Agenda

- Campaign background and info
- What is a virtual lobby meeting
- Tips and tricks for a good meeting
- Elevator pitches
- Practise meetings
● What’s the problem?
● What’s the Trade Bill?
● Why do we want an amendment?
● What are we asking MPs to do?
What’s the problem?

- The NHS is still on the table because of
  - The US will insist on ‘negative listing’
  - There is no known way of excluding services from investment chapters

- Including the NHS in a trade deal is bad because
  - It locks in privatisation
  - ‘Ratchet’ clauses drive privatisation up

- Drug prices are also on the table
What’s the Trade Bill?

- Published in March 2020 - ‘First Reading’
- A previous version was published during the 2017-2019 Parliament - this one was successfully amended
- The amendments have since been dropped but shows that similar amendments will be ‘in scope’
- Second reading not yet scheduled
Why do we want an amendment?

- We don’t trust the government wants to keep the NHS off the table
- If the government does want to keep the NHS off the table, they will struggle to do so
- An amendment could bind trade negotiators, provide broader and stronger protections to health services, pharmaceuticals, etc
- It sends a strong signal that the NHS is to be protected by future governments, rather than relying on the will of each successive Parliament.
What are we asking MPs to do?

- Table/vote for an amendment that protects our health services from the liberalising/privatising effects of trade deals.
- We’re expecting Emily Thornberry to table an amendment for Labour - until she does, more pressure on her would be good!
- We also need a Tory backbencher to table an amendment for the government - they’re unlikely to agree right away but with the right pressure now, will be more likely to table one in response to Labour.
- All other opposition MPs should be encouraged to vote for any amendment that successfully protects the NHS
- The SNP are tabling a whole Bill to protect the NHS - encourage this!
Read the briefing for more info

And don’t forget to send it to your MP before your meeting
Tips and tricks

What makes a good virtual lobby meeting?

What do you need to prepare before the meeting?

What could you do afterwards?
Check your toolkit for more tips, template emails, etc!

- Step 1 - email your MP
- Step 2 - follow up with a phone call
- Step 3 - prepare for the meeting
- Step 4 - the meeting itself
- Step 5 - the follow-up
Elevator pitch

1) Start with your story - who you are and why this issue motivates you - Why do you care about the NHS?
2) Why are you here right now - what danger is the NHS in?
3) What do you need from them? - your ask - be specific!
Put it into practice...
Thank you!