

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

10 June 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.

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Copies of this document can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print, audio or hard copy from:

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Tel: **0300 200 6565**
Email: **Nigel.Barwise@Assembly.Wales**
Twitter: **[@SeneddResearch](https://twitter.com/SeneddResearch)**
Blog: **SeneddResearch.blog**

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National Assembly for Wales
Senedd Research

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Contents

Introduction 1

Developments in Wales 2

 National Assembly for Wales..... 2

 Welsh Government..... 4

 News..... 5

EU Developments..... 6

 European Council..... 6

 European Commission 6

 European Parliament..... 6

UK Developments 7

 UK Government..... 7

 House of Commons..... 7

 Committees..... 8

 European Scrutiny:..... 8

 European Statutory Instruments:..... 8

 Exiting the EU:..... 8

 Home Affairs:.....8

 International Trade:8

 Procedure:9

 Public Accounts:9

 Scottish Affairs:.....9

House of Lords 9

Committees..... 10

 EU Select: 10

 EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:..... 10

 EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee:..... 10

 EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:..... 10

 EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:..... 10

 News..... 11

Scotland12

 Scottish Parliament12

 Scottish Government.....12

Northern Ireland13

UK-Ireland relations.....14

Reports published15

Houses of Commons and Lords Libraries.....15

The Conversation.....15

UK in a Changing Europe.....15

Institute for Government.....15

LSE Brexit.....16

Other16

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 15 May – 5 June 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 **How is the Welsh Government preparing for Brexit? Wales' Future Relationship with the EU and the World - Part two** and **EU law in Wales: What happens during the Brexit Transition?**

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 20 May: The Committee held evidence sessions as part of its follow-up work on Brexit preparedness. **Transcript**.
- 3 June: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Counsel General and Brexit Minister, followed by a further evidence session to follow-up work on Brexit preparedness. **Transcript**.

On 20 May EAAL noted two papers:

- Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum no 3): Trade Bill**.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland concerning the Common Travel Area and associated reciprocal rights and privileges**.

On 3 June EAAL noted letters from:

- Anthony Soares regarding a new common charter for cooperation within and between these islands** – 9 May
- Mick Antoniw AM to Bruce Crawford MSP regarding legislating in devolved areas** - 17 May 2019
- The First Minister regarding fishing boats in Welsh waters** - 23 May 2019

- The UK Government Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, **(Michael Gove MP) regarding forestry policy** - 23 May 2019
- The Counsel General and Brexit Minister **regarding revised frameworks analysis** - 24 May 2019

On 24 May the Committee published its third report on international agreements: **Report on the agreement on trade in goods between Iceland, Norway and the UK**.

Plenary

21 May: **Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Trade Bill**.

4 June: **Statement by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister: Update on Brexit and Statement by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs: Brexit and Our Land**.

5 June: **Debate on a confirmatory EU referendum**

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 Legislation Update**
- How did Wales vote? 2019 European election results**
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund: What are the latest developments and key issues?**

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

Welsh Government

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

20 May: [Written Statement: The European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act and Common Frameworks](#).

23 May: [Written Statement: Joint Ministerial Committee \(European Negotiations\)](#).

29 May: [Written Statement: European Maritime & Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\) – Standard Cost Scheme](#).

31 May: [North Wales tidal energy industry set for £12 million EU investment](#).

31 May: [Written Statement: Funding and Support for EU Students Studying in Wales in 2020/21](#).

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

4 June: [Sustainability now at heart of future Welsh farm support](#).

4 June: [Written Statement: Brexit and our Land: Summary of responses and our response](#).

4 June: [“The Welsh NHS is not for sale” – Welsh Government](#).

4 June: [Oral Statement: Update on Brexit](#).

4 June: [Oral Statement: Brexit and Our Land](#).

News

16 May: [Farming unions map out an agenda for the future](#) (NFU Cymru)

24 May: [CLA responds to Prime Minister's resignation](#).

27 May: [EU elections 2019: Who are Wales' newly-elected MEPs?](#) (BBC)

28 May: [Politicians Must Come Together to Avoid a “No Deal” Brexit](#) (TFA)

28 May: [UK farming unions urge new MEPs to engage with farming communities](#) (NFU Cymru)

30 May: [Brexit: Plaid Cymru wants pro-remain parties to work together](#) (BBC)

3 June: [Welsh farming must not fall victim to future trade deals](#) (NFU Cymru)

3 June: [We Must Uphold Our Standards in Trade Deals](#) (TFA)

4 June: [NFU Cymru responds to ‘Brexit and Our Land’ statement](#).

EU Developments

European Council

20 May: **Conclusions of the 51st meeting of the EEA Council.**

21 May: **Composition of the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee: Council adopts adaptations.**

27 May: **Council calls for a comprehensive long-term industrial policy strategy with a vision for 2030.**

28 May: **Remarks by President Donald Tusk at the press conference of the informal dinner of EU heads of state or government.**

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.

20 May: **Aviation Strategy for Europe: Commission signs landmark aviation agreements with China.**

5 June: **European Semester 2019 Spring Package:** Commission issues recommendations for Member States to advance sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

5 June: **EU budget 2020:** Commission focuses its proposal on jobs, growth and security.

5 June: **European Commission reports on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, 10 years on.**

European Parliament

25 May: **Parliament to host world's largest exercise in transnational democracy.**

28 May: **Conference of Presidents' statement.**

29 May: **2019 European election results. UK results.**

UK Developments

UK Government

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)

24 May: **Prime Minister's statement in Downing Street.**

House of Commons

15 May: Wales questions: **EU Withdrawal: Welsh Economy; Shared Prosperity Fund.**

15 May: **Prime Ministers questions.**

16 May: Exiting the European Union questions, starting with **Withdrawal Agreement: Public Vote.**

20 May: Application for emergency debate on **Revoking Article 50.**

21 May: Treasury questions: **Leaving the EU: Scotland.**

22 May: **Prime Ministers questions.**

22 May: Prime Minister's statement: **Leaving the European Union.**

22 May: Westminster Hall debate: **Leaving the EU: Extension Period Negotiations.**

23 May: Digital, Culture, Media and Sport questions: **Leaving the EU: Performing Arts.**

4 June: Justice questions: **Leaving the EU: Assessment of Implications.**

4 June: Urgent question: **EU Parliament Elections: Denial of Votes.**

5 June: Cabinet Office question: **Electoral Registration: Non-UK EU Citizens.**

5 June: **Prime Ministers questions.**

Committees

European Scrutiny:

14 May: 65th report: [Documents considered by the Committee on 8 May 2019](#).

15 May: 66th report: [Documents considered by the Committee on 15 May 2019](#).

European Statutory Instruments:

8 May: [Instruments to be considered by the Committee on 21 May](#).

5 June: [Instruments to be considered on 18 June](#)

Exiting the EU:

15 May: [Committee examine level playing field guarantees in future relationship agreement](#). [Transcript](#).

Home Affairs:

30 May: [Settlement scheme risks repeat of Windrush, Committee warns](#) Report: [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

International Trade:

15 May: [Academics give evidence on potential future trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand](#). [Transcript](#).

15 May: [Chair concerned at lack of progress on roll-over of EU trade agreements – Letter to Liam Fox](#).

16 May: [Letter from George Hollingbery on EU trade agreements](#).

22 May: One-off session on [EU trade policy](#).

4 June: [Rushing into US trade negotiations would be “a catastrophic error”](#).

5 June: [Letter from Michel Barnier to Chair](#)

Procedure:

20 May: [Committee reviews “humble Address” procedure to demand papers – Report: The House’s power to call for papers: procedure and practice](#).

Public Accounts:

10 June: Evidence Session on Funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Scottish Affairs:

14 May: [Minister questioned on future of Scottish agriculture after Brexit](#). [Transcript](#). Written evidence submitted by [Angus Growers](#), and the [British Veterinary Association](#).

14 May: [Letter from the Minister of State for Immigration regarding issues of gaining visas under the seasonal agricultural workers pilot](#).

21 May: [Response to the Minister of State for Immigration regarding issues of gaining visas under the seasonal agricultural workers pilot](#).

5 June: [Michael Gove questioned on Scottish agriculture after Brexit](#).

House of Lords

14 May: Question on [Brexit: Free Trade Agreement](#).

15 May: Question on [Brexit: Creative Industries’ Access to European Markets](#).

15 May: Debate on the European Union Committee Report [Brexit: Movement of People in the Cultural Sector](#).

15 May: Debate on the European Union Committee Report [Brexit: Common Security and Defence Policy Missions and Operations](#).

15 May: Debate on the European Union Committee Report [Brexit: Plant and Animal Biosecurity](#).

16 May: Question on [Brexit: Cross-party Discussions](#).

20 May: Question on [EU Referendum: Lessons Learned](#).

22 May: Statement on [Leaving the European Union](#).

22 May: **Debate on Devolved Administrations: 20th Anniversary.**

Committees

EU Select:

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

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:

15 May: **Letter to Claire Perry regarding plans for carbon pricing post-Brexit in both a ‘deal’ and ‘no deal’ scenario.**

22 May: **Committee continues inquiry into EU fish discard legislation. Transcript.**

5 June: **Minister questioned on sustainable fishing efforts.**

EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee:

5 June: **UK financial services exports explored.**

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

22 May: **Letter to Chris Skidmore on the Government’s response to the Erasmus and Horizon report.**

23 May: **Letter from Caroline Nokes on future EU work migration.**

12 June: Evidence Session on Brexit: future UK-EU cooperation on asylum and international protection.

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

21 May: **Many questions to be answered on future UK-EU transport connectivity** – Report: **Brexit: road, rail and maritime transport.**

6 June: Evidence session on **Brexit and UK space leadership.**

News

14 May: **UK and non-UK people in the labour market: May 2019** (ONS)

16 May: **“This could be a golden age for the UK, if we do the right things”** (CBI)

20 May: **EU mussel exports threat** - Brexit threat to live mussel exports to EU – UK won’t be able to meet new standards (Fishing News)

21 May: **Brexit uncertainty sees stockpiling race to post-financial crisis peak – CBI.**

21 May: **CBI President calls on all politicians to finally ‘resolve the Brexit gridlock’.**

24 May: **What will ‘business as usual’ look like for hauliers post-Brexit asks RHA.**

24 May: **Government must maintain UK-EU market access.**

28 May: **Ewing Brexit warning** - Scottish minister spells out Brexit downsides (Fishing News)

29 May: **BCC comments on Migration Advisory Committee report.**

3 June: **Manufacturing Outlook - 2019 Quarter 2** - Economic lunacy of ‘No Deal’ scenario must be avoided at all costs (Make UK, formerly EEF)

3 June: **UK needs to work with Europe to remain strong in science; We’ll lose more than just money if we lose access to EU research funding** (Francis Crick Institute)

4 June: **“Our NHS is not for sale,” TUC boss tells anti-Trump demo.**

5 June: **Early review of the new farming programme** (National Audit Office)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **30 May**.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre: **2019 European Elections: results and next steps; Brexit – the more things change, the more they stay the same; Brexit and veterinary workforce pressures - A perfect storm?**

15 May: Evidence sessions with Michael Gove on **EU Exit and the Environment** (Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee). Also **European Union Withdrawal (Implications for Scotland)** (Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee).

15 May: Finance and Constitution Committee: **Evidence-taking session on Trade Negotiations**.

16 May: Debate on **Brexit (Impact on Food and Drink)**.

Scottish Government

24 May: **Concern as migration growth slows** - Growth in the non-British population ends.

24 May: **EU citizen votes** - Call to investigate claims of EU voters being denied their right to vote.

26 May: **First Minister to visit Dublin** - Business growth on the agenda.

27 May: **Strengthening links between Scotland and Ireland** - First Minister meets Taoiseach in Dublin.

29 May: **198,000 non-UK nationals working in Scotland**.

Northern Ireland

The Assembly publishes a **‘Brexit Brief’ newsletter and Brexit information**.

What next for the environment, Brexit and cross-border co-operation?

Brexit Brief **April 2019; May 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

21 May: Visit of UK Delegation [Seanad](#) and [Dáil](#) - Alan Duncan, MP, Minister of State for Europe and the Americas.

5 June: [Irish consulate reopens in Wales](#) (Irish World)

Reports published

[Houses of Commons and Lords Libraries](#)

[World Trade in 2019: the US and the WTO](#)

[EU preparations for a no-deal Brexit](#)

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

[UK replacement of the EU's external agreements after Brexit](#)

[Northern Ireland, Citizenship and the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement](#)

[Brexit and air quality](#)

[The Conversation](#)

[Brexit: how the end of Britain's empire led to rising inequality that helped Leave to victory](#)

[Nigel Farage triumphs: survey reveals what drove voters to the Brexit Party in the European elections](#)

[Why do Conservative Party leadership hopefuls keep piling on to the no-deal Brexit bandwagon?](#)

[What the UK population will look like by 2061 under hard, soft or no Brexit scenarios](#)

[An anti-Brexit party just made an extraordinary breakthrough in Northern Ireland](#)

[UK in a Changing Europe](#)

[Mind the gap: influencing Brussels after Brexit](#)

['Clean Brexit' sounds so simple, doesn't it? Trouble is, it doesn't exist](#)

[Institute for Government](#)

[Parliament after Brexit](#)

LSE Brexit

What people say about migration and Brexit: stories from Glasgow's East End

Closing the Overton window: Brexit from gender and queer perspectives

EU migrants contribute to UK public finances, but the money hasn't gone where it's needed

Taking (back) control? The EU Withdrawal Act 2019 and the balance of power

Understanding the enhanced role of the European Parliament in the Brexit negotiations

What do Europeans know about the EU before they go to the polls?

The people's vote that ended Communism: lessons from Poland on the role of elections

Long read: Does the EU stop Britain from using state aid to help its economy?

WTO rules OK? Not any more

Other

The selection of top EU jobs explained (Open Europe)

Will the next Prime Minister face similar Brexit problems? (Open Europe)