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Dr Andrew Riordan
Acting Chair, Joint Committee on Vaccination and
Immunisation (JCVI)
c/o JCVI Secretariat
Public Health England
6th Floor, North Wing
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

By e-mail to jcvi@phe.gov.uk

Dear Dr Riordan,

REQUEST FOR A JCVI RECOMMENDATION ON A NATIONAL ROUTINE MENINGOCOCCAL B IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

I am very grateful for the independent expert advice that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation continues to provide the Department of Health.

I understand that the committee is likely to complete an assessment of potential meningococcal B immunisation strategies this year, possibly as early as its next meeting on 12 June.

I would like to ask formally that JCVI completes this assessment under the provisions set out in the Health Protection (Vaccination) Regulations 2009 and provides me with a recommendation, based on an assessment of cost effectiveness, relating to new provision for a routine national meningococcal B immunisation programme.

I would be grateful if the committee could make the recommendation at the earliest

practicable time, recognising the need for scientific rigour, a strong evidence base that includes an assessment of cost effectiveness, and proper reflection of the benefits, risks and uncertainties in the committee's advice and recommendation.

I am mindful that under these Regulations, I am obliged to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that a recommended programme is implemented.

I look forward to receiving the committee's recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JEREMY HUNT