

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

18 November 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

18 November 2019

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Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It covers developments in Wales, the EU, Westminster, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The period covered is 29 October – 12 November 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 [International Agreements](#) and [Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness](#).

The EAAL Committee published its report [Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit: the implications for Wales on 8 November](#). The report makes 12 recommendations about actions that should be taken on this issue.

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 4 November: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Counsel General and Brexit Minister. This was followed by two scrutiny sessions as part of follow-up work on Brexit preparedness - one with the ports and transport sectors, and one with the food and farming sectors. Find the [transcript here](#).
- 11 November: The Committee's follow-up work on Brexit preparedness continued with an evidence session with public services. The SeneddTV recording can be [viewed here](#).

On 4 November the Committee noted letters from:

- [the Counsel General and Brexit Minister regarding Assembly scrutiny of UK-wide common policy frameworks](#) - 23 October 2019.
- [the Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office regarding intergovernmental relations](#) - 29 October 2019.

On 11 November the Committee noted a letter from:

- [the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding the draft international strategy, overseas offices and trade](#) - 5 November 2019.

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](#). The Committee is currently carrying out an inquiry [on Wales' Changing Constitution](#) including consideration of the implications of Brexit for the Welsh devolution settlement.

Plenary

6 November: [Questions to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister \(in respect of his Brexit Minister responsibilities\)](#).

Welsh Government

30 October: [EU funding to help Law Lab deliver universal access to justice](#).

31 October: [£6 million Welsh Government support for businesses to deal with Brexit](#).

8 November: [EU funds fresh ideas to help Wales age creatively](#).

News

1 November: [FUW sets out post-Brexit proposals in Sustainable Farming Consultation response](#) (Farmers Union of Wales)

EU Developments

European Council

29 October: **Brexit: European Council adopts decision to extend the period under Article 50. European Council decision taken in agreement with the United Kingdom extending the period under Article 50(3)TEU. Declaration of the European Council (Article 50).**

8 November: **Final green light to the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.**

European Commission

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

30 October: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the European Economic and Social Committee.**

5 November: **Zero tariff, zero quotas 'not enough', EU's Barnier tells UK** (Reuters)

7 November: **Autumn 2019 Economic Forecast: A challenging road ahead.**

European Parliament

12 November: **Brexit: Citizens' rights remain a key priority for MEPs.**

UK Developments

UK Government

29 October: **The *European Union (Withdrawal) Act and Common Frameworks 26 June 2019 to 25 September 2019.***

31 October: **UK-Switzerland transitional social security agreement.**

4 November: **UK-Iceland transitional migration arrangements.**

5 November update: **International agreements if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.**

6 November update: **Trading electricity if there's no Brexit deal** - How cross-border trading and supply of electricity would be affected if there's a no-deal Brexit.

8 November: **Reports on Brexit negotiations required by *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019.***

House of Commons

29 October: Urgent question on **Leaving the EU: Workers' Rights.**

29 October: *Early Parliamentary General Election Bill: **Business of the House; Second Reading; Committee Stage.***

30 October: Northern Ireland questions: **Leaving the EU: Peace in Northern Ireland; Customs Regulations; Northern Ireland in the UK; Leaving the EU: Withdrawal Agreement.**

30 October: **Prime Ministers questions.**

30 October: Debate on **Cross-border Trade and Accounting.**

30 October: Westminster Hall debate: **Leaving the EU: Integrated Foreign Policy.**

31 October: Public Accounts Commission questions: **Leaving the EU: National Audit Office.**

5 November: Westminster Hall debate: **Renaissance of East Anglian Fisheries Study.**

6 November: **Dissolution of Parliament.**

17 December: **First sitting of the new parliament** (Privy Council)

Committees

Europe Scrutiny:

29 October: **Documents considered by the Committee on 23 October 2019.**

Exiting the European Union:

30 October: **Committee considers the state of play following ‘flexextension’.**

International Trade:

30 October: **Committee examines impact of Withdrawal Agreement on post-Brexit UK trade policy.**

Procedure:

29 October: **Letter from the Leader of the House concerning the scrutiny of urgent procedure SIs before 31 October 2019.**

House of Lords

29 October: Statement on **Brexit: Workers’ Rights.**

29 October: First Reading of the **Early Parliamentary General Election Bill.**

Committees

Constitution:

5 November: **Implications of Withdrawal Agreement Bill examined** – Report: **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill: interim report.**

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform:

29 October: **1st Report of Session 2019-20 - Early Parliamentary General Election Bill.**

EU Select:

29 October: **Committee takes evidence on the revised protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland. Transcript.**

31 October: **Letter from James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, about international agreements.**

4 November: **Letter to Leader of the House of Lords about the *European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.***

5 November 2019: **Letter from Lord Callanan, Minister of State for Exiting the European Union.**

5 November: **Letter from Aodhán Connolly, Director, Northern Ireland Retail Consortium - evidence session follow-up.**

EU Energy & Environment Sub-Committee:

4 November: **Letter from George Eustice MP Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to Committee chair** – further details following the 16 October ‘no deal preparations’ evidence session.

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

31 October: **Letter to the Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility about post-Brexit state aid.**

EU Justice Sub-Committee:

29 October: **Post-Brexit rights of UK citizens living in EU concerns Committee - Letter to James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.**

News

28 October: **“UK cannot teeter on the edge of Brexit indefinitely”** (British Retail Consortium (BRC))

28 October: **Retailers report record high stock levels as Brexit deadline looms** (Confederation of British Industry)

29 October: **Brexit extension must be put to good use** (Road Haulage Association)

5 November: **FTA questions impacts of government's future immigration policy on logistics** (Freight Transport Association)

7 November: **Monetary Policy Summary and minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting; Monetary Policy Report November 2019** (Bank of England)

8 November: **Brexit Implications for VAT and Indirect Taxation** (BRC)

13 November: **Tesla Gigafactory Europe to be built in Germany, not UK, as Elon Musk blames Brexit uncertainty** (Auto Express)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

29 October: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee: Evidence session on **European Union Exit (Environment)**.

31 October: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee: evidence session on the **progress of the Article 50 withdrawal negotiations**.

7 November: Scottish Parliament Information Centre: **Environmental governance and EU Exit: the state of play; The United States and the European Union trading blows; The joint Scottish-Irish review - an unprecedented step?**

Scottish Government

29 October: **Safeguarding environmental standards** - Advisory body plan for 'no deal' Brexit.

30 October: **Brexit deal impact study**.

3 November: **Scottish-Irish joint review**.

5 November: **Consultation launched on the replacement for European Structural Funds**.

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.

Reports published

[House of Commons Library](#)

[What does the latest Brexit delay mean for the UK and EU?](#)

[Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK’s exit from the European Union](#)

[Parliament and the three extensions of Article 50](#)

[Planning for a no-deal Brexit](#)

[Fisheries and Brexit](#)

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

[2019 CJEU Judgments in Summary](#)

[Brexit: public procurement](#)

[Institute for Government](#)

[Another missed deadline could have long-term implications for Brexit readiness](#)

[What does this general election mean for Brexit?](#)

[UK in a Changing Europe](#)

[Media reactions to Brexit: the UK, Spain and Ireland compared](#)

[The Brexitodus of MPs will change the House Commons, whatever the election result](#)

[The Brexit negotiations: how \(ir\)rational are they?](#)

[A very uncertain general election in Wales](#)

[Unsettled status](#)

The Conversation

Human rights are getting cut from Britain's post-Brexit trade deal negotiations

Where Brexit will leave the UK's human rights diplomacy

LSE Brexit

'Politicians don't care about what I have to say': listening to the children of EU migrants in the UK

Gibraltar and Brexit: the triangulation of Britishness, Empire and Spain

Money can't buy love for Europe but success certainly can

Other

Brexit food safety legislation and potential implications for UK trade: The devil in the details (UK Trade Policy Observatory)

General Election 2019: It's time we listened to what the voters want (Cardiff Brexit blogs)