

Leaked dossier reveals UK's audacious Brexit healthcare plan

According to reports now circulating on the internet, an investigative journalist has obtained a draft copy of a dossier commissioned by the Vote Leave group (www.voteleavetakecontrol.org) campaigning for the UK to exit from Europe in the forthcoming referendum. The dossier details a plan for the UK to take the lead in the formation of a multi-state free trade zone (FTZ) focused on healthcare services and technologies ("HealthTech-FTZ").

Services such as the provision of healthcare including aesthetic surgery, elderly care and genetic therapies are described as offering a major growth opportunity underpinned by a sophisticated digital health tourism infrastructure. Rapid development in genomics and 'personalized medicine' are expected to lead to the creation of innovative therapies for both rare and common illnesses and are cited as significant drivers for growth within the HealthTech-FTZ.

The UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is slated to spearhead development of a global healthcare technology assessment (HTA) specialism while innovations in telemedicine and creation of digital healthcare learning and engagement platforms will allow inclusion of many emerging growth markets in HealthTech-FTZ activities.

The dossier describes how the provision of specialized health technology services will be combined with a major drug development and pharmaceutical manufacturing initiative; HealthTech-FTZ will also establish itself as the leading location for the development and commercialization of new drugs, medical devices and diagnostic tests.

It is understood that Vote Leave has already held confidential discussions with governments and other key stakeholders in countries or cities which are anticipated to join the initiative at an early stage. The Phase I locations comprise the existing FTZ in Shanghai, the City State of Singapore, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, in addition to the UK.

In order to improve the performance of the UK's healthcare technology sector the dossier suggests the formation of three clusters based around London, Oxford and Manchester. It is believed a proposal to include Cambridge was rejected by HealthTech FTZ's leadership. Growing uncertainty about the future of Scotland within the UK is believed to explain the absence of Glasgow and Edinburgh despite their significant biomedical research credentials. Estimates indicate that the selected locations already account for approximately 72% of the UK's healthcare research, development and consulting services. Shanghai, Singapore, Dubai London, Oxford and Manchester are well-established centres of biomedical research and drug

development and their inclusion is unlikely to be regarded as controversial according to sources familiar with the project.

More surprisingly, it is predicted that the widely-anticipated election of Donald Trump as US President will lead to a number of states electing to secede from the United States. Analysts at the Economist Intelligence Unit are understood to have suggested that Illinois and New Jersey could be the first states to leave the Union. Both are well-established centres for the global pharmaceutical industry and thus would be high priority targets for the nascent HealthTech-FTZ. In these states, Chicago and Princeton are considered the most viable locations for HealthTech-FTZ activities. It is believed that inclusion of California, another state with a thriving pharmaceutical research base, is under active consideration. A high profile Republican leader associated with the project in CA is quoted as stating "I'll be backing HealthTech-FTZ" in a promotional video currently in production.

AMICULUM (www.amiculum.biz), a leading independent healthcare communications and consulting firm, has been retained by Vote Leave to support development and implementation of HealthTech-FTZ. The agency already has expert healthcare teams based in Shanghai, Singapore, Dubai, London, Oxford, Manchester, Princeton and Chicago, and this, combined with a reputation for excellence and innovation, are cited as reasons for its selection as the lead agency for the project.

Asked to comment on the reports of his firm's involvement, AMICULUM executive Dr Richard Allcorn cited "client confidentiality" for his reason to neither confirm nor deny existence of the plan. "Boris would probably kill me" he is quoted as saying – a comment which inadvertently appears to lend credibility to the reports currently circulating.

Dr Allcorn was more forthcoming when asked about rumours that the UK intends to resume political control of Calais in the post-Brexit era. It has been speculated that, as part of the UK, Calais would provide HealthTech-FTZ with a gateway to the residual European Union. As a native of Folkestone in Kent Dr Allcorn claimed to be fully aware of the fact that Calais was a territorial possession of England until its capture by France in 1558 but described the idea that it could be included within HealthTech-FTZ as "pure fantasy". "Somebody out there has clearly got a very odd sense of humour," he added.

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For further information on HealthTech-FTZ please visit www.amiculum.biz