

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Chair of the London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Date: 13 NOV 2019

Dear Jennette,

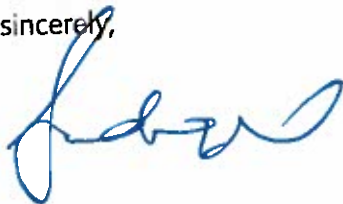
I welcome the motion passed by the London Assembly on 31 October highlighting the issues related to the PrEP Impact trial and calling on the Government to make PrEP routinely available. As the motion notes, PrEP can significantly reduce a person's risk of becoming infected with HIV and its onward transmission. As a Fast Track City, London is dedicated to eliminating HIV by 2030 – but if we are to achieve this, PrEP must be available to everyone who needs it, particularly those from groups at high risk of infection. This should be as part of a combination prevention approach, which enables Londoners to choose what works for them to protect against HIV including access to frequent testing, condoms and effective treatment (U=U).

I first wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care last February, asking for PrEP to be made accessible to all who need it and to reverse the cuts to public health grant funding so that local authorities could meet the costs of attendance and testing at sexual health clinics. On 11 March, I released a statement expressing concern that although the NHS had doubled the number of places on the Impact Trial to 26,000, they had not been fully taken up by London local authorities because of funding constraints. I again called on the Government to fund the programme properly and roll it out fully. On 9 September, in my speech to open the Fast Track Cities conference, I reiterated my call for full roll out of PrEP.

In the short term it is vital that places on the PrEP Impact trial are available to Londoners who could benefit from the drug, and in October I wrote to both the Chief Investigator of the Trial and the Director of London Sexual Health to seek clarity on a number of queries, including how long the current Trial places are expected to last and what measures are being put in place to ensure open access to PrEP continues to the end of the Trial. I have also made a further representation to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on behalf of London calling for agreement on a future funding model to enable the move to routine commissioning of PrEP as soon as the Trial ends next April. I enclose copies of the letters and will of course let the Assembly know what the response to them is.

I believe it is essential for everyone who needs it to have access to PrEP and I am committed to working with partners, including my co-signatories to Fast Track Cities and organisations such as the Terence Higgins Trust and National AIDS Trust to end the transmission of HIV in London.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Encs.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Dr Ann Sullivan

Chief Investigator of the PrEP Impact Trial
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
369 Fulham Road
Chelsea
London SW10 9NH

Date: 11 OCT 2019

Dear Dr Sullivan,

Re. PrEP Impact Trial – access for gay and bisexual men in London

I am contacting you to seek clarification of a number of areas of concern regarding the PrEP impact trial in London, and access for gay and bisexual Londoners. I am co-signatory to the London Fast Track Cities initiative, and my London Health Inequalities Strategy includes ambitions to improve sexual health and tackle stigma under the aim of creating Healthier Communities.

You may be aware that in February I wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care stating my commitment to eliminating HIV, ensuring at risk groups can access PrEP and that no one is turned away.

I have been clear that I want England to come in line with other parts of the UK and progress towards full roll out of PrEP for at risk groups as soon as possible and had the opportunity to reiterate this at the opening of the recent international Fast Track Cities conference in London.

From a brief 'mystery shopper' exercise by my officers on Friday 27 September 2019 it appears that a number of the clinics in London have currently paused their recruitment of participants to the MSM trial arm (see appendix 1). Telephone calls to a small number of the clinics that picked up revealed a mixed picture, including one clinic that was open to recruitment on the website stating that it was in fact paused.

I am therefore seeking urgent clarification of a number of matters:

1. In terms of the total London allocation of trial places, how long are these expected to last? And what arrangements are being put in place to ensure there are sufficient trial places for Londoners that need PrEP through to the end of the trial?
2. What is the pathway for individuals wanting to register for the trial if their local clinic has paused for recruitment? And how are travel times and participant convenience being considered?
3. Is the London e-service currently part of the trial pathway for those interested in PrEP, and/or those being followed up?

MAYOR OF LONDON

4. Finally, is there any evidence that at-risk groups are being turned away from registering with the trial?

I am writing in similar terms to Jonathan O'Sullivan, Director of Sexual Health, London Sexual Health, City of London Corporation.

I would welcome your earliest reply.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Appx.

Cc: Professor Paul Plant, Interim Regional Director, Public Health England London
Vin Diwakar, Medical Director, NHS London
Julie Billet, Chair London Association of Directors of Public Health
Kevin Fenton, DPH Southwark and London Member PrEP Trial Oversight Board
Melanie Smith, Sexual Health Lead, London Association of Directors of Public Health

Appendix 1: Extract from PrEP Trial website, Friday 27th September 2019

Region	Clinic Name	Clinic Address	Status for gay & bisexual men	Status for women & other groups
London	West Middlesex University Hospital	Twickenham Rd, Isleworth TW7 6AF	Full - follow-up only	Open
London	Trafalgar Clinic	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London SE18	Open	Open
London	Ealing Hospital, Pasteur Suite	GUM Department, Level 8 Ealing Hospital, Uxbridge Rd, Southall UB1 3HW	Open	Open
London	HESA Medical Centre (moved from Tudor Centre HHT)	52 Station Road, Hayes UB3 4DD	Open	Open
London	Barking Hospital	Outpatients East, Barking Hospital, Upney lane, London IG11 9LX	Open	Open
London	Central Middlesex Hospital	2nd Floor, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London NW10 7NS	Paused to MSM	Open
London	Archway Sexual Health Clinic	681-689 Holloway Rd, London N19 5SE	Paused to MSM	Open
London	Northwick Park Hospital	The GUM Department, Watford Road, Harrow HA1 3UJ	Open	Open
London	Croydon University Hospital	530 London Road, Croydon CR7 7YE	Open	Open
London	St Mary's Hospital	Praed Street, London W2 1NY	Open	Open
London	The Wolverton Centre for Sexual Health	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust, Galsworthy Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 7QB	Open	Open
London	St Helier Hospital (Integrated)	Wrythe Ln, Sutton, Carshalton SM5 1AA	Open	Open
London	Caldecot Centre, King's College Hospital	15-22 Caldecot Rd, Camberwell, London SE5 9RS	Open	Open
London	10 Hammersmith Broadway	10 Hammersmith Broadway, London W6 7AL	Open	Open
London	Burrell Street Sexual Health Clinic	5-6 Burrell Street, London SE1 0UN	Open	Open
London	Clifden Centre, Homerton Hospital	Homerton Row, London E9 6SR	Open	Open
London	John Hunter Clinic (GUM)	2nd floor, St Stephen's Centre (next door to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital), 369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NH	Open	Open
London	The Royal London Hospital	Mount Terrace, Whitechapel E1 1BB	Paused to MSM	Open

London	Mortimer Market Centre	Capper St, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 6JB	Open	Open
London	Dean Street Clinic (GUM)	56 Dean Street, Soho, London W1D 6AQ	Open	Open
London	Waldron Health Centre -Integrated	3 Amersham Vale, New Cross, London SE14 6LD	Paused to MSM	Open
London	Falcon Road Clinic (ex Balham HC)	160 Falcon Road London SW11 2LN	Open	Open
London	Sir Ludwig Gutmann Centre	Olympic Park, 40 Liberty Bridge Rd, East Village, London E20 1AS	Open	Open
London	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	Sterling Way, London N18 1QX	Selected	Selected

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jonathan O'Sullivan
Director of Sexual Health
London Sexual Health
City of London Corporation
Guildhall
Basinghall Street
London EC2V 7HH

Date: 11 OCT 2019

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

Re. PrEP Impact Trial – access for gay and bisexual men in London

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You may be aware that in February I wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care stating my commitment to eliminating HIV, ensuring at risk groups can access PrEP and that no one is turned away.

I have been clear that I want England to come in line with other parts of the UK and progress towards full roll out of PrEP for at risk groups as soon as possible and had the opportunity to reiterate this at the opening of the recent international Fast Track Cities conference in London.

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4. Finally, is there any evidence that at-risk groups are being turned away from registering with the trial?

I am writing in similar terms to Dr Ann Sullivan, Chief Investigator of the PrEP Impact Trial, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

I would welcome your earliest reply.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Appx.

Cc: Professor Paul Plant, Interim Regional Director, Public Health England London
Vin Diwakar, Medical Director, NHS London
Julie Billet, Chair London Association of Directors of Public Health
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MAYOR OF LONDON

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Date: 09 OCT 2019

Dear Matt,

I wrote to you in February welcoming your commitment to eliminating HIV by 2030 and re-stating my commitment, as a signatory of London's Fast Track Cities initiative, to eliminating HIV and associated stigma. This includes ensuring at risk groups can access PrEP.

Since then London has hosted a successful international Fast Track Cities Conference, and I was pleased to be able to celebrate with conference participants how London was leading the way globally in tackling HIV – through innovative prevention approaches and provision of world-class treatment through our NHS services.

However, it was also clear to me that by not having secured an adequate funding model for provision of PrEP in England – accessible to all who need it – we are failing to empower Londoners with the tools they need to protect themselves from HIV. Now that the English PrEP Impact Trial is in its final year, it is imperative that a solution to enable routine commissioning is found. Funding the medication alone is insufficient.

I welcomed your announcement earlier this year of a doubling of places on the trial for gay and bisexual men from 13,000 to 26,000, but also cautioned that London's local authorities have so far only been able to commit to funding 60 per cent of these places in 2019/20. This is due to an absence of a solution to the significant funding challenges they face, and the unfunded burden of additional sexual health service activity related to the trial. When PrEP costs as little as £11 a month and HIV treatment £100-500, it is clear that this is a false economy for our health system as a whole.

Routine provision will prevent the postcode lottery caused by a number of clinics in London 'pausing' registering MSM on the trial. Gay and bisexual Londoners taking responsibility for proactively protecting their own health may, as a result, be forced to travel outside their local area, or even to multiple clinics, to access the drug, increasing the chance they give up trying to access medication. Rationing access to PrEP also raises the stigma around the drug and raises doubts about the efficacy of a treatment we know to be successful.

To highlight the risks, I was extremely saddened to hear reports of 15 cases of people acquiring HIV while waiting for trial places, several of whom were on low incomes and could not afford to purchase the drug privately. This cannot be allowed to continue.

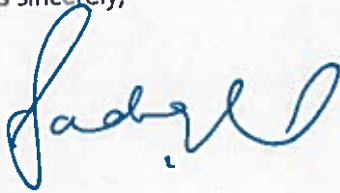
MAYOR OF LONDON

I am clear that England needs to align with other parts of the UK and progress towards a full roll out of PrEP for at risk groups. Therefore, I urge you to seek a resolution to establish routine commissioning and provision of PrEP as a matter of urgency.

I am also writing to the Chief Investigator of the PrEP Impact Trial and the Director of London Sexual Health to seek clarity on a number of queries.

I look forward to hearing from you and to continuing to work together to reach zero new HIV infections in London and the UK by 2030.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff, 10 Downing Street
Sir David Sloman, London Regional Director, NHS England and NHS Improvement
Cllr Peter John OBE, Chair, London Councils
Professor Paul Plant, Interim Regional Director, Public Health England London