# This letter is for people who have not themselves been shielding but wish to support others. You need to insert a friend’s name below before sending and adjust the MP name. Please ensure that the statement is truthful with respect to your situation.

Dear MP Name,

I am writing as I have heard Lord Andrew Lansley and The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt speaking about a “failure of government” concerning the Department of Health’s decision not to purchase the drug Evusheld to protect the most vulnerable this winter. This is important to me as my friend, FRIEND NAME, is still shielding and cannot yet safely visit any public place or see family or friends.

There are around 500,000 people in this country who cannot respond to Covid vaccines and who remain at serious risk. People like my friend, FRIEND NAME, have been shielding for 2.5 years now, in isolation. They are desperate and sometimes near suicidal. A new drug called Evusheld is the answer that 32 other countries are using and that 125 clinicians in this country have recommended in a statement. The latest studies and data show that the drug is working. Yet the DHSC conducted its own review and concluded the precise opposite of everybody else. Something has gone very wrong here.

At the moment a quarter of all NHS ICU capacity is taken up by these vulnerable people. Aside from this not being right, it is putting inordinate pressure on our NHS bed space. The most recent international studies of Evusheld show 92% reduction in hospitalisation in this group. If you really want to protect the NHS this winter, why are you not protecting people like my friend from having to potentially go to hospital, so beds are free for other patients? It makes no sense, and please don't tell me that they can get boosters, as that is the reason they are in this situation: the vaccines don’t work for them and they can’t risk the lottery of antivirals, when the access is so patchy. We are vaccinated to protect us so we can get on with our lives. Why should they have to risk getting ill first before getting treated when there is a drug available that can protect them?

Another problem though is that the DHSC process has been utterly non-transparent. They have not published their “review”. They have not even said who was consulted. It is undemocratic for unelected officials to make decisions when they don’t show their evidence. I have also seen members of the panel stating, on Twitter, that they were not asked, so we don’t even know who made this decision. The NICE process to which DHSC has now consigned this drug will take a year to complete. This will mean another Christmas for these most vulnerable people away from family and friends in isolation, still shielding.

I am so incensed about this situation, that I will be looking to use my vote elsewhere if this isn't resolved quickly.

Please can you write to the Secretary of State for Health to ask him to fix this, because when 2 ex health ministers say the Government is wrong, something is not right.

With thanks for your consideration,

Constituent Name