

# **“Diseases don’t respect borders” – Finance Secretary, Mark Drakeford**

Speaking at the NHS research and development conference in Newport, the Finance Secretary will talk about the Welsh Government’s aim for Wales to continue to have access to vital EU research and innovation programmes such as Horizon 2020.

Welsh Ministers have repeatedly made it clear that Wales’ scientific and research community must not be left isolated from our European partners and stressed the importance of Wales continuing to be part of EU-led programmes.

Mark Drakeford will say;

“As well as the challenges of austerity and increasing demand, we must also acknowledge the challenge of Brexit and the uncertain times we face.

“We know countries and regions across the world are facing common and significant health and care challenges. Diseases do not recognise national borders and our challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. Continued cross-border collaboration in research, development and innovation, (principally through the Horizon 2020 programme at present), is particularly important and should continue after the UK has left the EU.”