# 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 do not respond to normal covid vaccines, due to my health conditions. I am still at serious risk of hospital and death. There is a new medication called Evusheld which was authorised in the UK from 17th March 2022. 32 other countries are using it and 125 clinicians in this country recently called for it in a clinical consensus statement sent to the Secretary of State for Health. But the DHSC has decided to go against this information

And make the decision they will not rollout Evusheld before Winter.

I think you will understand that after 2.5 years of shielding, I am desperate to have some sort of life back. During this period I have had no family contact and no ability to meet with friends. My condition means that I am still at severe risk if I catch covid. For me and other people in my condition, the first lockdown never ended and the effects of this on my mental wellbeing are starting to take its toll. 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 already explained these do absolutely nothing to protect me because of my condition. Getting the antivirals has already been proved to be patchy with many CDMU’s being closed over a weekend, which means many people do not get access within the critical 5 day period. Would you be happy to rely on this, if you or someone in your family couldn't get the vaccine? I am sure you would be pushing for the rollout of Evusheld too.

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 hospitalization) was available and there's further data coming out all the time to prove further efficacy. Furthermore, the DHSC has not published its “robust review” – so we can’t even see how a conclusion was drawn. And this is exactly why Conservative grandees are standing up and saying that this is a failure. The new Moderna vaccine, which has been approved for the winter program, was approved within 2 months, after only being tested on 437 people and once again will have no effect on immunocompromised, surely there needs to be the same urgency to the decision made regarding the protection for the immunocompromised too.

To add to this almost a quarter of NHS intensive care beds are taken up by immunocompromised people at this current time. Given how well Evusheld has been seen to work overseas, we have an easy way to reduce the burden on the NHS, at a low cost compared to the potential of a hospital stay in a icu bed, for someone with my medical condition, this would also assist in the problems that Steve Barclay highlighted in the last week in his interviews in various media outlets.

The DHSC has passed this to NICE, which has said it won’t have a decision until next year, which is absolutely ludicrous. I cannot tell you what the thought of spending a third Christmas alone does to my mental health, especially when I know there is an answer… but that the UK will not provide it. That in itself is beyond cruel.

I considered the option of traveling overseas to try to get it privately, this in itself would cause me considerable hardship as well as put me at significant risk too. I am also sure it would not look good in the media to see lots of people in my position having to travel to other European countries to get treatments that can't be obtained here.

My situation is desperate and despite being an ardent supporter of yours, I would have to look strongly at who gets my vote in the next election, based on what's happening with this situation and of course my family will also be doing the same, as this impacts on them too..

Please can I ask you to write to the Secretary of State for Health on my behalf, to ask him to reconsider his decision, based on the new information available on the efficacy of Evusheld, the clinical consensus statement, and the statements from the former health ministers.

Thank you,

Constituent Name