# This letter is for people who have not themselves been shielding but wish to support others. You need to insert a friend’s name below before sending and adjust the MP name. Please ensure that the statement is truthful with respect to your situation.

Dear MP Name,

I am writing as I have heard Lord Andrew Lansley and The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt speaking about a “failure of government” concerning the Department of Health’s decision not to purchase the drug Evusheld to protect the most vulnerable this winter. This is important to me as my friend/family member, FRIEND NAME, is still shielding and cannot yet safely visit any public place or see family or friends.

There are around 500,000 people in this country who do not form an antibody response to normal covid vaccines, and who remain at serious risk. People like my friend/family member, FRIEND NAME, have been shielding for 2.5 years now, in isolation. They are desperate, and sometimes near suicidal. A new drug called Evusheld is the answer to this. 32 other countries are using it, and 125 clinicians in this country have recommended in a clinical consensus statement that it is effective and should be rolled out. The latest studies and real-world data support this. Yet the DHSC conducted its own review and concluded the precise opposite of everybody else. Which leads me and a lot of other people to think that something has gone seriously wrong here.

At the moment, a quarter of all NHS ICU capacity is taken up by these vulnerable people. Aside from this not being right, it is putting inordinate pressure on our NHS bed space. The most recent international studies of Evusheld show 92% reduction in hospitalisation in this group. If you really want to protect the NHS this winter, why are you not protecting people like my friend/family member from hospitalisation, so beds are free for other patients? It makes no sense. And please don't tell me that they can get boosters: these are ineffective for them. Also, it has been widely reported that access to antiviral treatments is patchy and risky. This surely all flies in the face of the basic medical principle that prevention is better than cure. Why would you risk dicing with death to be able to access the appropriate treatment?

Another problem, though, is that the DHSC process has been utterly non-transparent. They have not published their “review”. They have not even said who was consulted. I have also seen members of the said panel stating, on Twitter, that they were not asked, so we don’t even know who made this decision. The NICE process to which DHSC has now consigned this drug will take a year to complete. This will mean another Christmas for these most vulnerable people, away from family and friends in isolation. The untold effects on their mental health will be seen for years to come if something is not done quickly. Also, by contrast, the latest vaccine has been rolled out extremely quickly with minimal testing: only 437 people from what I can see. So why the difference?

I am so incensed about this situation that I will be looking to use my vote elsewhere if this isn't resolved quickly.

Can I ask that you write to the Secretary of State for Health on this matter urgently, as I think the decision needs to be reassessed in light of the new information available. There is something fundamentally wrong when two ex-health ministers say the decision is not right.

With thanks for your consideration,

Constituent Name