

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

15 January 2020



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

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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 26 November 2019 – 7 January 2020, 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, Scrutiny of Common Frameworks, Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy](#) and [Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness](#).

On 4 December the Chair [wrote](#) to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister regarding follow up work on Brexit preparedness.

The EAAL Committee published its report [Common policy frameworks: Assembly scrutiny](#) on 9 December. The report makes 20 recommendations.

The Committee also published its [report on the Welsh Government's Draft International Strategy](#), on 12 December, with 10 recommendations.

The Committee's final published report of 2019 was [UK international agreements after Brexit: A role for the Assembly](#) (18 December), with six recommendations.

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 2 December: After noting papers the Committee met in private. The transcript can be [read here](#).
- 6 January: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the First Minister to consider the latest developments in the negotiations with the EU, the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill and the Queen's speech. The webcast can be [seen here](#).

On 2 December the Committee noted:

- [Written evidence provided by Dr Jack Simson Caird in relation to the scrutiny of UK-wide common policy frameworks and the scrutiny of international agreements;](#)
- [A paper from Dr Ricardo Pereira on the UK-South Korea free trade](#)

[agreement prepared under the Assembly's Brexit Research Framework Agreement;](#) and

- [Response from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee regarding Wales' changing constitution](#) - 27 November 2019.

On 6 January the Committee noted letters from the:

- [Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language to the Chair regarding Assembly scrutiny of international agreements](#) - 9 December 2019;
- [Chair of the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform to the Chair regarding potential implications for Assembly committees of any change in the size of the Assembly](#) - 16 December 2019' and
- [Secretary of State for Exiting the EU to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister regarding the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#) - 18 December 2019.

Other Committees

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

4 December: [Questions to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister \(in respect of his Brexit Minister responsibilities\) and Debate on Brexit and Future Trade](#).

6 January: The [Welsh Government's LCM on the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill](#) was laid before the Assembly.

7 January: [Statement by the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language: Update on Trade Policy](#).

Senedd Research publications

Senedd Research blog articles and research briefings are published on [In Brief](#). The latest Brexit related publications are:

- [Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report;](#)

- [General Election 2019: how did Wales vote?; and](#)
- [Diversification and resilience of Welsh farming: prospects after Brexit.](#)

Welsh Government

28 November: [50,000 new jobs created in Wales, thanks to EU.](#)

13 December: [EU funds helping to grow job prospects for long-term unemployed.](#)

18 December: [Written Statement: Agreement of 2020 EU Fishing Opportunities and Quotas under the Common Fisheries Policy](#) and [Press Release: A strong deal to safeguard fish stocks secured during “more important than ever” negotiations.](#)

30 December: [Farm funding for 2020 confirmed by Welsh Government.](#)

News

2 December: [Brexit fears and farming’s pivotal role in keeping economy going highlighted by Tredegar farming family](#) (Farmers Union of Wales).

19 December: [2020: A Year of Preparation for the Food and Farming Industry](#) (Tenant Farmers Association (TFA)).

20 December: [Joint Letter from TFA, CLA and Greener UK to International Trade Secretary, Liz Truss concerning Post Brexit Trading Arrangements for Agriculture and Food](#) (TFA).

23 December: [NFU Cymru meets with MPs to remind them of the importance of Welsh farming](#) (NFU Cymru).

1 January: [It’s Now More About How Rather than If We Leave the European Union](#) (TFA).

EU developments

European Council

27 November: [Remaining united: The European Council July 2018 to November 2019, report by President Donald Tusk.](#)

10 December: [Invitation letter by President Charles Michel to the members of the European Council ahead of their meetings on 12 and 13 December 2019.](#)

12 December: [European Council Conclusions.](#)

13 December: [European Council \(Art.50\) conclusions.](#)

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.**

27 November: [Speech by President-elect von der Leyen in the European Parliament Plenary on the occasion of the presentation of her College of Commissioners and their programme.](#) The [Political Guidelines of the new EU Commission](#) have been published, as have the [summaries of the new EU Commission’s priorities.](#)

28 November: [Speech by Michel Barnier at the Annual Conference of the European Defence Agency.](#)

20 December: [Three New Year’s Wishes for Britain and the EU](#) (Michel Barnier, writing in Project Syndicate).

8 January: [Old friends, new beginnings: building another future for the EU-UK partnership](#) (Ursula von der Leyen speaking at the London School of Economics)

European Parliament

27 November: [Parliament elects the von der Leyen Commission.](#)

27 November: [EU budget 2020 approved: investing more in climate, jobs and the young.](#)

UK developments

12 December: [General Election result](#) (BBC).

UK Government

13 December: [PM statement in Downing Street](#).

19 December: [Queen's Speech December 2019: background briefing notes](#).

19 December: [EU \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#).

19 December: [EU \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill Delegated Powers Memorandum](#).

19 December: [EU \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill Explanatory Notes](#).

19 December: Letters to the Devolved Administrations on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill – [Letter to the Scottish Government](#) – [Letter to the Welsh Government](#).

House of Commons

19 December: Parliament published the [European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#).

19 December: [Queen's Speech; Debate on the Address](#).

20 December: [Second Reading of the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#).

7 January: [First Committee day of the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#).

8 January: [Prime Ministers questions](#).

8 January: [Second Committee day of the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#).

8 January: [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Acts motion](#).

House of Lords

19 December: [Queen's Speech](#) and [Debate on the Queen's Speech](#).

7 January: Question on [British Citizens: Working Abroad](#).

7 January: Debate on the [Queen's Speech](#) and [continued](#).

8 January: Debate on the [Queen's Speech](#).

8 January: [Motion on the European Union \(Withdrawal\) \(No. 2\) Act 2019](#).

8 January: [Motion on the European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#).

News

26 November: [Only ambitious Brexit deal will safeguard jobs and Britain's green future](#) (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders).

9 December: [Make UK joins European manufacturers to warn of Brexit dangers](#) (Make UK).

13 December: [CLA reacts to 2019 Conservative majority](#) (Country Land and Business Association(CLA)).

13 December: [Brexit: failing to plan is planning to fail, says FTA](#) (Freight Transport Association (FTA)).

16 December: [Election Brexit green light](#) (Fishing News).

17 December: [CBI responds to plans for Brexit Bill](#) (Confederation of British Industry).

18 December: [Retail industry ready to engage on key UK-EU trade deal priorities](#) (British Retail Consortium).

20 December: [CLA blog: An end of year message for members](#) (CLA).

20 December: [Withdrawal Agreement Bill vote - FTA comment](#) (FTA).

20 December: [BCC comments on the second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill](#) (British Chambers of Commerce).

23 December: **Final Fish Council for UK - Quota cuts in 2020 as MSY dominates Council** (Fishing News).

6 January: **North Sea cod cut blast** (Fishing News).

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Brexit Update: **16 December**.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre publications: **General Election 2019 - Brexit, moving to Phase 2; Phase 2 of the Brexit negotiations - the EU's approach; A week's a long time in politics**; and **The revised (European Union) Withdrawal Agreement Bill - Implications for Scotland**.

Scottish Government

14 December: **Fisheries talks conclude** - Deal reached between Norway and EU.

18 December: **Brussels fishery talks** - Challenging outcome for the Scottish industry.

19 December: **Queen's Speech raises fears over 'no deal' Brexit**.

23 December: **Warning over UK Government plans for Australian-style immigration system**.

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.

18 December: **Difficult outcome for Irish Sea fisheries**.

Reports published

[Houses of Parliament libraries](#)

How will Brexit affect the Union?

The new EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill: What's changed?

Withdrawal Agreement Bill: The financial settlement

Family reunion rights and the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

Removal of workers' rights in the new EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

Brexit: What happens next?

UK progress in rolling over EU trade agreements

Trade in services and Brexit

Trade in services: Parting with the EU?

How might Brexit affect human rights in the UK?

Motions Pursuant to Section 2(2)(b) of the *European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019* and Section 13(6)(b) of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018*

The new EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill

[UK in a Changing Europe](#)

The new European Commission programme

Auto industry issues stark new warning on no deal Brexit

A Brexit trade deal is vital for manufacturing

Brexit, transition and Northern Ireland

[LSE Brexit](#)

No deal is still on the table: Simon Hix on Brexit in 2020

Other

Boris Johnson has been given a blank cheque for Brexit - but cashing it won't be easy (Institute for Government).