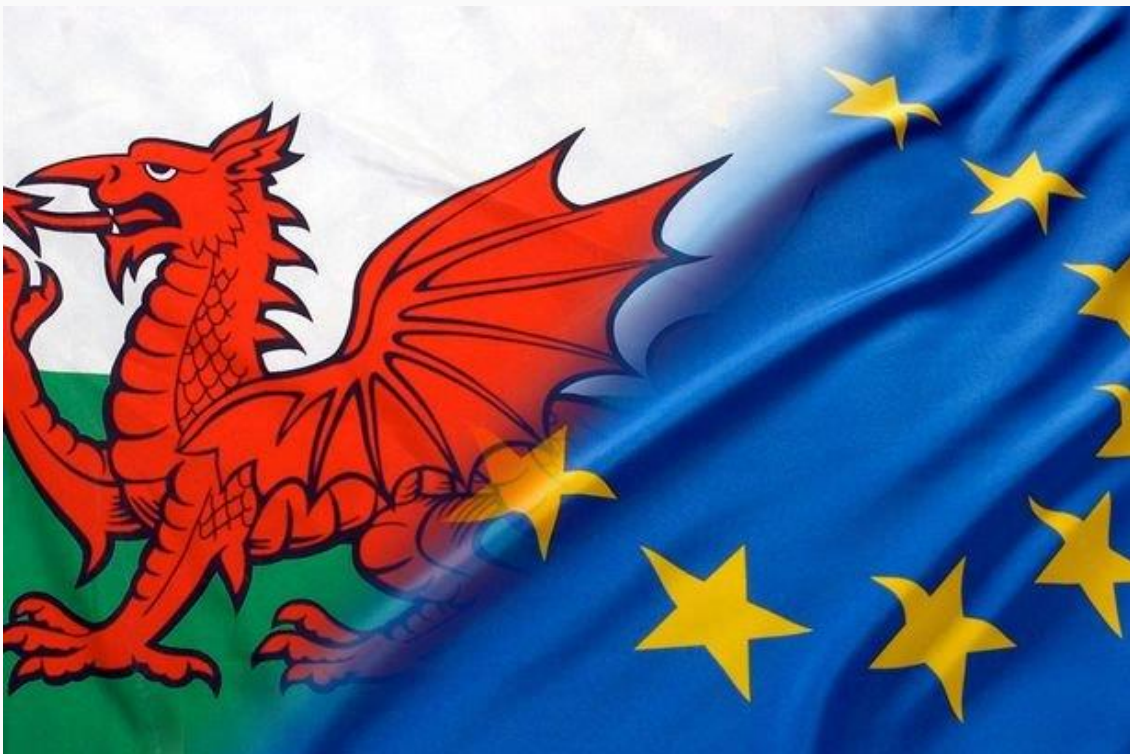




BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 13 September



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

What Happened This Week...

Now we are halfway through September we have a better understanding of the planning needs than we did last time the Brexit date approached. But with so many factors to consider it's undoubtedly true that not everything can be

anticipated.

The publication of the [Yellowhammer report](#) this week emphasised the uncertain times, with the UK Government predicting impacts on supply chains and reciprocal healthcare, viability of social care businesses and many other areas. See the NHS Confederation's blog in the [HSJ](#) and comments on [Channel 4](#) about this report and what it means for the NHS across the UK.

Back in Wales we submitted a written response to the National Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee on what ending free movement could mean for the NHS in Wales. Our response will be published on the [Committee website](#) in due course.

We also published our responses to how the UK Government's Immigration White Paper could impact the health and social care workforce in Wales. [Our response](#) focuses on how the NHS workforce will be effected, and our [Policy Forum](#) response, endorsed by 17 organisations, considers the impact across health and social care. The key messages from both responses are:

- EEA citizens are a hugely valued and appreciated part of the workforce, providing high quality care and support to those that are in need, making a significant contribution to the communities that they live in.
- 53% of the EU/EEA national currently working within the Welsh NHS would fail to meet the £30,000 salary threshold for skilled workers if it was already in place, this percentage is greater for the social care workforce. Many essential positions do not fill the requirements for the minimum skills or salary levels proposed, and the temporary worker route is not a sustainable nor attractive route to fill the many workforce gaps.
- The proposals could worsen the current recruitment and retention problems. While immigration is not the most sustainable nor primary mechanism for recruitment, it has proven to be a necessity to attract

world talent to positions that need to be filled and are essential to delivering publicly valued services.

- Whether the future immigration policy is skills or [points based](#), our messages remain the same: any future immigration system needs to meet the needs of the health and care sector in Wales which provides an essential public service to the population.

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 NHS Confed @WelshConfed · Sep 11

We have responded to the UK Government's Future Skills Based Immigration System White Paper, read our full response here: buff.ly/2UM6O6e

"Over fifty per cent of EU/EEA nationals working in NHS Wales earn under the UK Government's proposed £30,000 salary threshold for immigration."

Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU

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Welsh Government News and Guidance

[European Advisory Group meeting, July 11](#) minutes

The NHS workforce was discussed in the meeting and summary can be found on page 2 – 3 of the document. Group discussion centred on:

- Concerns that Wales has a looming manpower crisis within the NHS unless we offer support to migrant workers;
- Requests to provide supplementary support to EU citizens working in the NHS and their families, to raise awareness that they are entitled to be recompensed for their medical costs;
- Calls for NHS Wales to set up a reporting system for individuals to use to flag up potential problems for the NHS workforce;
- Concerns about the management of and continued lack of information from the UK Government on the Shared Prosperity Fund; and
- The work of the Regional Investment Steering Group on replacement EU funds in Wales.

[EU Structural Funds Programme 2014 to 2020: target indicators](#)

Information on the amount of money and grant committed or spent of the European structural funds 2014 to 2020. 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

The National Assembly for Wales will be returning from summer recess on Monday.

Written Question (Delyth Jewell, Plaid Cymru): [What assurance has the Welsh Government sought and received regarding its potential role if martial law was imposed in Wales, should the UK Government enact the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 in the event of no-deal civil disorder?](#)

Written Answer (Council General and Brexit Minister): There is no current intelligence to indicate widespread civil unrest associated with the UK's departure from the EU. However, the police will continue to assess the situation and respond accordingly. Police forces will always facilitate the right to peaceful protest and there are strong, well established lines of communication between Welsh Ministers and the Chief Constables in Wales through which matters of concern may be raised.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 delivers a single framework for civil protection in the UK. Part 2 of the Act allows for the making of temporary special legislation (emergency regulations) by the UK Government to help address the most serious of emergencies. The use of these powers is a last resort option. Whilst Welsh Ministers have no functions under this part of the Act there is requirement for the UK Government to consult the Welsh Ministers before making any emergency regulations which relate wholly or partly to Wales.

In the event of emerging risks of significant disruption to public services and other sectors we have well-established arrangements in place with partner agencies, via the Local Resilience Forums in Wales, to assess the impact and where necessary take appropriate action.

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

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

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

- Resignations of several MPs, including Amber Rudd, former Work and Pensions Secretary, and Speaker of the House John Bercow, and calls for impeachment.
- The Benn Act aka European Union (Withdrawal) (No.6) Act received Royal Assent on Monday 9 September and is now law. The Act aims to block the UK leaving the EU without a deal on 31 October by forcing the Prime Minister to ask the EU for another extension until 31 January 2020 (unless MPs approve a deal or vote to leave the EU without a deal).
- Emergency Debate on the release of Operation Yellowhammer: MPs discussed the motives for prorogation, and the House of Commons voted 311 to 302 to have Ministers to lay documents relating to Operation Yellowhammer.

- UK Parliament was prorogued in the early hours of Tuesday and will return on 14 October with the Queen's Speech.

[A no-deal Brexit: the Johnson government](#)

Commons Library research briefing

Considers the situation since Boris Johnson became Prime Minister, concerning the possibility of a no-deal Brexit.

[Post-Brexit EU immigration policy in the event of a no-deal](#)

Commons Library Insight

Explains the key points of the Government's latest no-deal policy on EU immigration to the UK after 31 October.

[No-deal Brexit, free movement and right to work checks](#)

Commons Library Insight

Looks at the new guidance published by the Home Office on right to work checks for EU citizens and their family members after Brexit.

[Home Secretary tasks MAC on Australian-style points-based immigration system](#)

Home Secretary Priti Patel asked the MAC to review how an Australian-style points-based (PBS) immigration system could be introduced in Britain to strengthen the UK labour market. In response to the [request from the Home Secretary](#) the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) will consider how points could be awarded to prospective migrants for things like **educational qualifications, language proficiency, work experience and willingness to work in areas or sectors with a shortage of workers**. The MAC has also been commissioned to review the [salary thresholds](#) for the future immigration system. The MAC will continue with this work in addition to the PBS and report to the government by January 2020.

[Salary threshold and points-based system \(PBS\) commission: call for evidence](#)

In June 2019, the government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to carry out an in depth analysis of [potential future salary thresholds](#) and the range at which they could be set. This salary threshold refers to a key component of the UK's immigration system. In addition to the salary thresholds, the MAC has also been asked [to look into an 'Australian-style' points-based system](#) and how this might work in the UK.

Guidance

[Register to make submissions to the MHRA if there is a no-deal Brexit](#)

Submissions related to human medicines would need to be submitted directly to the MHRA. **Updated text and link to User Reference Guide on this page for gaining access to MHRA submissions.**

[Trading in drug precursors if there's no Brexit deal](#)

How trading in drug precursor chemicals would be affected if the UK leaves the EU with no deal. **Updated to add Welsh language translation.**

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

How healthcare access might change for UK residents after the UK leaves the EU. Change made. **Added link to Foreign Office travel insurance guidance in the travel insurance section.**

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

[EU Settlement Scheme statistics, August 2019](#)

The total number of applications received up to 31 August 2019 was more than 1.3 million (1,339,600). One application was refused on suitability grounds during the period from 1 August to 31 August 2019. Overall, the total number of applications that have been concluded, as of 31 August 2019, was more than 1.1 million (1,151,000). Of these, 62% were granted settled status and 37% were granted pre-settled status.

In total, as of 31 August 2019, the majority of applications were received from England (1,228,300), with an additional 67,800 from Scotland, **20,600 from Wales (approx. 25.75% of EU nationals in Wales) and 19,100 from Northern Ireland.**

[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

[Get Ready for Brexit on 31 October](#)

The UK government has launched a '[Get Ready for Brexit](#)' public information campaign to help ensure the general public and businesses are ready when the UK leaves the EU on 31 October 2019. Many businesses will be affected by changes as we leave the EU, particularly those who import or export, deal with data and employ EU nationals. A new [checker tool](#) will help businesses to identify quickly what they need to do to 'Get Ready for Brexit'. As part of the campaign, starting from Monday 16 September, there will be 30 'Get Ready for Brexit' events across the country for businesses and organisations. To find out more and book, visit [Brexit Business Readiness Events](#).

['Impeach Boris Johnson if law ignored'](#)

Opposition party leaders should be ready to try to impeach the prime minister if he ignores a new no-deal Brexit law, says Plaid Cymru.

[Government braced for no-deal Brexit disorder, food and medicine shortages](#)

The UK Government is preparing for food and medicine shortages, delays to cross-border trade and public disorder under a no-deal Brexit, according to documents released following a demand by MPs.

[Ministers warned off 'aggressive' immigration stance](#)

UK Ministers have been warned their “aggressive approach” towards EU workers who don't apply for new immigration status by next year is wrong and could affect the health and social care workforce. Danny Mortimer, chief executive of NHS Employers and co-convenor of the Cavendish Coalition – a group of health and social care organisations – warned the tone of the government's comments on immigration was unwelcome.

[Brexit: Will Britons in the EU have to pay for NHS treatment?](#)

The number of UK-born people living in the EU - workers and their dependants, pensioners, students and others - is estimated at [1.3 million](#). The EHIC card would no longer be valid if there was a no-deal Brexit. The short answer to Doug's question is: some British citizens in the EU would still get free NHS healthcare if this were to happen - and some would not.

Looking Ahead

UK Parliament prorogued on 10 September and will reconvene on October 14th with the Queen's Speech.

The National Assembly returns from summer recess on Monday, 16th of September.

Tuesday 17 September

- EU Transitional Leadership and SRO meetings
- [Plenary](#): Oral Questions to the [First Minister](#)

Rhianon Passmore: What further contingency planning has the Welsh Government undertaken for the people of Islwyn following the publication of the Operation Yellowhammer document?

Janet Finch-Saunders: Will the First Minister outline what action the Welsh Government is taking to support care homes in north Wales?

