now resorted to spreading false information about what might be included in future Trade Agreements. I believe that it's necessary to challenge these spurious claims, and make sure that transparency is upheld. The carve-outs, reservations and exceptions which protect our NHS when it comes to trade deals are not under threat, and nor will they be in the future.

As ever, if you would like further details or clarification regarding my position on this matter, you can contact me at chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk.

Yours,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

Website: www.heatonharris.com