Dear [NAME OF MP]

We are currently experiencing the worst public health crisis in over a century. The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our NHS and our economy, leaving many people vulnerable.

Despite this, the government is continuing to put ideology before country by rejecting calls from across the political spectrum to extend the transition period. The simple truth is that our NHS cannot cope with both the effects of leaving the EU without a trade deal in place and COVID- 19.

Leaving the European Union without a deal in place would cause:

* The population and the economy will be still be suffering from the wholly exceptional Covid crisis in December 2020 (with a possible second wave).  They are in no position to cope with the Brexit shock at the same time (and it is not fair, and is ideologically obsessive, to expect them to do so).
* An end to transition will hit jobs and incomes, and drive up prices, at a time when families are suffering the worst recession for 300 years.
* Businesses, in particular SMEs (the major employers in the UK) are unable to prepare for the end of transition: (a) because they have furloughed staff and are wholly engaged in survival in the midst of Covid; and (b) because there is still no clarity as to what the position will be.  Many jobs will be lost.
* The resources of government should be fully applied to resolving the health and economic effects of Covid – the largest crisis to hit the UK in our lifetimes.  They cannot ‘do’ Brexit properly and should not be diverted to try.
* At a time when the health service has never been more crucial to us (or more respected and admired), there is no case for kicking it in the teeth with the disruption to drugs and other supplies and to the free movement of essential staff that a hard termination will bring.
* Increased difficulty recruiting doctors and other medical staff from EU countries due to new immigration rules.

Polling shows that 2/3 of the country want an extension (“we have enough to cope with”) including about 50% of Leave voters.

We must tackle one problem at a time. This isn’t about Brexit. It isn’t about who voted leave or remain. It is about doing what is in the national interest and protecting our economy and our NHS. This is your opportunity to show that Labour is on the side of the British people in this moment of crisis.

Our doctors and nurses are on the front line, fighting this virus everyday. They are risking their lives to protect the public. Please protect them by calling on the government to extend the transition period.

Yours sincerely

[Your name and full address]