

# Research Briefing

## **Brexit Update**

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**National Assembly for Wales**  
Research Service

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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# Research Briefing

## **Brexit Update**

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# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Developments in Wales .....</b>	<b>1</b>
National Assembly for Wales.....	1
Welsh Government .....	2
News.....	2
<b>3. EU developments .....</b>	<b>3</b>
European Council.....	3
European Commission.....	3
European Parliament .....	3
News.....	4
<b>4. UK developments.....</b>	<b>4</b>
UK Government .....	4
House of Commons .....	5
House of Lords .....	7
News.....	9
<b>5. Scotland.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Scottish Parliament.....	9
Scottish Government.....	9
<b>6. Northern Ireland .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. UK-Ireland relations .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. Reports published .....</b>	<b>10</b>

# 1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It includes sections on the work of the Assembly and Welsh Government; EU; UK; and Scotland and Ireland. The period covered is 11-31 October, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

## 2. Developments in Wales

### National Assembly for Wales

#### External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

*The External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee is the lead Committee in the Assembly for co-ordinating the Brexit-related activities of Committees.*

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 16 October: Committee visit to Brussels. The Committee met the EU’s Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier to tell him of the work of the committee on assessing the implications for Wales of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU. The Committee also met the UK’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU Katrina Williams, representatives from Brittany and Normandy, Derek Vaughan MEP, Kay Swinburne MEP & Ian Hudghton MEP.
- 23 October: **Resilience and preparedness: the Welsh Government’s administrative and financial response to Brexit - evidence sessions**. The Committee took evidence from Michael Trickey Welsh Public Services 2025, Dr Victoria Winkler Bevan Foundation, the WLGA and the Welsh NHS Confederation. **Transcript**.

On **10 October the Committee sent a letter to MP’s** outlining its six objectives for the amendment of the EU Withdrawal Bill. The Committee stated that Parliament’s response to the six objectives will have a significant bearing on whether the Committee recommends that the Assembly grants its consent to the Bill. The Committee also **published a document setting out the rationale** for its objectives.

On 11 October a debate was held in Plenary on the EAAL Committee's report on the implications of Brexit for Welsh ports.

13 October: **Interparliamentary forum on Brexit – statement**. Chairs of Constitutional and European Committees from across the UK’s legislatures met to consider issues related to Brexit. The Assembly was represented by David Rees AM EAAL Committee Chair and Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on **In Brief**. The latest Brexit blogs are: **EU-UK Negotiations- The state of play and next steps; Negotiations on the UK’s Withdrawal from the EU: Monitoring Report- 18 October 2017; Joint Ministerial Council meets , Human Rights, Brexit and Wales**.

## Other

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has published its reports on [Marine Protected Areas in Wales](#), and the [Future of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies in Wales](#).

The Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee is considering the use made of support from the EU and the impact of Brexit as part of its inquiry into [Selling Wales to the World](#).

11 October: [Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's Report on the Implications of Brexit for Welsh Ports](#).

19 October: The Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee is considering the implications of Brexit on Human Rights as part of its inquiry into Human Rights in Wales. The Committee held an informal discussion on the latest developments in relation to Brexit and Human Rights with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and experts from the Assembly Commission.

24 October: First Minister Statement: [Update on Brexit Negotiations](#).

24 October: First Minister Statement: [Joint Ministerial Committee EU Negotiations](#)

25 October: Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government Statement: [Visits to Brussels and Helsinki](#)

## Welsh Government

16 October: [JMC crucial opportunity to re-set relationship with Devolved Administrations](#) – Mark Drakeford.

17 October: [Mark Drakeford met Guy Verhofstadt MEP](#) in Brussels.

24 October: ['No deal' cannot be an option](#) – First Minister Carwyn Jones

25 October: [EU funding boost for Welsh marine energy sector](#).

## News

16 October: [Time for common sense to prevail over single market and customs union membership says FUW](#).

17 October: [Clear countryside vision vital post-Brexit](#) – CLA press release on evidence given to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Committee.

23 October: [Welsh Government Plans for Agriculture Must Be Inclusive of Tenant Farmers](#). The Tenant Farmers Association in Wales (TFA Cymru) has urged that the particular challenges likely to be encountered by those who rent farm land post Brexit are fully addressed.

23 October: [NFU Cymru responds to EU Council conclusions on Brexit negotiations](#).

24 October: [Welsh processors and producers must work closer ahead of Brexit](#) (NFU Cymru)

25 October: [Optimal Dairy Systems - is there a way to Brexit-proof your business?](#) (FUW)

26 October: [New research shows deep divisions persisting on Brexit](#) (Cardiff University Welsh Brexit Blog)

27 October: [‘Devastation’ across rural economy if migrant workers are shut out of UK \(CLA\)](#)

## 3. EU developments

### European Council

17 October: Documents by President Donald Tusk for the members of the European Council: [invitation letter](#), [Leaders' Agenda](#) and [Bratislava implementation report](#).

18 October: Press release on the [Tripartite social summit](#). Post-summit [remarks of President Donald Tusk](#).

19-20 October: [European Council conclusions](#) on: migration, digital Europe, security and defence, and external relations. [Remarks by President Donald Tusk on the European Council meeting](#). [Politico’s Live Blog](#) of the European Council. [European Council \(Art. 50\) conclusions](#). Remarks by President Donald Tusk on the [European Council meetings and the Leaders' Agenda](#).

24 October: [Report by President Donald Tusk to the European Parliament on October European Council meetings and presentation of the Leaders' Agenda](#).

25 October: [2018 EU budget: Council cannot accept EP amendments](#).

### European Commission

[Minutes of the 2220th meeting of the Commission](#) on 12 July 2017 – pages 16-24 on the Brexit negotiations.

11 October: [Joint letter from the EU and the UK Permanent Representatives to the WTO](#).

12 October: [Press statement by Michel Barnier following the fifth round of Article 50 negotiations](#) with the United Kingdom.

16 October: [Joint statement by President Jean-Claude Juncker and Prime Minister Theresa May](#).

18 October: [Joint Statement following the Tripartite Social Summit](#).

18 October: [Security Union: Remarks by Commissioner King](#) at the press conference on the anti-terrorism package. [Press release](#), [Q&A](#).

24 October: [Speech by President Juncker at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on the Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 19 and 20 October 2017 and presentation of the Leaders' Agenda](#).

24 October: [Presentation of the 2018 Commission Work Programme to the European Parliament](#) by First Vice-President Frans Timmermans. [Q&A](#), [press release](#).

26 October: [State aid: Commission opens in-depth investigation into UK tax scheme for multinationals](#).

### European Parliament

18 October: [Public confidence in the EU and its Parliament continues to grow EU wide. Over half of Brits believe the UK has benefitted from EU membership](#).

25 October: [EU budget 2018: more funds needed for growth, jobs, security, and climate change](#). Parliament reverses all cuts proposed by Council to the draft 2018 EU budget.

26 October: **Parliament sets guidelines for trade talks with Australia and New Zealand.**

## News

24 October: **Donald Tusk: EU must stay united or face Brexit 'defeat'** (BBC)

23 October: **No Brexit transition period without final EU trade deal, Theresa May tells MPs** (GRAUN)

24 October: **Michel Barnier: EU-UK trade deal could take 3 years** (Politico, from (Flemish) **De Tijd**).  
Also: **Barnier plays down hope of 'special' UK deal** (EUObserver)

27 October: Session on **Could Brexit trigger investment claims?** (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

31 October: **Citizens' Dialogue in Tallinn** with Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger – includes the EU budget after Brexit.

2 November: **"Reflecting on Europe"** at the Västernorrland Regional Development Partnership Meeting (Committee of the Regions)

## 4. UK developments

### UK Government

10-26 October: PM phone calls / meetings with **President Trump, Chancellor Merkel, Taoiseach Varadkar, President Macron, Prime Minister Rajoy, Prime Minister Gentiloni, Prime Minister-elect Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway,**

13 October: **Joint statement from Prime Minister Theresa May, Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron following President Trump's statement on the US' Iran Strategy.**

15 October: **The Foreign Secretary held talks with foreign ministers from 8 European allies.**

16 October: **A joint statement issued by Prime Minister Theresa May and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker following their working dinner in Brussels.**

16 October: **Communiqué of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) on EU negotiations.**

17 October: **David Davis' update to the House of Commons on EU negotiations.**

19 October: **PM's open letter to EU citizens in the UK.**

20 October: **PM's European Council press statement.**

23 October: **PM's statement on October European Council.**

27 October: Former Assembly Member **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth was appointed joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Wales Office** (having previously been a joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Northern Ireland Office).

27 October: **Statement on UDI made by Catalan regional parliament.**

27 October: Martin Callanan, **Lord Callanan, has been appointed Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union** replacing Joyce Anelay, Baroness Anelay of St Johns.

30 October: **Theresa May met First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones at Downing Street.**

## House of Commons

**European Union (Withdrawal) Bill list of amendments to date.**

12 October: A series of **International Trade questions.**

12 October: A debate on **Leaving the EU: Data Protection.**

17 October: The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, David Davis, updated the House on the **progress of the five negotiation rounds since June**, and took questions.

23 October: The Prime Minister gave a **statement on the 19 October European Council**, and took questions.

24 October: An adjournment debate on the **preparedness of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union with no agreement.**

26 October: The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union answered questions on **Leaving the EU: Parliamentary Vote.**

11 October: The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee held an **Evidence Session on the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.**

11 October: Committee on Exiting the European Union **questioned lawyers and academics on Brexit and the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.**

11 October: **Exiting the European Union: scrutiny of delegated legislation inquiry** evidence session with former Attorney General Dominic Grieve MP held by the Procedure Committee.

11 October: **Michael Russell MSP and academics questioned on EU (Withdrawal) Bill** by the Scottish Affairs Committee. **Transcript.**

12 October: The Science and Technology Committee published a **letter from Robin Walker MP about Brexit and scientific advice.**

12 October: The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee launched its **inquiry into Devolution and Exiting the EU.**

16 October: **The International Trade Committee launched an inquiry into UK-US trade relations.**

17 October: The Welsh Affairs Committee heard evidence in the **Brexit: agriculture, trade and the repatriation of powers inquiry.**

17 October: The Committee on Exiting the European Union questioned academics and lawyers on the **provisions in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill relating to devolution.** The Committee received a **letter from Liam Fox MP to the Chair regarding WTO Membership.**

18 October: The Committee on Exiting the European Union discussed the implications of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill for **environmental regulation and workers' and consumers' rights**.

18 October: Andrea Leadsom MP, Leader of the House of Commons, and Steve Baker, Minister, were questioned on **Brexit and the scrutiny of delegated legislation** by the Procedure Committee.

18 October: **The Home Affairs Committee resumed its immigration inquiry**.

18 October: **Ministers questioned on Brexit and the scrutiny of delegated legislation by the Procedure Committee**.

20 October: The Scottish Affairs Committee launched an inquiry asking **Does UK immigration policy meet Scotland's needs?**

23 October: The Exiting the EU Committee questioned the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davies, on progress of the Brexit negotiations

24 October: The Welsh Affairs Committee continued its examination of the **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and its impact on Welsh agriculture, trade and devolution**.

24 October: The Scottish Affairs Committee questioned the Secretary of State and Advocate General on the **work of the Scotland Office and its role in the on-going Brexit negotiations**.

25 October: **UK-US trade agreement examined by the International Trade Committee**.

25 October: The Committee on Exiting the European Union **questioned the Secretary of State on the progress of the Brexit negotiations**.

25 October: **Chemicals industry still facing major Brexit uncertainty** – Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee.

25 October: **Official Opposition questioned on scrutiny of delegated legislation and Brexit** by the Procedure Committee.

26 October: The Exiting the European Union Committee questioned Steve Baker MP and Robin Walker MP on the **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**.

26 October: **Bombardier - the future of aerospace manufacturing in Northern Ireland inquiry launched** by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

27 October: The Treasury Committee published its Report on the **Solvency II Directive—a harmonised EU-wide insurance regulatory scheme**.

30 October: **The Transport Committee heard from leading airlines and airports representatives on a transitional deal for flying rights**.

31 October: The Foreign Affairs Committee held an evidence session to examine the **future of Britain's diplomatic relationship with Europe**.

31 October: **Building consensus on immigration policy** – Home Affairs Committee evidence session.

31 October: **The International Trade Committee questioned the Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox**, on the work of the department.

31 October: The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee heard from **two of the UK's leading academic experts in public law as part of the Devolution and Exiting the EU inquiry.**

1 November: The Treasury Committee examined **the UK's economic relationship with the European Union** with Sir Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office.

1 November: **Northern Ireland Affairs Committee looks to Switzerland and Norway in border inquiry.**

1 November: **The Foreign Affairs Committee held an evidence session with Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP,** Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

1 November: The Constitution Committee questioned the **former Supreme Court President on the EU Withdrawal Bill.**

1 November: The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee held an evidence session on Leaving the EU: implications for the nuclear industry. The Committee has published evidence from the **Nuclear Industry Association** and **EDF Energy.**

1 November: The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee held an evidence session on Brexit: Trade in food. The Committee has published evidence from the **Farmers' Union of Wales,** also a 12 October **letter from Michael Gove MP to the Chair regarding future commitments within the World Trade Organisation,** and the **chair's reply.**

## **House of Lords**

11 October: Questions on **Brexit and EU Students.**

11 October: Questions on **Brexit and the World Trade Organization.**

12 October: Questions on **Brexit: Financial Settlement.**

17 October: **Update on EU Exit Negotiations:** The Secretary of State's statement was repeated, followed by questions.

17 October: The **European Union Committee Report Brexit: Agriculture and Farm Animal Welfare,** was debated and noted.

18 October: Questions on **Brexit: Creative Industries.**

19 October: A debate on a **transition or no deal.**

23 October: The Prime Minister's **statement on the European Council** was repeated, followed by questions.

24 October: Questions on **Brexit: Devolved Administrations.**

25 October: Second Reading of the **European Union (Approvals) Bill.**

26 October: Questions on **European Union: Final Withdrawal Agreement.**

11 October: The EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence on **reciprocal healthcare after Brexit.**

12 October: The first **Inter-parliamentary dialogue on Brexit** was held in the House of Lords. Also present was Robin Walker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union. A **statement** was issued.

12 October: The EU External Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence from a former sanctions official at the European Commission, as part of its inquiry **Brexit: sanctions policy**.

12 October: The EU Internal Market Sub-Committee held evidence sessions on its inquiry on **Brexit: competition**.

17 October: The EU Justice Sub-Committee examined the Minister on **impact of Brexit on consumer protection**.

17 October: The EU Select Committee heard **evidence from academic, legal and trade experts for the inquiry into Brexit: deal or no deal**.

17 October: The Science and Technology Committee took evidence for its inquiry into Life Sciences and the Industrial Strategy, including questions on the **possible impact that different regulations between the UK and the EU could have after Brexit**.

18 October: The EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee heard **evidence from the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, for the inquiry Brexit: energy security**.

18 October: **Expats in the UK and EU-27 discuss effect of Brexit on healthcare** with the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee.

19 October: The EU External Affairs Sub-Committee took **evidence from the former Chief of MI6, as part of its inquiry, Brexit: sanctions policy**.

19 October: **TUC, Which?, and ICA give evidence on the Brexit: competition inquiry** to the EU Internal Market Sub-Committee.

17 October: **Clear countryside vision vital post-Brexit** – CLA press release on evidence given to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Committee.

24 October: **TheCityUK gave evidence on Brexit prospects** to the EU Select Committee.

25 October: The EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee questioned the Minister on **impact of Brexit on energy security**.

25 October: Healthcare professionals and insurance representatives questioned on **reciprocal healthcare post-Brexit** by the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee.

25 October: 25 October 2017, the EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence from the **UK's Central Counterparty (CCP) sector, regarding Brexit**.

25 October: **Eighth Informal Brexit Liaison Group held**.

26 October: **The Government has responded to the report** of the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee on Brexit: the EU data protection package.

26 October: The EU External Affairs Sub-Committee: **Sanctions policy post-Brexit** explored with Foreign Office Minister.

30 October: The EU External Affairs Sub-Committee has received a **response from David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union**, to its report, **Brexit: trade in goods**.

31 October: **David Davis and Lord Darling gave evidence on Brexit and "no deal"** to the EU Select Committee.

31 October: 31 Oct 2017 - Letter from the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee to Lord Callanan on **Future Customs Arrangements - A Future Partnership Paper**.

31 October: **Citizens' rights post Brexit** explored in EU Justice Sub-Committee follow-up inquiry.

1 November: The EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee held an evidence session on financial regulation and supervision following Brexit with witnesses from the Bank of England.

1 November: EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee: **Secretary of State for Environment faced questions on impact of Brexit**.

1 November: **The EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence on reciprocal healthcare after Brexit** from Kidney Care UK and Diabetes UK.

2 November: EU Internal Market Sub-Committee: **Minister for Small Business gives evidence to Brexit: competition inquiry**.

## News

16 October: Worst case scenario' Brexit could cost NHS £500m a year (NHS)

17 October: **United Kingdom: Maintain close ties with EU to meet challenges of Brexit**. (OECD)

26 October: **Reciprocal Healthcare failure a threat to NHS** (BMA)

2 November: Office of Health Economics Lunchtime Seminar: **The UK Biotech Sector and Brexit: Past Performance and Future Prospects**.

2 November: **Being young in Brexit Britain** - European Institute and the UCL Centre for Global Youth.

## 5. Scotland

### Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **25 October**.

13 October: **Parliamentary Committees engage in inter-parliamentary dialogue on Brexit at Westminster**.

25 October: Plenary discussed **Common Agricultural Policy Convergence Moneys, Withdrawal from the European Union (Negotiations)** and **Withdrawal from the European Union (Impact on Musicians and the Music Industries)**.

### Scottish Government

12-13 October: The First Minister at the **Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland** to build ties with northern neighbours. **Scotland and the new north**.

12 October: **Regional trade statistics** - 47% of exports are to EU.

16 October: [Communique from Joint Ministerial Committee \(European Negotiations\) on the general principles of Common Frameworks.](#)

16 October: [Progress at Brexit meeting](#) - Principles approved but no agreement on EU exit issues.

18 October: [Trade links with Canada must be protected after Brexit.](#)

25 October: [Hill farmers fleeced.](#) Scottish hill farmers are owed around £160 million in CAP funding that the UK Government has failed to return to Scotland.

25 October: [Parliament rejects “no deal Brexit”.](#)

26 October: [Population figures.](#) Projections show impact of EU migration fall.

27 October: [First Minister's letter to Prime Minister on EU withdrawal.](#) Urgent clarity sought on transition arrangements.

## 6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly has published [EU Matters: BREXIT Negotiation Focus](#), which includes a summary of the UK government, European Council and European Parliament negotiating positions.

## 7. UK-Ireland relations

18 October: [Taoiseach travels to European Council in Brussels.](#)

18 October: Dáil Debate: [Pre-European Council: Statements.](#)

## 8. Reports published

### House of Commons Library

[Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union.](#)

[Brexit: the October negotiations](#)

### Other

[Why a no-deal Brexit doesn't even bear thinking about – let alone planning for](#) (Panicos O. Demetriades, former governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus, in The Conversation)

[If the UK wants to cut immigration, it must change its model of capitalism](#) (LSE Brexit)

[A Fair Brexit for Consumers - Customs Roadmap](#) (British Retail Consortium)

[To break Brexit talks deadlock the EU must agree 'sufficient progress' has been made – what does that mean?](#) (The Conversation)

[Game theory experts: credibility is key for a successful 'no deal' Brexit strategy](#) (The Conversation)

[Brexit – going local](#) - devolution and local government (UK in a Changing Europe)

**Why did Brexit not work for the Conservatives?** (Professor John Curtice in UK in a Changing Europe)

**Who voted Labour in 2017?** (Professor John Curtice in NatCen)

**Brexit: what the EU and UK still don't agree on** (The Conversation)

**Queering Brexit** (UK in a Changing Europe)

**How to underpin a special deal for Northern Ireland** (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit was not the voice of the working class nor of the uneducated – it was of the squeezed middle (LSE Brexit)

**What I teach about Brexit to my (so far distinctly Eurosceptical) students** (LSE Brexit)

**The Irish border is not a technical issue but a political one** (LSE Brexit)

**Europeans support the EU's hard line in the Brexit negotiations** (LSE Brexit)

**New research shows deep divisions persisting on Brexit** (Professor Roger Scully in Welsh Brexit blogs)

**After the Council: What next for the Brexit negotiations?** (Institute for Government seminar with Stefaan DeRynk European Commission Article 50 Taskforce)

**A Better Brexit for Young People** (LSE)