# This letter is for people who have been shielding. You need to adjust the MP name. Please also add details of your story where highlighted.

Dear MP Name,

I am just writing as I heard Lord Andrew Lansley and The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt on the Today Programme saying that there had been a “failure of government” concerning the Department of Health’s recent decision on the winter strategy for Covid.

Like 500,000 other people, I don't respond to vaccines because of my health. I am still at serious risk of hospital and death. There is a new medication called Evusheld that has been authorised in the UK since March. 32 other countries are using it and 125 clinicians in this country recently called for it. But the DHSC has decided not to use it and it isn’t available anywhere in the UK.

I am desperate to have some sort of life back. I have been shielding for 2.5 years now with virtually no family contact and no ability to meet with friends. My condition means that I am still at severe risk. For me and other people in my condition, the first lockdown never ended and it is more than I can bear. DETAILS OF SITUATION HERE “I AM LIVING APART FROM MY DAUGHTER ETC”. There is an answer, but the DHSC has decided not to buy it.

Please don't tell me I'm being protected with vaccines and antivirals. As I've said, vaccines and Boosters do absolutely nothing to protect me because of my condition. Getting the antivirals is a hit and miss and is time sensitive. Would you be happy to rely on this if you or someone in your family couldn't get the vaccine?

The DHSC decision is wrong. It’s against clinical and international consensus. But it was also made in July, before the most recent data from Israel and France (showing 92% reduction in hospitalisation) was available and there's further data coming out all the time to prove it works. Further, the DHSC has not published its “robust review” – so we can’t even see how they came to their conclusion. This is why Conservative grandees are standing up and saying that this is a failure.

Further, almost a quarter of NHS intensive care beds are taken up by immunocompromised people at the moment. Given how well Evusheld has been seen to work overseas, we have an easy way to reduce this load, at low cost compared to a hospital stay and avoid the problems that Steve Barclay has already highlighted in the last week in his interview in the papers.

DHSC has passed this to NICE, which has said it won’t have a decision until next year. I cannot stand a third Christmas alone but it’s especially terrible knowing that there is an answer… but that the UK will not provide it. I have thought about traveling overseas to try to get it privately as I am so desperate, even though I cannot afford this and it would put me at extreme risk. I'm sure it wouldn't look good to see lots of people in my position having to travel to countries such as France to get treatments that can't be obtained here

My situation is desperate and despite being a supporter of yours I will have to strongly look at who gets my vote in the next election based on what's happening with this and of course my family will also be in the same position.

Please would you write to the Secretary of State for Health to ask him to set this right?

Thank you,

Constituent Name