

# Brexit Update

## Research Briefing

24 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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# 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 4 – 18 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 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:

- 10 June: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language. **Transcript**.
- 17 June: The Committee held an evidence session on Common UK policy frameworks. **Transcript**.

On 10 June EAAL noted a letter from:

- **Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding the Trade Bill - Legislative Consent - 5 June 2019**

On 17 June EAAL noted:

- **Correspondence from the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding the report on the agreement on trade in goods between Iceland, Norway and the UK - 7 June 2019**
- **Correspondence from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to the Convener of the Finance and Constitution Committee, Scottish Parliament, regarding scrutiny of intergovernmental relations and common frameworks - 11 June 2019**
- **Correspondence from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Chair regarding the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting - 12 June 2019**
- **Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness - written evidence from Food and Drink Wales**
- **Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness - written evidence from Wales**



## **Trades Union Congress**

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**

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.**

11 June: **Statement by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister: The Implications of the UK Government's Immigration Proposals for Welsh Public Services and the Wider Economy, and a debate on the Shared Prosperity Fund.**

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

19 June: **Debate on Leaving the European Union.**

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

- **New Publication: Brexit Monitoring Report – Environment June 2019**
- **Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report**
- **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**.

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 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**. In June the Committee published its report **The Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No 2) on the Agriculture Bill.**

## Welsh Government

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.**

10 June: **Cardiff University secures £3.6 million EU funds for new scientific research facility.**

10 June: **Written Statement laid under Standing Order 30C.**

11 June: **We must protect status of EU citizens in Wales - Jeremy Miles.**

11 June: **Oral Statement: The Implications of the UK Government’s Immigration Proposals for Welsh Public Services and the Wider Economy.**

11 June: **Not a penny less – Welsh Government calls for commitment on Shared Prosperity Fund**

12 June: **Parliament should compel the Government to bring forward a referendum bill by end of July – First Minister.**

12 June: **“Closer Wales-Ireland relations crucial for our economic futures” – Eluned Morgan.**

13 June: **New EU-backed project to open up Welsh and Irish Sea Ports to tourism.**

17 June: **Chaotic no deal Brexit threatens the future of the UK warns Jeremy Miles.**

17 June: **Brexit and Devolution speech by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister**

## News

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

3 June: **We Must Uphold Our Standards in Trade Deals** (Tenant Farmers Association)

4 June: **NFU Cymru responds to 'Brexit and Our Land' statement.**

6 June: **Government Review of 'Brexit and our Land' Consultation Welcomed by FUW.**

17 June: **Fears for the future - FUW calls for good governance to ensure stability for the family farmers of Wales.**

# EU Developments

## European Council

13 June: **Bratislava to host the European Labour Authority.**

19 June: **Invitation letter by President Donald Tusk to the members of the European Council ahead of their meeting on 20 and 21 June 2019.**

## 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.

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.**

11 June: **Mergers: Commission prohibits proposed merger between Tata Steel and ThyssenKrupp**

11 June: **Statement by Commissioner Vestager on the proposed joint venture by Tata Steel and ThyssenKrupp.**

12 June: **'No-deal' Brexit: European Commission takes stock of preparations ahead of the June European Council (Article 50).**

13 June: **EU budget 2021-2027: Commission calls on leaders to set out a roadmap towards an autumn agreement.**

17 June: **2019 Innovation Scoreboards: The innovation performance of the EU and its regions is increasing.**

18 June: **Energy Union: Commission calls on Member States to step up ambition**

**in plans to implement Paris agreement**

European Parliament

13 June: **After the European Parliament elections - what happens next?**

# UK Developments

## UK Government

11 June: **Secretary of State meeting with French Secretary of State for European Affairs Amélie de Montchalin.**

13 June: **Voting rights treaty secured with Portugal.**

18 June: **Treaty on voting rights signed with Luxembourg.**

18 June: **Costa Amendment: Correspondence with the EU institutions**

20 June: **Technical advisory group on alternative arrangements to the backstop established**

## House of Commons

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.**

10 June: Home Department questions: **EU Settlement Scheme; Inshore Fishing Boats: Non-EEA Workers.**

10 June: Statement on **Ford in Bridgend.**

11 June: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy questions: **Scottish Business Support: Leaving the EU.**

12 June: **Prime Ministers questions**, and **continued.**

12 June: Motion on **Leaving the EU: Business of the House**, and **debate.**

13 June: Transport questions: **Leaving the EU: Ports.**

18 June: Urgent question on **EU/British Citizens' Rights.**

18 June: Westminster Hall debate: **Diplomatic Representation in Wales.**



19 June: Scotland questions: **Leaving the EU; Intergovernmental Relations; The Union; Fisheries Bill.**

19 June: **Prime Ministers questions.**

## Committees

### Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

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4 June: Brand Britain: Promoting and Marketing British food and drink inquiry written evidence: **DEFRA, David Rutley MP and Graham Stuart MP.**

### European Scrutiny:

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5 June: 67<sup>th</sup> Report: **Documents considered by the Committee on 5 June 2019.**

5 June: Written evidence for the UK Exit from the EU inquiry from **Dr. Andrew Watt.**

### European Statutory Instruments:

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5 June: **Instruments to be considered on 18 June**

**19 June: Instruments to be considered on 2 July**

### Exiting the EU:

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12 June: **Committee hear from key sectors of UK economy on impact of no-deal departure. Transcript.**

19 June: **Impact of no-deal departure on UK pharmaceutical, chemical, higher education and research sectors examined.**

### International Trade:

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4 June: **Rushing into US trade negotiations would be “a catastrophic error”.**

5 June: **Letter from Michel Barnier to Chair.**

12 June: **Minister and officials face questions over foreign investment following Brexit. Transcript.**

12 June: Written evidence for the UK trade in services inquiry: **techUK; The**

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## **Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.**

26 June: Evidence Session on Trade in services.

### **Public Accounts:**

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10 June: **Funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland inquiry. Transcript.**  
Written evidences submitted by **Professor David Heald.**

12 June: Evidence session on Brexit consultancy costs. **Transcript.**

### **Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:**

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4 June: **Letter to Bruce Crawford MSP** regarding Legislation, International Treaties and Common Frameworks.

### **Scottish Affairs:**

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5 June: **Michael Gove questioned on Scottish agriculture after Brexit. Transcript.**

7 June: **Committee recommends review of Scotland Office and Secretary of State for Scotland** – Report: **The relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments.** Written evidence from the **Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland.**

## **House of Lords**

5 June: Statement on **European Parliament Elections: Non-UK EU Citizens.**

10 June: Statement on **Ford in Bridgend.**

13 June: Question on **Brexit: European Union's No-deal Continuity Arrangements.**

18 June: Statement on **British Citizens' Rights.**

## **Committees**

### **EU Select:**

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11 June: **Committee reports on two trade agreements:** Norway road transport and CARIFORUM – 41<sup>st</sup> Report: **Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 11 June 2019.**

19 June: **Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster David Lidington MP questioned.**

#### EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:

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5 June: **Minister questioned on sustainable fishing efforts. Transcript.** Written evidence: **South West Fish Producers Organisation; Marine Scotland; World Wildlife Fund.**

#### EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee:

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

#### EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

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5 June: **Letter to Caroline Nokes on future EU work migration.**

12 June: **Evidence session on future UK-EU asylum cooperation. Transcript.** Written evidence from: **Professor Elspeth Guild; Immigration Law Practitioners' Association; Refugee Council; Public Health England; Safe Passage; Professor Bernard Ryan & Alan Desmond; British Red Cross; Liverpool University.**

19 June: **Committee hears evidence on the impact of Brexit on refugees.**

#### EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

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

6 June: **Letter from Michael Ellis MP, Minister of State for Transport, about future UK-EU transport arrangements.**

20 June: **Brexit and State aid: British Steel case discussed.**

#### EU Justice Sub-Committee:

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11 June: **Justice Minister questioned as part of Rights after Brexit inquiry. Transcript.** Written evidence from **Scottish Human Rights Commission; Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.**

## News

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)

7 June: **BCC and COBCOE combine networks to support UK and European businesses through Brexit and beyond.**

10 June: **BRC podcast: Brexit! Are we now on an express route to a no deal?**

10 June: **Make UK comment on South Korea Trade Deal.**

12 June: **Ensuring food safety and standards** (National Audit Office)

12 June: **Brexit: UK firms 'not even close to ready' for no deal** (BBC)

13 June: **Outgoing UK diplomat slams 'chaotic politics' and Brexit 'shambles'** (Politico)

13 June: **Power Up The North: Region to 'lose almost £500m' under Government's post-Brexit funding plan** - Seven UK regions are at risk of losing out on public funding, with Wales losing more than £2bn, according to the report. (Northern Echo)

17 June: **BCC Forecast: Brexit stockpiling to hit economic growth in coming years.**

17 June: **Prevent no-deal Brexit and safeguard the NHS, RCGP urges Tory leader hopefuls** (Royal College of General Practitioners)

18 June: **UK led towards no-deal Brexit by untruthful elite, says ex-EU envoy** - Ivan Rogers offers withering assessment of Tory candidates vying to be prime minister (Guardian)

# Scotland

## Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Information Centre: **Brexit and devolved competition powers; Unpacking the legal disputes over Rockall.**

## Scottish Government

7 June: **Response to European election voting failures** - Call for UK Government to accept responsibility after some EU citizens denied a vote.

16 June: **Brexit: Unheard Voices** - New report brings together views on EU exit.

## 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 **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.

10 June: **Irish land border - existing and potential customs facilitations in a no-deal scenario**.

15 June: **Double Whammy: A no-deal Brexit and Northern Ireland** (RTÉ)



## UK-Ireland relations

5 June: **Irish consulate reopens in Wales** (Irish World)

## Reports published

### Houses of Commons and Lords Libraries

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**Can the Withdrawal Agreement be renegotiated and can Parliament prevent 'no deal'?**

**Trade in services and Brexit**

**Brexit: product standards and safety marking**

**EU State Aid rules and WTO Subsidies Agreement**

**Prorogation of Parliament**

**EU Settlement Scheme**

**2019 CJEU Judgments in Summary**

**Brexit questions in national and EU courts**

**World Trade in 2019: the US and the WTO**

### The Conversation

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**What do 11-year-olds think about Brexit? I asked – and they didn't hold back**

### Institute for Government

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**The UK will probably never be as ready for no deal as it was in March**

**Proroguing Parliament would be undemocratic and probably trigger an election**

**The Speaker can't guarantee that MPs can stop a no deal Brexit**

**The private sector and the NHS: not 'on the table', but already in the market**

**The Prime Minister should ensure we see the best assessment of Brexit no deal readiness – now**

**The EU27 believe a no deal Brexit would weaken the UK's negotiating hand**

## UK in a Changing Europe

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**Everything you think you know about Leavers and Remainers is wrong**

**Why the Commonwealth won't take to the field for post-Brexit Britain**

**The UK automotive sector crisis: is it Brexit?**

## LSE Brexit

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**Residency, settlement or citizenship? The choice for EU nationals in the UK before and after Brexit**

**'We're better off out': Nigel Farage, the chicken farm and the emotional resonance of the Leave campaign**

**The rise and fall of Northern Ireland's voice in Brexit negotiations**

**Can the PM prorogue Parliament to deliver a no-deal Brexit?**

**Why Peterborough matters: electoral preferences are now driven by Brexit identities**

**Right-wing populists threaten business interests in liberal democracies**

**The 'sovereign state' is a myth. Europe's nations are stronger when they band together**

**Who really won the UK European elections? A tale of two stories, and what happens next**

**Electoral hostility: politically driven conflicts between people are undermining democracy**