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Ms Heidi Allen MP
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

16 August 2018

Dear Ms Allen,

Access to Vertex medicines for the treatment of cystic fibrosis

Thank you for your letter of 15 August regarding the negotiations on access to Orkambi[®] (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) and the portfolio of Vertex medicines for the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in finding a resolution and the support you offer in facilitating constructive negotiations with NHS England.

Our priority is to find a solution for patients. To do that, we recognise that we need to work with NHS England. Contrary to the confirmation you received from the Department for Health and Social Care, a meeting has not been offered to Vertex to meet NHS England. Our CEO, Dr Jeff Leiden, has repeatedly called for a meeting with the Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, as we believe this could help to break the current impasse. Given the urgency of this matter, Dr Leiden has committed to make himself available to meet at a date, time and place of Simon Stevens' choice.

As we have indicated previously, we made the most innovative and best offer in the world to NHS England for the portfolio of our existing and future cystic fibrosis medicines, and we remain committed to working with all stakeholders involved to find a path forward. However, regrettably, it became clear from our previous meetings with NHS England and from their subsequent counter-offer made on 16 July that they remain rigid in their approach to assessing our precision medicines. They continue to use arbitrary value assumptions and thresholds which significantly undervalue the benefits of our medicines for patients, unlike numerous other countries that recognise their value and have granted access to cystic fibrosis patients.

NHS England has suggested that we again meet with NICE CEO, Sir Andrew Dillon. We would be happy for Sir Andrew Dillon to participate in a meeting between Dr Leiden and Simon Stevens, and for NICE to appraise our medicines appropriately, reflecting their full benefits. However, we have met with Sir Andrew previously, at which time he referred us back to NHS England.

In order avoid further delay, we would welcome and appreciate any further support you can provide in securing a meeting between the CEOs of Vertex and NHS England.

Please find attached a background briefing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Oliver".

Michael Oliver
Country Manager, UK
Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Europe) Ltd

cc. MPs who co-signed the letter from Heidi Allen MP of 15 August 2018