

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

30 September 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

Research Briefing

30 September 2019

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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 National Assembly for Wales, and the Welsh Government; the European Union (EU); UK; Scotland; and Ireland. The period covered is 10 – 24 September 2019, although reference is made to later events where information is available at the time of writing.

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 work on **Changes to Freedom of Movement after Brexit: the implications for Wales** and **follow-up work on Brexit preparedness**.

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 16 September: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the First Minister. The Committee questioned the First Minister on developments in the UK's negotiations with the EU, the Welsh Government's 'no deal' preparations, Brexit related legislation and future funding for Wales in light of Brexit. Find the **transcript here**.
- 23 September: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language on the Welsh Government's Draft International Strategy and its role in international trade negotiations post-Brexit. The Committee also held a session with James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary (Department for Exiting the European Union). The Committee questioned the Under Secretary on the implications of the UK Government's Brexit position for Wales, the level of engagement between the UK Government and Welsh Government on Brexit, EU citizens' rights and the EU Settlement Scheme and Brexit legislation. Find the **transcript here**.

On 16 September the Committee noted:

- **The European Union (Withdrawal) Act and Common Frameworks** report - 26 March 2019 to 25 June 2019
- **Letter from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister regarding Brexit preparedness** - 18 July 2019
- **Letter from the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to the Chair regarding preparedness for Brexit** - 22 August 2019

- **Letter from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Chair regarding UK-wide common policy frameworks** - 6 September 2019
- **Letter from the First Minister to the Chair regarding 8 July 2019 Committee meeting** - 6 September 2019
- **Letter from the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language to the Chair regarding international trade** - 9 September 2019
- **Letter from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee regarding inter-Governmental relations** - 11 September 2019
- **Letter from the First Minister to the Chair regarding international obligations which bind the UK** - 12 September 2019

On 23 September the Committee noted:

- **Letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union to the Chair regarding attendance at Committee meeting** - 12 September 2019.
- **Letter from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee regarding inter-institutional relations** - 13 September 2019.
- **Report by the Centre for Cross Border Studies on a new common charter for cooperation within and between these islands** - 19 September 2019.

On 9 July the Committee launched its **consultation into changes to freedom of movement after Brexit - implications for Wales**. The consultation closed on 10 September, the Committee is considering the responses it received. The Committee published its **fourth report on International Agreements: Implications for Wales** in September 2019.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has been undertaking an inquiry into **Environmental principles and governance post-Brexit**, is considering the **Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Fisheries Bill**.

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**.

Plenary

5 September: **Debate: Brexit and Prorogation of the UK Parliament.**

17 September: **Statement by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister: Brexit Update.**

24 September: **Emergency Question: The Supreme Court Judgment.**

25 September: **Debate: The UK and the EU.**

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

- **Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report**
- **Wales and the end of free movement**
- **New Publication: Marine Protected Areas in Wales**
- **New Publication: Brexit and the Prorogation of the UK Parliament**

Welsh Government

11 September: **Swansea business secures £12 million EU funds for wave power project.**

11 September: **Written Statement laid under Standing Order 30C statutory instruments under the EU Withdrawal Act.**

12 September: **Written Statement laid under Standing Order 30C statutory instruments under the EU Withdrawal Act.**

13 September: **Written Statement: BREXIT: Operation Yellowhammer.**

16 September: **Welsh Government no deal Brexit action plan published - Written Statement: Welsh Government No Deal Brexit Action Plan - Preparing for a no deal Brexit.**

17 September: **Oral Statement: Implications for Wales of the UK Government's 2019 Spending Round.**

17 September: **Oral Statement: Brexit Update.**

18 September: **Written Statement: Prorogation of the UK Parliament - legal proceedings.**

19 September: **Minister calls on UK government to confirm plans for EU research funding following new £7.5 million science investment.**

20 September: **Written Statement: Empowering Communities in the context of Brexit.**

23 September: **EU funds to support commercial development of low carbon economy in Wales.**

23 September: **Food and drink businesses in Wales urged to prepare for Brexit.**

News

10 September: **Prorogation Places Farm Policy Timetable Under Major Stress** (Tenant Farmers Association)

23 September: **UK Farmers May Face a 25% Fall in Lamb Prices** (Farmers Union of Wales)

EU Developments

European Council

10 September: **Council adopts list of candidates for appointment as Commissioner.**

23 September: **Speech by President Donald Tusk at the UN Climate Action 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.

10 September: **The von der Leyen Commission: for a Union that strives for more.**

12 September: **Regional diversity in the EU - how does your region compare? Eurostat regional yearbook 2019.**

12 September: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the European Parliament Conference of Presidents.**

16 September: **Statement by the European Commission following the working lunch between President Jean-Claude Juncker and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.**

18 September: **Discours du Président Juncker et du Négociateur en chef de la Commission européenne Barnier sur le retrait du Royaume-Uni de l’Union européenne lors de la session plénière du Parlement européen** (M. Barnier speech translated into English).

20 September: **Statement by the European Commission following today’s meeting between Michel Barnier, the European Commission’s Chief Negotiator, and Steve Barclay, the UK Secretary of State for Exiting the EU.**

European Parliament

10 September: **How Parliament votes the European Commission into office (infographic).**

18 September: **Brexit: new European Parliament reaffirms wholehearted support for EU position.**

18 September: **EP President David Sassoli receives call and invitation to London from PM Boris Johnson.**

19 September: **Europe must remember its past to build its future.**

19 September: **Detailed schedule for hearings of the Commissioners-designate adopted.**

23 September: **Finnish Presidency outlines priorities to EP committees.**

24 September: **2019 European elections: Record turnout driven by young people.**

News

19 September: **OECD sees rising trade tensions and policy uncertainty further weakening global growth** (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

20 September: **Michel Barnier rebuffs UK request to sort out backstop later** (Politico)

22 September: **EU Automotive leaders unite to say “no” to ‘no deal’ Brexit** (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders)

UK Developments

UK Government

18 September: **PM calls with European leaders.**

18 September: **Get your business ready to export from the UK to the EU after Brexit.**

19 September: **Transport goods out of the UK by road: step by step.**

19 September update: **Changes to design and trade mark law if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.**

19 September: **Secretary of State speech at breakfast event hosted by Europa Press in Madrid.**

House of Commons

24 September: **The Supreme Court judgment and what this means for Parliament.**

25 September: Urgent question: **Legal Advice: Prorogation.**

25 September: Statement on **Brexit Readiness: Operation Yellowhammer.**

25 September: **Prime Minister's Update.**

Committees

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

9 September: **Theresa Villiers gives evidence on Defra's preparedness for Brexit. Transcript.**

9 September: **Brand Britain: Promoting and Marketing British food and drink: Government Response to the Committee's Fifteenth Report.**

Exiting the EU:

16 September: **Chair seeks confirmation from the Prime Minister on his intention to publish proposals for an alternative to the backstop – text of letter.**

17 September: **Operation Yellowhammer document: Chair of Committee seeks answers from Michael Gove MP – text of letter.**

Liaison:

10 September: **Prime Minister to give evidence after the House returns. Text of letter.**

Public Accounts:

12 September: **Too much secrecy over Brexit consultancy spend – Report: Brexit Consultancy Costs.**

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

10 September: **Statement – eighth Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit.**

House of Lords

24 September: **Lord Speaker announces arrangements for Lords to resume.**

25 September: Private Notice Question: **Extension of Article 50.**

25 September: Statement on the **Attorney-General's Legal Advice.**

25 September: Statement on **Brexit Readiness and Operation Yellowhammer.**

25 September: Statement: **Update to Parliament.**

Committees

EU Select:

10 September: **European Union Committee draws special attention to UK-Swiss Agreement - Treaties considered on 9 September 2019.**

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

17 October: Evidence Session on Discontinuing seasonal changes of time.

News

12 September: **Let's strike a deal to end Brexit uncertainty and help Wales flourish - CBI Chief tells Welsh business leaders** (Confederation of British Industry)

12 September: **Yellowhammer confirms RHA's worst fears** (Road Haulage Association)

12 September: **FTA response to Yellowhammer document release** (Freight Transport Association (FTA))

12 September: **Push ahead on Heathrow Airport expansion for the sake of post-Brexit trade, says FTA** (FTA)

18 September: **Retailers to tackle Gove over Brexit food claims** (BBC)

19 September: **Clarification on customs declarations vital to keep Britain trading, says FTA** (FTA)

19 September: **"Smokescreen" or solutions? Britain lays out Brexit ideas** (Reuters)

21 September: **In Brexit talks, Belfast loyalists see risk of return to violence** (Politico)

23 September: **Irish leader warns of no-deal Brexit mayhem** - 'Conflict and port blockades across Europe' (Fishing News)

24 September: **R (on the application of Miller) (Appellant) v The Prime Minister (Respondent); Cherry and others (Respondents) v Advocate General for Scotland (Appellant) (Scotland)** (Supreme Court)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Brexit Update: **6 September**.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre: **The Court of Session's decision that proroguing Parliament was unlawful.**

10 September: Debate on **Immigration Policy (Universities and Scientific Research)**.

18 September: Education and Skills Committee - evidence session on **the impact of Brexit on higher education**.

Scottish Government

10 September: **Agreement on immigration changes for Scottish higher education. Response to UK Government announcement of new immigration route for international students.**

17 September: **Brexit impact on universities.**

18 September: **Building ties with Germany** - First Minister visits Berlin.

18 September: **Brexit uncertainty impacting the economy** - Economic output contracts.

20 September: **Brexit uncertainty impacts economic growth - State of the economy: September 2019.**

22 September: **£52m requested for 'no deal' preparations** - Cost of EU exit 'must be' covered by UK Government.

Northern Ireland

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

Brexit Brief: **August / September 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.

19 September: **European Social Fund and Regional Development Fund projects have transformed the lives of thousands across Northern Ireland**.

UK-Ireland relations

17 September: Dáil questions: **Anglo-Irish Relations, Brexit Issues**.

18 September: Dáil questions: **British-Irish Council**.

Reports published

Houses of Commons and Lords Libraries

No-deal Brexit, free movement and right to work checks

Brexit - implications for private pensions

European defence: where is it heading?

No deal Brexit: trade

Institute for Government

The UK government would be foolish not to appoint an EU commissioner if Brexit is delayed

Boris Johnson's Stormont lock might not unlock a Brexit deal

UK in a Changing Europe

Brexit and parliament: what just happened and why does it matter?

Why 'no deal' is not a viable negotiating strategy

The impact of Brexit beyond the UK: the view from Ireland

Brexit: the long-term impact on UK and EU economies

Here's how Boris Johnson can avoid delaying Brexit and deliver a no-deal by October 31 legally

No deal preparations must be wide ranging

The backstop: shifting goalposts, shifting red lines

The Conversation

A no-deal Brexit won't end the uncertainty for business

Brexit: Boris Johnson defeated by UK Supreme Court - but he could still emerge as a winner

LSE Brexit

What policy do British voters want on EU immigration? Is there a hidden consensus?

Does New Zealand provide Brexit lessons for Britain?

A no-deal Brexit would be very tough for farmers - but will the public sympathise?

How little we know: reflections on our ignorance of the EU

Other

And we're off... we think? (General Election) (Cardiff Brexit blogs)

The inside story of Brexit (Cardiff Brexit blogs)

Divided Wales (Cardiff Brexit blogs)
