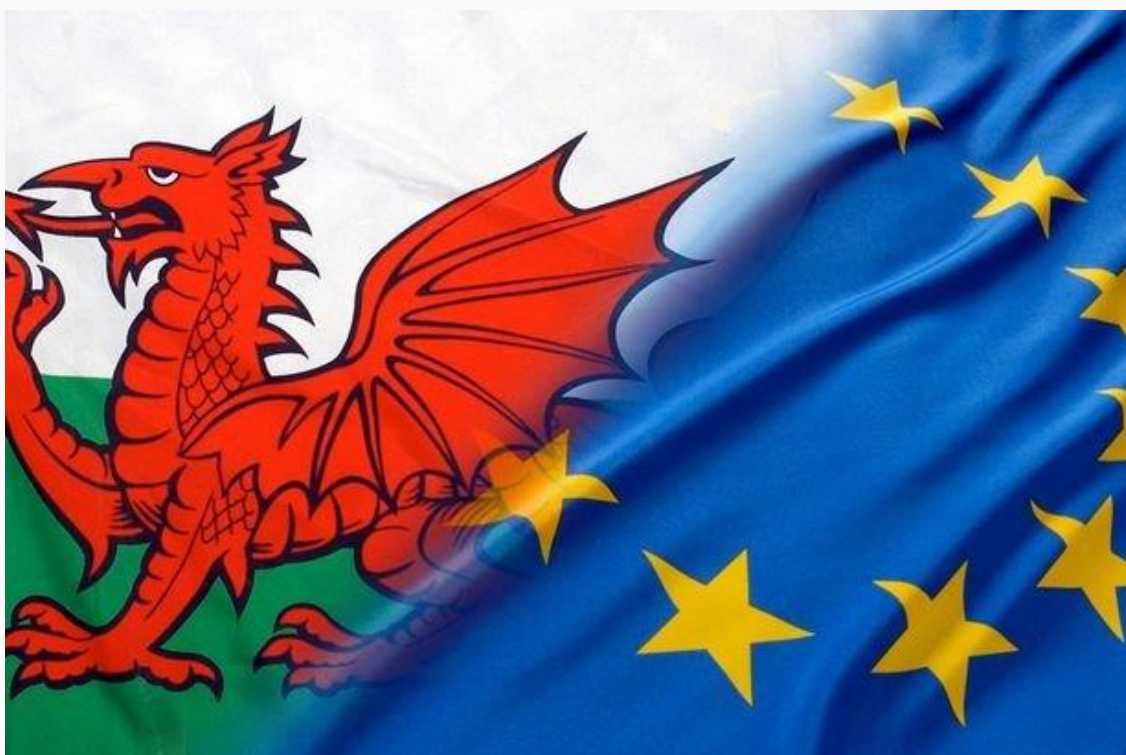




BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 4 October



***Please cascade information where appropriate
to your workforce and care providers***

What Happened This Week...

This week saw a number of statements from the Welsh Government around how various sectors have prepared for the possibility of a no deal Brexit. This included statements on health and social services, public services and overall

readiness. Don't forget that we have a [Brexit Preparedness Toolkit](#) which summarises all the preparations to date and is a resource that connects Welsh wide arrangements with UK Government Guidance.

We attended the Health & Social Care Brexit Ministerial Stakeholder Advisory Forum Meeting on Thursday, where operational readiness was discussed and the key priorities for the sector in the next couple of weeks. As previously decided, the Welsh Government EU Transitional Leadership Group and Brexit SRO Group will be meeting weekly in October.

We prepared a briefing in preparation for this weeks' debate in the National Assembly on "[Preparing the health and care services in Wales for a no-deal Brexit](#)". The Welsh NHS Confederation has been working with our members, social care organisations and the Welsh Government to ensure robust preparations are in place to protect health and care services in a no-deal Brexit scenario. Patient safety remains the top priority, while at the same time ensuring continuity of care, staff and supply.

Last week our Director, Darren Hughes, met with Sir Mark Sedwill, the UK Government's Cabinet Secretary. Sir Mark was visiting Cardiff to meet with officials and key stakeholders to find out more about our planning and preparations for Brexit and to hear more about plans post-Brexit. Today we also met with James Wells MEP (Brexit Party) to discuss our [key priorities](#) for health and social care.

There were many news stories about the UK Government's new proposals for the Ireland / Northern Ireland border. Reciprocal healthcare arrangements were updated for Spanish residents which has meant they can be treated as they are now until 31 December 2020. This does only apply to England, as even in a no deal situation, EU citizens living in Wales will be able to access health care the same way they do now as long as they can prove residency. Keep an eye out in the coming week or two for a briefing on reciprocal healthcare arrangements.

If you have any questions about the Brexit process, please see our [FAQs](#) page for more details which have been updated today, or email any questions to brexitfaqs@welshconfed.org. Please visit [our website](#) for more information and resources on current developments.

Nesta Lloyd-Jones,
Assistant Director, Welsh NHS Confederation

Welsh Government 
@WelshGovernment

We're storing an additional £5m of medical and social care products to keep our NHS and social care running in the event of a no deal Brexit. [#PreparingWales](#)

We're stocking additional medical and social care supplies.

714 views 0:00 / 0:21

Welsh Government News and Guidance

[No deal Brexit preparations in health and social services](#)

Plans have been put in place to protect health and social care services from the impact of leaving the EU without a deal in a summary report published by the Welsh Government.

The report states: *“The risk of the UK leaving the EU without a deal remains very real. Despite our vigorous opposition to the UK Government’s current political Brexit strategy, it is our responsibility to put plans in place to prepare for this possibility.*

The Welsh Government has been working with its partners in health and social care to limit the damaging effects of a no deal Brexit.

Ensuring there are plans in place to prepare for the impact has been, and continues to be, our priority. We are in a strong position to respond quickly to issues and impacts as they arise after leaving the EU.

This document will show what actions we have already taken, and what we will do in the future, to protect health and social care services. This will allow professionals to work properly and with confidence, ensuring the public and patients are not adversely affected. This complements the [Welsh Government No Deal action plan](#) published on 16 September

We have focused on making sure:

- *Medicines continue to be available*
- *We can continue to get medical devices and clinical consumables*
- *Food supplies can reach health and care settings*
- *UK Government secures adequate transport arrangements*
- *EU members of our workforce are protected and know they are valued*
- *Our more vulnerable social care sector are protected*
- *Giving clear, concise and timely communications*

- *We support partners to help Wales prepare*

[Jeremy Miles: PM has run out of road and must seek extension now](#)

With just a month to go until the Brexit deadline, Jeremy Miles has urged the Prime Minister to admit he has no chance of getting a withdrawal agreement through Parliament and seek a Brexit extension from the EU.

For further information, please see the [Preparing Wales for a no-deal Brexit](#) website and [click here](#) for more information on Health and Social Care sector planning for a no-deal Brexit.

National Assembly News

Monday 30 September

[External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#)

Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit - the implications for Wales: private focus group with the public.

[Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee](#)

Wales' Changing Constitution: Evidence session 2

The Constitutional Affairs Committee held an evidence session with members of the Constitution Reform Group, the Marquess of Salisbury and Sir Paul Silk, as part of its inquiry into Wales' changing constitution. Paul Silk told AMs that **Brexit** represents a “*constitutional moment*” and argued that it has made a more equal constitutional settlement even more necessary, amid widespread concerns that **Brexit** could lead to the reunification of Ireland and independence in Scotland. Both Sir Paul and Carwyn Jones agreed that the current system of JMCs are not providing adequate voices for devolved governments.

Tuesday 1 October

First Minister's Questions

Rebecca Evans stood in for First Minister Mark Drakeford.

Brexit

Rebecca Evans rejected independent AM Michelle Brown's claim that a trade vehicle route along the A55 will no longer be needed due to a potential downward trend in trade due to Brexit. The Finance Minister said that efforts are being taken to minimise disruption to trade vehicles. Darren Millar suggested that Brexit presented an opportunity to reform the procurement process to allow business to take advantage of public procurement. Rebecca Evans said work is ongoing on this issue, focusing on the foundational economy and how to address issues such as climate change through the procurement process.

Rhun ap Iorwerth asked about the government's latest policy update on Brexit, which he said floats proposals such as summary deportation for migrants and tracking of migrants through National Insurance. He argued that it could create a hostile environment towards migrants and encourage intolerance. Rebecca Evans told AMs that Plaid Cymru is misrepresenting the policy document as it does not advocate forced deportations.

Mark Reckless criticised the government's latest paper on Brexit, arguing that it constitutes a campaigning document rather than a serious update on the potential economic impact of exiting the EU. Rebecca Evans told AMs that the Welsh Government's chief economist supported the development of the paper. She urged the Brexit Party group leader to also consider the Office for Budgetary Responsibility's forecasts. Mr Reckless argued that the Welsh Government's paper makes "*hugely implausible*

assumptions". Ms Evans countered that the UK economy has underperformed relative to others since the Brexit referendum was called in 2015.

[Statement: Update on the UK Government's Brexit Proposals](#)

EU Negotiations

Jeremy Miles updated AMs on the UK Government's proposals for exiting the EU. The Brexit Minister said the EU has been consistently clear that it will not agree to a new set of arrangements for withdrawal without them having the same impact as the Theresa May backstop agreement. Mr Miles said it is difficult to see how a legally operative solution can be reached which fulfils the objectives of the backstop. He told AMs that the Welsh Government will hold a series of key stakeholder meetings over the next few days to encourage others to take action on preparing for a no-deal outcome. Conservative AM Darren Millar accused Jeremy Miles of trying to spread fear among the general population about Brexit. For Plaid Cymru, Delyth Jewell raised concerns over Mr Miles' comments that neither the UK Government nor the Welsh Government can be truly prepared for a no-deal Brexit. Mandy Jones spoke for the Brexit Party, warning of the risks to democracy if the result of the 2016 referendum is ignored.

[Statement: Preparing public services for a no-deal Brexit](#)

Public Services

Julie James told AMs that councils and third-sector organisations are key to ensuring that essential services, such as education and social care, can respond to all Brexit scenarios. She said Welsh Government funding had been provided for dedicated Brexit co-ordinators in every council and to the WLGA to support them. Ms James also highlighted the £20m capital

funding package to help local authorities mitigate against the impact of Brexit. Turning to the third sector, she said the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) has also been funded to support preparation. Ms James highlighted the WCVA's ['Empowering Communities'](#) report, which was published last week.

[Statement: Preparing the health and care services in Wales for a no deal Brexit](#)

Please click [here](#) for a link to the oral statement.

Resources and Funding

Vaughan Gething stated that work is ongoing with partners to ensure arrangements are in place, adding these have been tested and rehearsed. He expressed frustrations around diverted resources and the introduction of complexity so close to winter. He was clear in his response to Angela Burns, who questioned him on the additional £1.2bn from the UK Government over the next three years, that he did not consider the money real and would not commit to three-year expenditure on that basis.

Medicines and Consumables

In his opening statement, the Minister referred to the purchase of a warehouse, saying the £11m spent could have replaced seven MRI scanners. He said that there is an established process to manage shortages which is being informed by a analysis of at-risk medicines. On medical devices and consumables, Mr Gething said work is ongoing to increase stock across health and social care, with additional stock holding totalling £5m.

Angela Burns' contribution focused on medicines and criticism of 'project fear', in which she said the Welsh NHS Confederation had made clear that shortages in the NHS are standard and the challenge is how to manage

them. She also quoted the Confederation in saying “*our members inform us that there are currently no issues with availability of medicines as a result of Brexit*”. She called on the Minister to answer a series of questions on engagement with the UK Government and action taken on ensuring medicine supply, citing NHS England’s recommendation that suppliers of medicine grow six weeks of extra stock above usual buffer levels. She asked the Minister if he had been involved in actions such as buying space on ferries, encouraging rerouting of medicines and in the promotion of medicines and clinical trials licensed or tested in the EU so they can continue to be used in the UK. She asked for the Minister’s opinion on UK Labour policy on compulsory licensing, adding it undermined the research and development in Cardiff and Swansea Uni. The Minister’s said there has been improvement in UK ferry arrangements and that shortages are normal but the current UK circumstance is not.

Huw Irranca Davies raised the issue of parallel exports and traders, calling for assurance that there would no attempt to resell stockpiled drugs if the exchange rate alters. He also pointed to a BMA briefing on the consequences of a no-deal Brexit, calling for no-deal to be removed as a viable option. Vaughan Gething acknowledged that a weaker pound incentivises the movement of goods around the EU, saying there is a larger risk to generic medicines as opposed to branded ones and that this issue has been raised in discussions between governments. He said the BMA have been clear in their concerns, calling for people to not “take my word for it, don’t take what the BMA say for it” but refereed back to the Yellowhammer document.

Radio Isotopes

The Minister highlighted UK-wide arrangements for radio isotopes, supported by a dedicated express freight channels into airports. He added that these have been tested and rehearsed in response from concerns

from clinicians. Dai Lloyd went on to question Mr Gething on this issue, asking if legal clarification has been obtained due to EU suppliers' potential inability to sell without an agreement. In response, Mr Gething said no legal advice has been taken as assurances have been given from suppliers. He mentioned that the BMA are also concerned over the legality of supplies. Dr Lloyd and Vaughan Gething shared concerns over half life and the time taken to move isotopes from Coventry airport to where they are needed.

Food

Vaughan Gething informed the Assembly that he has asked health and social care organisations to consider how meals can be adapted to adjust to food shortages without compromising on nutritional standards. He added that price increases and maintaining nutritional standards could have a direct impact on the social care sector, adding that care homes could find price increases difficult to absorb.

Workforce

Vaughan Gething was heavily critical of UK Government immigration proposals, describing them as a "*act of vandalism*" and stressed their impact on domiciliary care. There was disagreement between Angela Burns and the Minister on the impact of Brexit on recruitment, with Ms Burns claiming there has been an increase of EU nationals in NHS Wales since 2015. Mr Gething acknowledged that the issue of staff leaving the service has been felt more acutely in other areas of the UK but said that there have been significant challenge in the Nursing and Midwifery Council register.

Wednesday October 2

[Brexit Questions](#)

White Paper

Delyth Jewell asked why the newly published Brexit white paper, '[A Brighter Future for Wales](#)', references national identity cards and “*uncontrolled*” migration from the EEA. Jeremy Miles accused the Plaid Cymru AM of going out of her way to find division where none exists. He said the paper builds on the principles of [Securing Wales' Future](#) which was co-authored with Plaid Cymru. Mr Miles said the document does not say that ID cards are the Welsh Government's policy. Ms Jewell urged the Brexit Minister to see the language in the context of the Home Office's hostile environment policy. Criticising language such as “*benefits tourism*”, she also denounced the paper for advocating tracking EU migrants using National Insurance. Mr Miles argued it was not an appropriate line of questioning. He told AMs that the Welsh Government has sought to help EU migrants seeking settled status via an immigration law service and funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Third Sector

Lynne Neagle raised a letter sent by numerous third sector organisations to the Prime Minister, warning of grave concerns about a no-deal Brexit. She asked whether the Brexit Minister recognises there is a particular risk to Wales' most-deprived communities arising from a no-deal Brexit and what the Welsh Government can do to ensure Wales is as prepared as it can be. Mr Miles said it is “*incumbent on us all*” to listen to the concerns raised in the letter. He told the Labour AM that the Welsh Government is trying to include the third sector directly in the work of redesigning the replacement for structural funds.

[Brexit Update](#)

By Senedd Research on Tuesday 1 October 2019

Senedd Research publishes a fortnightly Brexit update, for the Assembly's

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, on the latest government, parliament, EU and other relevant announcements and reports on Brexit.

Wales Audit Office

The Welsh NHS Confederation was [mentioned](#) in Auditor General's update on no-deal preparations. David Rees [responded](#) to an [update](#) from the Auditor General for Wales on his [report](#) on preparations for a no-deal Brexit.

THE WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



ADSS Cymru
Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru
Leading Social Services in Wales



Managing Brexit / EU withdrawal in health and social care in Wales: Frequently asked questions

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

We have updated our Brexit FAQs again this week to updates on the Welsh Government's No Deal Preparations statements this week.

Visit the [FAQs page](#) to get the latest version as it's updated and send in any questions to BrexitFAQs@welshconfed.org

UK Government & NHS England Resources

Overview from Westminster

- The House of Lords held a debate on the [Draft Human Medicines and Medical Devices \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)
- In the House of Commons, the [Public Accounts Committee](#) held evidence session on ‘**Exiting the EU: supplying the Health and Social Care sectors**’ MPs questioned civil servants about plans to ensure that medical supplies – such as medicines, blood products and gloves – would be available in the event of a no deal Brexit on 31 October 2019. [Read the National Audit Office report](#) here.
- Taking questions from MPs in the House of Commons, Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove was challenged repeatedly over plans to guarantee medicine supplies should the U.K. leave the EU without a deal. Asked by Labour MP Tracy Brabin whether he could give a guarantee that “no one in this country will suffer in their health because of a no-deal Brexit,” Gove replied simply: “Yes.”
- The UK Government issued a [new protocol for the Ireland / Northern Ireland border](#) – which has been met with mixed reviews.
- Over in the House of Lords there was a debate on the UK’s withdrawal from the EU.

Guidance

[Overseas visitor charging: no-deal Brexit guidance for NHS service providers](#)

How changes to charging rules will affect how you recover costs from overseas visitors and migrants if there is a no-deal Brexit. **Added no-deal Brexit arrangement for Spanish visitors.**

If there’s no deal, the UK and Spain have each taken steps to ensure that people living in each country can continue to access healthcare as they do now until at least 31 December 2020.

This means that that UK and Spanish citizens who are resident in Spain and visiting the UK will be able to use their Spanish-issued EHIC, S1 or S2 form after exit day until at least 31 December 2020.

[Healthcare after Brexit: citizens of the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland visiting the UK](#)

Information on access to NHS healthcare for residents of EU countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland visiting the UK after the UK leaves the EU. **Added no-deal Brexit arrangement for Spanish visitors.**

[Healthcare after Brexit: citizens of the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland living in the UK](#)

Information on healthcare for citizens of EU countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland living in the UK after the UK leaves the EU. **Added no-deal Brexit arrangement for Spanish citizens.**

[Events to help you get ready for Brexit](#)

Departments across government are holding events to help your business get ready for Brexit.

[Brexit readiness fund extended to help businesses to prepare](#)

Application deadline extended and an extra £5 million available to help businesses prepare for Brexit on 31 October.

[Reference Medicinal Products \(RMPs\) after Brexit](#)

There will be changes to the legislation of Reference Medicinal Products (RMPs) used to support abridged marketing authorisation applications if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page title and summary to clarify there will be changes to the legislation used if there's a no-deal Brexit. The rest of the page has not changed.**

[Licensing biosimilars, ATMPs and PMFs after Brexit](#)

The way you apply to licence biological products will change if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page title and summary to clarify that the process will change if there's a no-deal Brexit. The rest of the page has not changed.**

[Importing medicines from the EEA after Brexit](#)

If you import human medicines from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you'll need to review your wholesale dealer's licence if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page titles and the summary to clarify that this guidance is about importing medicines from EEA countries if there's a no-deal Brexit. The rest of the content has not changed.**

[Importing medicines from the EEA after Brexit](#)

If you import human medicines from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you'll need to review your wholesale dealer's licence if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page titles and the summary to clarify that this guidance is about importing medicines from EEA countries if there's a no-deal Brexit. The rest of the content has not changed.**

[Registering new packaging information for medicines after Brexit](#)

How and when to register updated packaging and information leaflets when new marketing authorisations have been issued in a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page title and summary to explain more clearly that this guidance applies if there's a no-deal Brexit. The rest of the page has not changed.**

[Webinars: preparing to make submissions to the MHRA after Brexit](#)

Webinars for pharmaceutical companies, clinical trial sponsors, e-cigarette producers and brokers of medicinal products about new MHRA systems you'll need to use if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated page title and summary to clarify who the webinars are for. The rest of the page has not changed**

Brexit page on [UK Government](#) providing information about EU Exit including the article 50 process, negotiations, and announcements about policy changes

as a result of EU Exit, such as the [Prepare for EU Exit Campaign](#).

Settled Status:

Since June 2019, the Home Office has released monthly statistics on the number of applicants. In this briefing, we use these statistics to delve into the [‘The progress of the EU Settlement Scheme so far’](#).

Infographic [Explaining the migration status of EU citizens in a deal or no deal scenario](#)

[EU Settlement Scheme: view and prove your rights in the UK](#)

Information for EU citizens applying to the EU Settlement Scheme. **Added a hyperlink to the ‘View and prove your rights in the UK’ checking service page.**

[EU Settlement Scheme: ID document scanner locations](#)

Locations where you can go to get your biometric ID document scanned if you do not have an Android device with near field communication (NFC). **Location in Pontypridd added.**

[EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance](#)

Guidance for caseworkers considering applications under the EU Settlement Scheme. **Updated main caseworker guidance**

[NHS England](#) **Preparing for EU Exit page where you can find Guidance and correspondence, which includes [continuity of medicine supply frequently asked questions](#).**

News and Reports

[Chancellor announces support for post-Brexit future](#)

The Chancellor announced a package of measures to support the next generation, promote economic growth, and prepare for a post-Brexit future. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal and should the EU cease to fund UK organisations after Brexit, the government has guaranteed funding to organisations in receipt of certain EU programme funding (such as the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020). The Chancellor confirmed that the total amount covered by the guarantee would be £4.3bn in 2019/20 and £16.6bn over its lifetime - providing reassurance to charities, businesses and universities amongst others.

[Care homes part of no-deal Brexit warehouse plan](#)

Supplies for care homes as well as hospitals are being stockpiled at an £11m warehouse in south Wales. NHS Wales bosses say elderly people in residential homes will not be left behind under no-deal Brexit planning. There are 1,000 different products, ranging from bandages to food being stored for the health and social care sector. It comes as Health Minister Vaughan Gething warned of "significant potential impacts" of a no-deal Brexit.

The story about the warehouse was also covered by [The Guardian](#), [Sky News](#), [Metro](#), [London Economic](#), [Yahoo](#) and [Express and Star](#).

[Brexit: Scots NHS staffing and food security fears raised by MSPs](#)

"The Operation Yellowhammer document highlighted a number of risks to health and social care services, and threats to water and medicine supplies.

[Government limits exports of HRT to tackle medicine shortages](#)

The move comes after a poll of pharmacists found most are experiencing shortages of every major type of medicine, including HRT and antidepressants. The DHSC says there is no evidence that Brexit is causing problems with

medicines supply although serious shortage protocols could be used as a tool if there is any Brexit-related disruption.

[Gaps remain in information about readiness ahead of no-deal Brexit](#)

Layla McCay, director of international relations at the NHS Confederation, has appeared on Radio 5 Live to discuss the NAO's findings that there are still major gaps in information about preparations for no-deal Brexit. She said: "While there's been all this extensive preparation, what we're seeing is that even now, we don't have all the information we could have about readiness of medicines, medical devices, and clinical consumable items. For example, we know that as of right now, 31 per cent of medicine suppliers have not updated the government on where they are with their stockpiling status."

[Brexit may have 'gravest of consequences' for health - MP](#)

Britain's looming exit from the EU carries real risks that medicines and healthcare supplies will be delayed, the UK's public spending watchdog said on Friday, and an influential lawmaker said a no-deal Brexit may have the "gravest of consequences".

[Ben Bradley MP: Brexit aside, our priorities must lie in prioritising education, health and policing](#)

In short, the Prime Minister has precisely the right priorities. Schools, health and policing are the main topics of doorstep discussion (Brexit aside) and the areas where perhaps positive change will be most welcome and effective. I look forward to a strong manifesto building on the Prime Minister's early commitments in these areas.

[EU Referendum before election ideal, says Welsh minister](#)

Another EU referendum before a general election takes place would be "*ideal*", according to Wales' Brexit Minister. Jeremy Miles's comments contradict the official Welsh and UK Labour policy of winning a general election before holding

a further public vote.

[Brexit: Boris Johnson to set out deal to MPs](#)

Boris Johnson is expected to set out his proposals for a Brexit deal in Parliament later, while EU leaders also consider their response. He outlined plans on Wednesday that would see Northern Ireland stay in the European single market for goods but leave the customs union - resulting in new customs checks.

Niall Dickson, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents organisations across the health and care sector, said: "*The Prime Minister's efforts to seek a negotiated deal are welcome. We will need agreements on the fundamental things that save the lives of both UK and EU patients and maintain them in good health.*" [Read Niall's comments in full.](#)

Looking Ahead

Monday 7 October

- EU Transitional Leadership and SRO meetings.
- [External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#): Scrutiny session with the Counsel General and Brexit Minister; Correspondence from the Auditor General for Wales to the Chair regarding follow-up to the Auditor General for Wales' report: 'Preparations in Wales for a 'no deal' Brexit' - 27 September 2019

Tuesday 8 October

- MAC Wales Roundtable event.

Wednesday 9 October

- **HSS Brexit Communications meeting.**