

Research Briefing **Brexit Update**

Author: Nigel Barwise

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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.

Author: **Nigel Barwise**

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Contact Us

Research Service
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

 : 0300 200 6315

 : Nigel.Barwise@Assembly.Wales

 : senedresearch.blog

 : [@SeneddResearch](https://twitter.com/SeneddResearch)

 : Assembly.Wales/Research

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Research Briefing

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Contents

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

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 10-24 January 2018, 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:

- 15 January: Resilience and preparedness: the Welsh Government’s administrative and financial response to Brexit - consideration of draft report; the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and its implications for Wales - progress update; Wales’ future relationship with the European Union - update on arrangements for visits.
- 22 January: Members received a private briefing on the EU Commission Work Programme, and an update on the EU negotiations. Resilience and preparedness: Members agreed the draft report subject to minor changes.

18 January: **Second meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Forum on Brexit**, David Rees AM attended. **Statement**.

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on **In Brief**. The latest Brexit blogs are **Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report** and **A Continuity Bill: Why and when?**

Other

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has published its report on **Marine Protected Areas 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**.

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.

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee has begun reporting on where subordinate legislation currently being laid before the Assembly may need amending after the UK leaves the EU.

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee has launched its **inquiry into Powers in the EU (Withdrawal) Bill to make subordinate legislation**. The consultation closed on 30 November.

Welsh Government

12 January: [Wales and Europe must work together to face global cyber security challenges.](#)

12 January: [Finance Secretary talks Brexit and Welsh/Irish trade links at Killarney Economic Conference.](#)

18 January: [£5m EU funding boost for Bangor University.](#)

19 January: [EU boost for £9.4m project will use Caerau's mine-water to warm local homes.](#)

23 January: [Cabinet Secretary announces £6m initiative to help develop next generation of farmers.](#)

News

11 January: [CLA response to UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.](#)

22 January: [Union to hold politicians to account over Brexit trade deal \(NFU Cymru\)](#)

3. EU developments

European Council

11 January: [Speech by President Donald Tusk at the opening ceremony of the Bulgarian presidency.](#)

16 January: [Report by President Donald Tusk to the European Parliament on December European Council meetings.](#)

European Commission

9 January: [Speech by Michel Barnier at the Trends Manager of the Year 2017 event.](#)

11 January: [Speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the ceremony marking the beginning of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.](#)

16 January: [State aid: 2017 Scoreboard confirms benefits of modernisation leading to quicker implementation on the ground of public support by Member States.](#)

16 January: [Plastic Waste: a European strategy to protect the planet, defend our citizens and empower our industries.](#)

17 January: [Speech by President Juncker at the Plenary session of the European Parliament on the presentation of the programme of activities of the Bulgarian Presidency.](#)

17 January: [Speech by President Juncker at the Plenary session of the European Parliament on the debate with the Prime Minister of Ireland, Leo Varadkar, on the Future of Europe.](#)

15-19 January: Internal EU27 preparatory discussions on the framework for the future relationship: [Slides on Aviation](#); [Slides on Fisheries](#); [Slides on Governance](#).

16 January: [Programme of EU-UK Article 50 negotiations - Technical meetings.](#)

European Parliament

9 January: **Brexit / United Kingdom withdrawal from the EU** [Ten issues to watch in 2018] - European Parliamentary Research Service Blog.

12 January: **The (ir-)revocability of the withdrawal notification under Article 50 TEU** – analysis for the Constitutional Affairs Committee.

16 January: **Brexit: MEPs concerned over UK government priorities.**

17 January: **Ideal of creating a better future still inspires the EU, says Irish Taoiseach.**

23 January: **Brexit Cafés: young people share their opinions with their local MEPs.**

News

9 January: **Emmanuel Macron breaks French taboo on farm subsidies** (Politico)

10 January: **EU diplomats set to finalize harsh terms of Brexit transition** (Politico Pro)

10 January: **EU uses Brexit to bust budget** (Politico)

11 January: **Sweden offers EU lesson in how to stop dumping fish overboard** - Stockholm has devised a system for trawlermen to swap catch rather than throwing fish back into the sea. (Politico Pro)

16 January: **Emmanuel Macron's spicy London appetizer** - French president delivers tough message to UK — but also to Brussels (Politico)

16 January: **EU wants UK to keep trade deals during Brexit transition** (Politico Pro)

16 January: **EU demands delay to end of free movement post Brexit** (Politico Pro)

17 January: **Commission gets tough on air quality improvement** (Politico)

17 January: **French, German economists launch their own eurozone plan** (Politico Pro)

17 January: **Germany fears university growth threatens apprentice tradition** (Times Higher Education)

19 January: **Europe must wake up to the drastic consequences of a hard Brexit** - The Netherlands knows what it will lose if the UK crashes out. It is less than the price of giving Britain a sweet deal (opinion piece in the Guardian)

21 January: **Brexit talks are back (not that they ever went away)** (Politico)

24 January: **Switzerland's farmers become landscape gardeners** – a non-CAP farm support system (BBC)

4. UK developments

UK Government

9 January: **Ministerial appointments: January 2018.**

10 January: **Joint article: a deep and special partnership** – by Philip Hammond and David Davis that originally appeared in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on 10 January 2018.

11 January: Update of [Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know](#).

11 January: [Government's vision for a greener future launched](#).

11 January: [The Prime Minister chaired a roundtable with senior executives from some of the world's leading financial institutions](#).

14 January: [Philip Hammond sees Brexit onus on Europe](#) (Welt am Sonntag interview)

16 January: [Prime Minister Theresa May spoke with Chancellor Kurz of Austria](#).

18 January: [UK-France Summit 2018: documents](#).

18 January: Update of [Information about the Withdrawal Bill](#).

19 January: Update of [UK nationals in the EU: what you need to know](#).

House of Commons

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill as amended in committee](#).

[The European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill 2017-19: Summary of Commons Committee Stage](#) – House of Commons Library.

[The European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill: clause 7 “the correcting power”](#) – House of Commons Library.

[Brexit: 'sufficient progress' to move to phase 2](#) – House of Commons Library.

9 January: Debate on the [Trade Bill](#).

9 January: [Withdrawal Bill deadline missed](#) (Guardian)

11 January: [A series of questions on International Trade](#).

16 January: Treasury questions: [UK Internal Market, Leaving the EEA](#).

16 January: [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill: \(Programme\) \(No. 2\)](#); and debate on the [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#).

17 January: Debate on the [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#).

22 January: Westminster Hall debate on a [petition to immediately leave the European Union](#).

23 January: Debate on the [Nuclear Safeguards Bill](#).

Committees

[Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:](#)

10 January: [Written evidence from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#).

[European Scrutiny:](#)

10 January: [Meeting summary](#).

11 January: **The Prime Minister's response** to the Committee's letter on the disapplication of primary legislation by the courts under the EU (Withdrawal) bill.

15 January: **Government should offer assurances of post-Brexit medical radioisotopes supply** – Committee report **European Atomic Energy Community**.

17 January: **Meeting summary**.

Exiting the EU:

10 January: Evidence Session on **Canada-EU trade arrangements**, **Transcript**.

17 January: **Lessons for Brexit from Canada-EU trade negotiations?** **Transcript**.

18 January: **Impact of Brexit on science and research discussed** in Cambridge, **Transcript**.

24 January: **David Davis questioned on UK's future relationship with EU**.

Health:

23 January: **Secretary of State questioned on impact of Brexit for patients**.

Home Affairs:

12 January: Committee report published - **Immigration policy: basis for building consensus**.

23 January: **Minister for Policing questioned on EU cooperation after Brexit**.

Human Rights:

Letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice regarding Human Rights and Brexit.

International Trade:

Letter from the Chair to the Welsh Government on support for exports and investment in Wales, 25 October 2017.

Letter from Ken Skates to the Chair on support for exports and investment in Wales, 3 December 2017.

10 January: Evidence Session on the **Continuing application of EU trade agreements**, **Transcript**.

15 January: **UK Trade Remedies Authority inquiry launched**.

17 January: **UK-US Trade impact on pharmaceutical and chemical sectors examined**, **Transcript**.

24 January: **Evidence session on the Continuing application of EU trade agreements**.

Northern Ireland:

9 January: New inquiry launched on **Northern Ireland Fisheries and Brexit**.

11 January: **The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee want to hear from the people of Northern Ireland about the issues that matter to them, and their hopes and concerns as the UK prepares to leave the EU**.

24 January: Evidence session: Devolution and democracy in Northern Ireland – dealing with the deficit.

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

23 January: Evidence session: **Devolution and Exiting the EU.**

Scottish Affairs:

16 January: **Immigration's impact on education, oil and gas, and life sciences** discussed, **Transcript.** Also published written evidence from the **British Veterinary Association** and the **Law Society of Scotland.**

30 January: Evidence Session on Immigration and Scotland.

Treasury:

Briefing on **VAT and Import Duties clauses in Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Bill.**

9 January: Chair's letter to HMRC about **potential upfront VAT payments after Brexit.**

10 January: Chair asks **NAO to examine Brexit withdrawal payment. Nicky Morgan welcomes NAO's commitment to examine Brexit withdrawal payment.**

Welsh Affairs:

9 January: **Impact of Brexit on Welsh meat production examined, Transcript.**

30 January: Evidence Session on Brexit: Agriculture, Trade and the repatriation of powers.

House of Lords

11 January: Questions on **Fisheries: London Convention—Withdrawal;** and on **Food Safety Standards: Brexit.**

15 January: Questions on **Brexit: Customs Procedures.**

16 January: Questions on Brexit: **Women in the Workplace.** Debate on the **European Union Committee Report Brexit: Deal or No Deal.**

17 January: Questions on **Brexit: Aviation Safety Regime; Brexit: Trade Agreements;** and **Brexit: European Travel Information and Authorisation System.**

18 January: Questions on **Brexit: Trade Agreements.** First Reading of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

18 January: Second Inter-parliamentary Forum on Brexit.

22 January: Debate on the **European Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2018,** and **approval.**

23 January: Questions on **Brexit: Financial Services Sector.**

23 January: Debate on the European Union Committee's Report on **Brexit: The Crown Dependencies.**

25 January: Debate: Role of the devolved administrations in the process of withdrawal from the EU and future opportunities for strengthening the union of the UK. [Leaving the EU: Role of the Devolved Administrations and Implications for the Union](#) (House of Lords Library Briefing)

Committees

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform:

17 January: Eleventh Report: [Taxation \(Cross-border Trade\) Bill](#).

Economic Affairs:

30 January: Evidence session with the Governor of the Bank of England.

EU Select:

12 January: [UK-Irish relations - EU Committee launched follow-up inquiry](#).

23 January: [Evidence session on UK-Irish relations](#) with Karen Bradley, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Office and Robin Walker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union.

29 January: Evidence Session on Scrutiny of Brexit negotiations, with David Davis.

EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:

10 January: The [Impact of Brexit on UK's trade in waste evidence session with Dr Thérèse Coffey MP](#), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, [Transcript](#).

17 January: [Letter to Thérèse Coffey, drawing attention to the challenges Brexit may pose for the UK's trade in waste](#).

7 February: Evidence session on Brexit: food security.

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

11 January: [Brexit: Common Security and Defence Policy \(CSDP\) missions inquiry](#) launched, first evidence session, [Transcript](#).

18 January: One-off evidence session with former [UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief](#), Sir Stephen O'Brien.

25 January: Evidence session on [Brexit: Common Security and Defence Policy \(CSDP\) missions](#).

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

18 January: [The Government has responded to the report of the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee on Brexit: UK-EU movement of people](#).

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

1 February: Evidence Session on Brexit: future trade between the UK and the EU in services: follow-up.

EU Justice Sub-Committee:

16 January: Evidence session with the [European Free Trade Association on Brexit: enforcement and dispute resolution](#), [Transcript](#).

International Relations:

10 January: Report published: **The UK and the future of the Western Balkans.**

12 January: **UK foreign policy in changed world conditions inquiry launched.**

17 January: **The UK and the Future of the Western Balkans report seminar.**

24 January: Evidence session: **Foreign policy in changed world conditions.**

Liaison:

News

9 January: **Germany looks on with horror as Britain's deadline looms** (Handelsblatt Global)

10 January: **Putin's Asymmetric Assault On Democracy in Russia and Europe: Implications for U.S. National Security** - UK pp116-120 (US Senate Foreign Relations Committee)

16 January: **May faces tougher transition stance from EU amid Norway pressure** (Guardian)

21 January: **Evidence not ideology: Why a customs union is best for Britain** (CBI)

22 January: **UK economy will cope with Brexit hit as global economy grows: O'Neill** (Reuters)

5. Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **12 January.**

9 January: Debate on the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee's inquiry into the **article 50 withdrawal process.**

9 January: **Holyrood's Finance and Constitution Committee will not recommend consent to the EU Withdrawal Bill in its current form.**

11 January: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee **panel discussion on the Erasmus+ programme.**

12 January: **Holyrood Committee visited Aberdeen to discuss Scotland's budget and the impact of Brexit on the north east.**

18 January: **Senior MSPs set out concerns at House of Lords talks on EU Withdrawal Bill.**

22-23 January: Scottish Parliament's Europe Committee **visited Belfast and Dublin for Irish border discussions post-Brexit.**

23 January: Debate on the **Finance and Constitution Committee's "European Union (Withdrawal) Bill LCM—Interim Report".**

Scottish Government

10 January: **Scottish EU Bill likely to be introduced in February** - EU Withdrawal Bill incompatible with devolution.

15 January: **Analysis shows Single Market essential for Scotland.**

21 January: [Call for strengthened Brexit dialogue.](#)

22 January: [Building future relations with Europe](#) - Membership of the Single Market and Customs Union.

6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly publishes a [‘Brexit Brief’ newsletter and Brexit information.](#)

The Assembly’s Research and Information Services has a [Brexit Hub](#) with information and links to resources on the subject of Brexit and Northern Ireland.

7. UK-Ireland relations

16 January: [European Council: Statements.](#)

23 January: [European Council Meetings.](#)

8. Reports published

[How damaging would a ‘no-deal’ Brexit be?](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[What will Brexit mean for the government’s immigration agencies?](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Sorry Liam Fox—in trade, distance still matters](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Let’s stop debating leave or remain and think about how to do Brexit right](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Brexit: what are the potential impacts on the NHS?](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Keeping freedom of movement is the top Brexit priority for young people](#) (LSE Brexit)

[‘We don’t exist to them, do we?’: why working-class people voted for Brexit](#) (LSE Brexit)

[What precisely does ‘Canada +++’ mean?](#) (LSE Brexit)

[The usual underdogs of lobbying were the surprising winners of the Brexit vote debate](#) (LSE Brexit)

[The British public aren’t as polarised on immigration as you might think](#) (The Conversation)

[Brexit and UK higher education: some reflections](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Why most people have a much more balanced view of immigration than you might think](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Making Britain Prussian? Brexit and migration control practices](#) (UK in a Changing Europe)

[Irish border after Brexit: an expert on Norway-Sweden explains how to keep things smooth](#) (The Conversation)

[Where is Britain in Macron’s new Europe?](#) (The Conversation)

Our experiment into how voters think shows that they go with their guts (The Conversation)

The future of farm policy after Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

Survey of MPs reveals Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn face significant political challenges over Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

“Project Fear” was groundless: the UK economy has been remarkably resilient (LSE Brexit)

Will Wales’ economic strategies weather the post-Brexit storm? (Welsh Brexit blogs)

What Europe’s millennials want in 2018 (Euractiv)

MEPs to keep 28 UK seats after Brexit (EUobserver)