

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

20 May 2019



The Assembly and

BREXIT

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.

National Assembly for Wales
Senedd Research

Brexit Update

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20 May 2019

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BREXIT

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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 24 April – 15 May 2019, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

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 EAAL Committee is currently undertaking inquiries into **Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit - the implications for Wales, Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness, EU law in Wales: What happens during the Brexit Transition?**

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 29 April: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the First Minister of Wales. **Transcript.**
- 13 May: The Committee held a scene-setting session with academics on the implications for Wales of changes to freedom of movement after Brexit. **Transcript.**

On 29 April EAAL noted letters from:

- The Brexit Minister regarding UK Common Frameworks Analysis** - 4 April 2019
- The First Minister regarding the attendance of Ministers at Committee** - 12 April 2019
- The Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding international agreements** - 18 April 2019
- The Brexit Minister regarding the Wales Audit Office report on preparations for Brexit in Wales** - 23 April 2019
- The Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding the UK Trade Bill - Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum EAAL Report** - 25 April 2019

On 13 May EAAL noted letters from:

- Oliver Dowden MP regarding the agreement on Government procurement** - 3 April 2019

- Bruce Crawford MSP to David Lidington MP regarding intergovernmental relations** - 26 April 2019
- David Lidington MP regarding intergovernmental relations** - 3 May 2019
- Correspondence from the Brexit Minister and Counsel General regarding a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations)** - 9 May 2019.

On 8 March the Committee published its report: **The Trade Bill - second report on legislative consent and associated issues.** The Trade Bill LCM was passed by the Assembly on 12 March. The Committee also published its first report on international agreements: **Agreements considered on 4 March 2019.** The second such report was published on 22 March: **Agreements considered on 18 March 2019.**

Plenary

30 April: **Statement by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister: Update on the Brexit Negotiations.**

1 May: **Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee Report: 'Wales' future relationship with Europe and the world'.**

8 May: **Questions to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister (in respect of his Brexit Minister responsibilities).**

The Research Service's own blogs are published on **In Brief.** The latest Brexit blogs are:

- Voting time: Wales and the European Elections**
- Brexit: A new timeline**
- Putting Wales on the map: How should Wales approach international engagement after Brexit?**

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee is currently considering the Welsh provisions in the **UK Government's Agriculture Bill.** On 27 March **the Welsh Government responded to** the Committee's report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the UK's Fisheries Bill.

On 1 February **the Welsh Government responded** to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report 'Degrees of Separation?' On 26 February the **Chair wrote to the Minister for Education with the Committee's concerns about the Government's response.** The Report was debated in Plenary on 20 March.

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee publish reports on Subordinate Legislation relating to the UK's exit from the EU. They can be found on the [Committee's webpages](#). In February the Committee published its report [The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Fisheries Bill](#). Also in February the Committee published its report [Scrutiny of regulations under the European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018: Progress report](#), and the Committee [wrote to the First Minister](#) regarding the scrutiny of Brexit-related legislation. In March the Committee published its report [The Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum \(Memorandum No 2\) on the Trade Bill](#), and the report on the [Legislation \(Wales\) Bill](#).

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published its report on the [Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Healthcare \(International Arrangements\) Bill](#) on 22 January. The LCM was agreed in Plenary on 12 March.

Welsh Government

30 April: Written Statement: [The UK Trade Remedies Authority](#).

30 April: Oral Statement: [Update on the Brexit Negotiations](#).

1 May: [Consultation on future of Welsh seas post-Brexit launched](#); Written Statement: [Brexit and Our Seas](#).

2 May: [Counsel General warns on Brexit and the Union](#).

3 May: [Written Statement laid under Standing Order 30C](#).

7 May: [Welsh seafood producers show off their mussels in Brussels](#).

9 May: [Radical changes needed in Whitehall to catch up with devolution and protect the Union - First Minister](#).

9 May: The Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) met in the Cabinet Office, London. The Counsel General and Brexit Minister, Jeremy Miles AM, attended. [Communiqué](#).

10 May: [Wales: a creative next generation nation - that's the Wales we want the world to know](#)

16 May: [Consensus, not red lines will get us out of the Brexit mess](#)

News

1 May: [Work on UK frameworks and funding essential, FUW tells new Defra Minister](#).

7 May: [Another year, another Europe day](#).

8 May: [European Election Briefing 2019](#), Pierhead Building, 10:00 - 12:00 (Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre)

EU Developments

European Council

25 April: **Joint statement of the 26th EU-Japan summit.**

European Commission

The Commission has published '**Brexit preparedness notes**' on the legal and practical implications of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union - subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible withdrawal agreement.

25 April: **26th EU-Japan Summit: Taking our strong partnership to a higher level.**

26 April: **EU Justice Scoreboard 2019: results show the continuing need to protect judicial independence.**

30 April: **Strength in unity: Commission makes recommendations for the EU's next strategic agenda 2019-2024.**

6 May: **An overwhelming majority of Europeans are concerned about the loss of biodiversity and support stronger EU action to protect nature.**

7 May: **Spring 2019 Economic Forecast: Growth continues at a more moderate pace.**

9 May: **President Juncker at the EU27 leaders' Sibiu Summit**

European Parliament

18 April: **New seat projections for the next European Parliament EU28**

25 April: **Support for EU remains at historically high level despite sceptics.**

23-26 May: **Elections to the European Parliament.**

News

30 April: **The mechanism for the resolution of disputes between investors and States provided for by the free trade agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA) is compatible with EU law** (Court of Justice of the European Union)

1 May: **Europe's dangerous creation myth** "The historical function of the EU is to gather together the fragments of failed European empires. To forget this basic historical truth, as Europeans – and Britons in particular – have managed to do, is to risk the very form of life that they take for granted."(Politico)

1 May: **EU's East-West divide didn't have to be** (Politico)

UK Developments

UK Government

24 April: **UK-Swiss transitional migration arrangements for a no deal scenario.**

9 May: **Secretary of State Steve Barclay's speech at the Future of Europe Conference at Sibiu, Romania.**

14 May: **Open letter regarding the Withdrawal Agreement from Secretary of State Steve Barclay MP to Rt Hon John Redwood MP.**

15 May: **Brexit: MPs to vote on withdrawal bill in early June** (BBC)

House of Commons

23 April: Justice questions: **Leaving the EU: Legal System.**

24 April: **Prime Ministers questions.**

25 April: International Trade questions: **Free Trade Agreements: NHS/Public Services; Free Trade Agreements: Regions and Devolved Administrations; EU Customs Union.**

25 April: Urgent question on **Electoral Registration: EU Citizens.**

29 April: Education questions: **Leaving the EU: Tertiary Education.**

30 April: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy questions: **UK-EU Trading Relationship: Industrial Strategy.**

1 May: **Prime Ministers questions.**

1 May: Statement on **British Steel: EU Emissions Trading Compliance.**

1 May: Westminster Hall debate: **Future International Trade Opportunities.**

2 May: Transport questions: **Leaving the EU: Port Delays.**

2 May: Urgent question on **No-Deal Brexit: Cross-channel Freight.**

7 May: Westminster Hall debate: **Wales: Regional Development Funding.**

8 May: Scotland questions: **Leaving the EU: Devolution Settlement;** and **again; European Elections: Voter Registration.**

8 May: **Prime Ministers questions.**

9 May: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs questions: **Farm Workforce; Leaving the EU: Farming Policy; Leaving the EU: Welsh Seafood.**

Committees

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

24 April: Is Defra ready for Brexit? Inquiry **written evidence from DEFRA.**

24 April: Scrutiny of the draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill inquiry written evidence from **Campaign for Freedom of Information,** and **Thérèse Coffey.**

30 April: **New environmental watchdog needs greater independence and sharper teeth** - Report: **Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill.**

Environmental Audit:

25 April: **MPs call for urgent action to plug gaps in environmental protection:** Report - **Scrutiny of the Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill.**

European Scrutiny:

24 April: Letter to George Hollingbery re **benefits of the EU-Japan trade deal post-Brexit.**

30 April: 63rd report: **Documents considered by the Committee on 24 April 2019.**

7 May: 64th report: **Documents considered by the Committee on 1 May 2019.**

14 May: 65th report: **Documents considered by the Committee on 8 May 2019.**

European Statutory Instruments:

9 April: **Instruments to be considered by the Committee on 24 April.**

8 May: **Instruments to be considered by the Committee on 21 May.**

Exiting the EU:

1 May: **Committee considers customs union and post-Brexit trading relationship. Transcript.**

8 May: **Committee examine the view from Europe ahead of European Parliament elections. Transcript.**

15 May: **Committee examine level playing field guarantees in future relationship agreement.**

Foreign Affairs:

4 April: **Correspondence with the Department for Exiting the European Union relating to the Government's progress to transition existing international agreements with third countries.**

24 April: **Finding a diplomatic route: European responses to irregular migration inquiry. Transcript.**

Home Affairs:

1 May: **Letter from the Home Secretary regarding the EU Settlement Scheme.**

15 May: **Publication of correspondence: Home Office data on migrant boats in the Channel**

International Trade:

24 April: **Committee examines barriers to exporting services. Transcript.** Written submission from **Office for National Statistics.**

1 May: **Letter to Michel Barnier asking for a meeting..**

1 May: **Investor protection and the impact of Brexit on overseas investment examined. Transcript.**

3 May: **Appendix 1: Letter from the Secretary of State for International Trade re 7th Special Report - Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2017-19.**

3 May: **Government agrees to consider a range of options for trade arrangements - Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries: Government Response.**

8 May: **Committee discusses liberalisation of services trade and issues relating to digital trade. Transcript.**

15 May: **Academics give evidence on potential future trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand.**

Liaison:

29 April: Evidence session on the effectiveness and influence of the Select Committee system. **Transcript.**

1 May: **Prime Minister questioned on Brexit. Transcript.**

8 May: **Experts questioned on impact of future UK-EU relations on select committees. Transcript.**

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

26 April: **Letter to David Lidington regarding Intergovernmental Relations.**

29 April: **Joint Statement from The Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit.**

Scottish Affairs:

12 April: **Letter from the Minister for the Constitution regarding devolution knowledge among UK Government civil servants.**

23 April: **The relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments inquiry - written evidence from the Secretary of State for Scotland.**

23 April: **Committee examines impact of Brexit on agricultural workforce in Scotland. Transcript.** Written evidence from: **Concordia; Moredun Research Institute; Quality Meat Scotland; SEFARI Gateway; Professor Colin Reid; Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers.**

25 April: **Letter to the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding the implementation of the new seasonal agricultural workers pilot scheme.**

14 May: **Minister questioned on future of Scottish agriculture after Brexit.**

Written evidence submitted by **Angus Growers**.

14 May: **Letter from Chair to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Transport:

25 April: **Reply from the Secretary of State for Transport, regarding the Eurotunnel Settlement.**

Treasury:

1 May: **Letter from the Business Secretary re British Steel.**

House of Lords

24 April: Question on **European Parliament Elections.**

25 April: **Debate on the European Union Committee report Brexit: Food Prices and Availability.**

29 April: Question on **Brexit: Gibraltar.**

29 April: Statement on **Brexit: EU Students' Tuition Fees.**

1 May: Private notice question on **Brexit: No-deal Ferry Contracts.**

1 May: Motion on **Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Confederation** – based on the 33rd Report from the European Union Committee.

2 May: Question on **Scottish Government: Discussions.**

9 May: Question on **Elections and Referendums: Foreign Interference.**

14 May: Question on **Brexit: Free Trade Agreement.**

Committees

Constitution:

30 April: **Parliament's treaty scrutiny system out of date, Committee calls for reform** – Report: **Parliamentary Scrutiny of Treaties.**

1 May: **Letter to Steve Barclay on the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

EU Select:

24 April: **Letter to Therese Coffey about international agreements.**

26 April: **Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit holds seventh meeting.** David Rees AM and Mick Antoniw AM attended, and **a statement was issued.**

1 May: 38th report of session: **Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 30 April 2019.**

15 May: **Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay updates Committee on Brexit.**

15 May: **Committee draws special attention to UK/Norway and Iceland trade agreement,** Report: **Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 14 May 2019**

EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:

8 May: **Has the EU's fish discard ban worked? Lords question the fishing industry.**

13 May: **House of Lords debates the EU Committee's report Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity.**

22 May: Evidence Session on Implementation and enforcement of the EU landing obligation.

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

13 May: **UK participation in Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations after Brexit report debated**

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

3 May: **Future UK-EU asylum cooperation – call for evidence launched.**

8 May: **Letter to Caroline Nokes on future EU work migration and asylum cooperation.**

EU Justice Sub-Committee:

17 April: **Letter from the Home Secretary on EU Settlement Scheme.**

30 April – 1 May: Rights after Brexit written evidence: **Human Rights Consortium**, **Scotland and the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations**, **Liberty**, **Equally Ours**, **Human Rights Consortium**, **Children’s Rights Alliance for England (CRAE)** and **Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights**, **Ulster University** and **Queens University Belfast**; **Aiden O’Neill QC.**

7 May: **Leading lawyers advise on Rights after Brexit.**

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (Sub-Committee A):

1 May: **25th Report of Session 2017-19.**

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (Sub-Committee B):

2 May: **24th Report of Session 2017-19.**

News

25 April: **First border crossing to use United Nations e-CMR electronic consignment note involving the UK, France and the Netherlands** (FTA)

26 April: **No-deal Brexit stockpiling panic as British businesses warn warehouses are already booked up for Christmas** (Business Insider)

26 April: **Brexit: Irish backstop could undermine EU standards, report says** - Study for German Green party says backstop could let UK flout EU green and social standards (Guardian)

1 May: **Exports sag, UK factories report lower Brexit stockpile boost - PMI survey** (Reuters)

10 May: **TUC, community groups and charities call on politicians to stand up against hate speech during European elections.**

13 May: **Discards Ban Probe** - Realistic UK quota shares answer to discards (Fishing News)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **10 May.**

Scottish Parliament Information Centre: **Brexit and veterinary workforce pressures - a perfect storm?**

24 April: Statement by the First Minister: **Brexit and Scotland’s Future.**

25 April: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee - evidence session on the **article 50 withdrawal negotiations.**

9 May: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee - **evidence session on Article 50 (International Trade).**

13 May: **Michael Gove MP to give evidence to Scottish Parliament committees**

Scottish Government

24 April: **Scotland’s Future** - FM outlines path forward amid ‘broken status quo’.

Northern Ireland

The Assembly publishes a **'Brexit Brief' newsletter and Brexit information**.

Brexit Brief Newsletter March 2019.

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.

UK-Ireland relations

8 May: Seanad Special Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union debate - **Engagement on Citizenship Rights**.

14 May: Dáil Éireann debate - **European Council Meetings**.

26 April: **Statement by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach**.

8 May: **Tánaiste signs agreement with UK on Common Travel Area**.

13 May: **British Irish Parliamentary Assembly opens with emphasis on climate action measures**

Reports published

Houses of Commons and Lords Libraries

[Brexit: parliamentary scrutiny of UK replacement treaties](#)

[UK aid: frequently asked questions](#)

[The UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

[Brexit: a reading list of post-EU Referendum publications by Parliament and the Devolved Assemblies](#)

[The EU27: Internal Politics and Views on Brexit](#)

[Brexit reading list: economic, business and transport policy issues](#)

[UK progress in rolling over EU trade agreements](#)

[Brexit questions in national and EU courts](#)

[Impact of Brexit on ATOL protection scheme](#)

The Conversation

[Post-Brexit immigration policy that shuts out low-skilled migrants won't suit anyone](#)

[Nancy Pelosi on Brexit: why Irish-US diplomacy is a powerful force in border talks](#)

[Debate: Beware, the European Union can dis-integrate](#)

[Three lessons for leadership from the Brexit mess](#)

[Why Britain should beware of charismatic leaders promising easy Brexit solutions](#)

UK in a Changing Europe

[The awkward truth is that a Norway Brexit almost certainly wouldn't work](#)

[Brexit, immigration and the labour force](#)

[How good are the experts' predictions about Brexit?](#)

[Weighing goods and services exports in the Brexit balance](#)

[The prospects for post-Brexit trade with New Zealand](#)

[Academic thinktank releases comprehensive report on the European elections and Brexit: The European elections and Brexit.](#)

[How post-Brexit trade agreements might affect the services sector](#)

[What impact did the Brexit impasse have on the local elections?](#)

[Cross-party talks: what is dynamic alignment?](#)

[Long read: Brexit delayed - the self-paved road back to serfdom](#)

[The values divide means voters can switch parties more easily](#)

LSE Brexit

[EU migration after Brexit: high-skilled good, low-skilled bad?](#)

[Beyond the vox pops: what Brexit really means to people living in England](#)

[LSE Continental Breakfast 16: Europe for the many? Realising left-wing reforms in the EU](#)

[The UK will remain deeply intertwined with the EU after Brexit - just how much, the courts will decide](#)

[Brexit is unnecessary. Indeed, we already enjoy some of its advantages](#)

[Long read: Which groups will suffer most as a consequence of Brexit?](#)

[Deal or No Deal, or Remain: the only way out is to ask the people exactly what they want](#)

[It is the interplay between economic factors and individual attitudes that explains Brexit](#)

Why are people moving within Europe? The complexity of migrant decision-making

Long read | How the perennial problem of Northern Ireland took centre stage in Brexit

Other

The economic impact on the United Kingdom of a customs union deal with the European Union (National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

Wales in Europe post-Brexit (Cardiff Brexit blogs)

2019 Welsh European Election Briefing (Cardiff Brexit blogs)