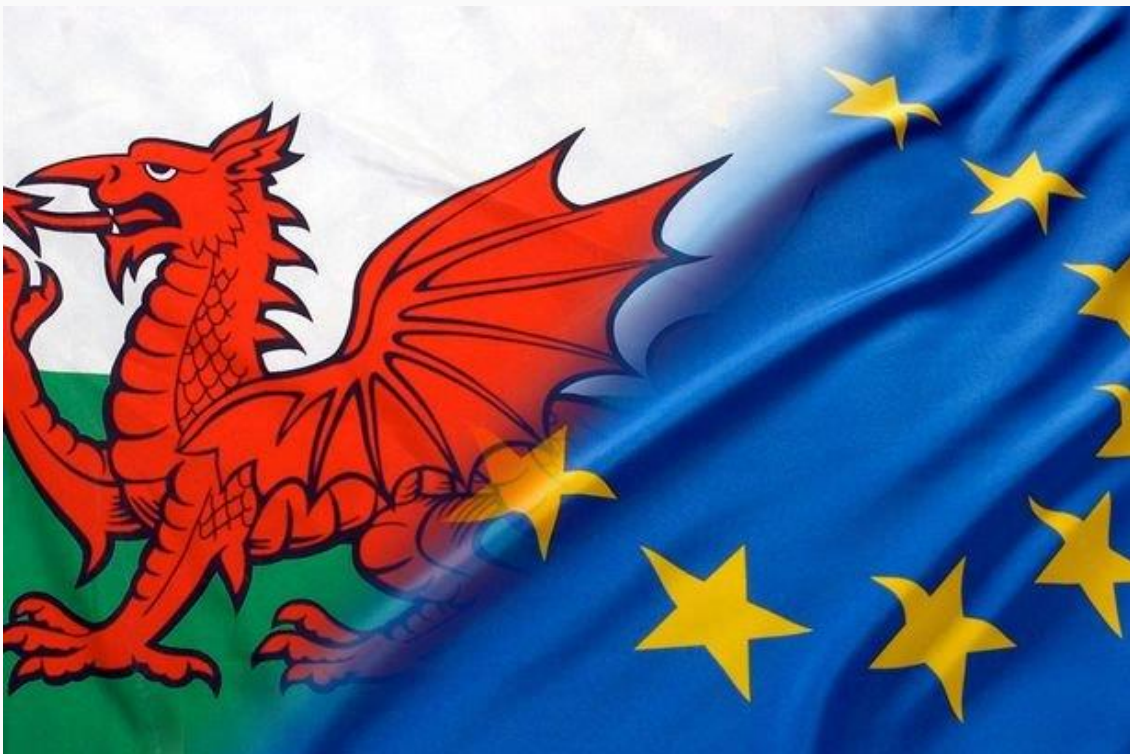




BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 27 September



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

What Happened This Week...

As we approach the end of September, there continues to be developments that will impact our sector on a daily basis.

There was updated guidance over last weekend on reciprocal healthcare arrangements in the event of a no deal, which is one of our [key priority areas during the Brexit process](#). While this provides some reassurance that most UK nationals living in the EU won't have to pay for their healthcare costs immediately after Brexit, this is only a temporary measure. To read more about the NHS Confederation's response, [please read here](#).

Last week over in Brussels, our NHS Confederation Europe team participated in a European Parliament event with MEPs that discussed Brexit-related risks to patients across Europe in a no-deal Brexit and in the wake of the Yellowhammer report – here's [a summary of what European health stakeholders are thinking](#).

Back in Wales this week we were attended a variety of events to ensure our members views were represented at a national and UK level. On Tuesday we attended the Brexit Health Alliance Meeting where we discussed the alignment and support from EU health stakeholders and heard from NHS organisations across the UK about their no deal readiness levels. On Wednesday we attended a Brexit Contingency meeting and the *Preparing for the Impact of a no-deal Brexit on Voluntary Organisations in Wales Event*, hosted by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the Legal Education Foundation and Cardiff University.

Finally, following the release of the Migration Advisory Council's call for evidence into salary threshold and points-based system commission, please [click this link and complete Annex A](#) if your organisation wishes to submit evidence. The Welsh NHS Confederation is drafting an all-Wales level submission, but all organisations have been invited to make their own submissions direct to MAC. We strongly value all our workforce, including those EU nationals for which essential services could not be provided without.

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



The image is a screenshot of a tweet from the Welsh Government (@WelshGovernment) dated September 26. The tweet features the Welsh Government logo, a verified account icon, and a dropdown arrow. The text of the tweet reads: "We've said time and again that, faced with a #NoDealBrexit, we believe the decision should go back to the people & that it would be in Wales' best interests to remain in the EU." Below this, it says "This explains why we think remaining offers Wales the brightest future" followed by a yellow pushpin icon. A link is provided: gov.wales/a-brighter-fut.... The tweet includes a photograph of a busy street market with many people walking and stalls under colorful awnings. At the bottom of the tweet, there are icons for replies (4), retweets (13), likes (17), and a share icon.

Welsh Government News and Guidance

Jane Hutt [issued](#) a statement welcoming the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action's [report](#) entitled '**Empowering Communities in the context of Brexit**'. The Deputy Minister said the Welsh Government will be supporting the WCVA through the £50m European Transition Fund to create a bilingual online portal for third sector organisations.

Publications:

[Flow of personal data following Brexit – guidance for public sector bodies](#). This Welsh Health Circular is designed to help Welsh public sector bodies mitigate the data protection risks associated with a no deal Brexit.

The Welsh Government [published](#) a paper on why Wales' interests would be best served by remaining in the EU. The paper – [A Brighter Future for Wales](#) – also attempts to show how, within the EU, the Welsh Government would address some of the concerns that fuelled the Leave vote in 2016.

[Publication of A Brighter Future for Wales](#)

This week Welsh Government published 'A Brighter Future for Wales', setting out in detail the potential damage of leaving the EU without a deal and making the case for continued membership of the EU. It shows how within the EU we could address some of the concerns which fuelled the Leave vote in 2016. In these papers, Welsh Government set out detailed proposals on a form of Brexit that respected the result of the referendum while also limiting the damage to the economy of Wales.

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

Publications:

[Brexit Update](#)

By Senedd Research on Friday 20 September 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. Read our latest update here.

[Wales and the end of free movement](#)

By Senedd Research on Friday 20 September 2019

Brexit is bringing about the biggest changes to the UK's immigration system in decades. A new system will be needed when free movement for EU citizens ends. Immigration is not a devolved issue, but 80,000 EU citizens live in Wales, and some sectors (like manufacturing, social care, education and health) are reliant on EU labour. This article looks at the current immigration system, proposals for a new system, the impact on Wales, the EU Settlement Scheme and the rights of EU citizens in a no deal scenario.

[Supreme Court prorogation ruling and what it means for Wales](#)

By Senedd Research on Wednesday 25 September 2019

The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the Prime Minister's decision to advise Her Majesty the Queen to prorogue Parliament for five weeks was unlawful. This blog post provides an overview of events before the case, the Court's decision and its implications for Wales.

[External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#)

Monday, September 23

Scrutiny session with James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Exiting the European Union)

Brexit discussion papers

James Duddridge, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, said the non-papers are pre-negotiation technical documents and have not been widely shared as they were used to inform discussions. David Melding asked whether the non-papers would be shared with the Welsh Government as negotiations begin. James Duddridge said these documents would not explicitly be shared as they were designed to be used as discussion documents through the negotiations. Mr Melding asked whether the idea of a single economic zone is being advanced or whether the press has been misinformed. He said this would have a big impact on Irish-Welsh trade and trade travelling through Welsh ports. James Duddridge said the UK Government is looking at Northern Ireland remaining as part of the union rather than having any special arrangements. Mr Duddridge said the option of a hard border has been ruled out and it is now up for negotiation on how to get around the backstop issue. Mr Duddridge said Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK and there would be no physical checks on the border.

Devolved Administrations

AMs asked whether there has been any liaison with the devolved administrations. Mr Duddridge pointed to the XO Committee which meets daily, saying the devolved administrations will be invited to more of these meetings. David Rees noted that only 29% of EU citizens living in Wales have applied for the EU settlement scheme, comparative to about 40% across the UK. Mr Rees asked what the UK Government are going to do to increase this response rate. James Duddridge said the UK Government

has been proactive on this, pointing to a fund which has been set up to help the most vulnerable people in this process.

Freedom of Movement

James Duddridge said the Home Secretary has set up a Migration Advisory Committee to look at the whole of the UK and what type of people and skills are needed. He said there has been discussion on the monetary value on what people need to earn.

First Minister's Questions

Tuesday, September 24

Brexit

Mark Reckless raised Brexit, asking if the First Minister now supports the Plaid Cymru position of leaving the UK to stay in the EU. Mark Drakeford reiterated the Welsh Government's policy of campaigning for Remain and he welcomed that the Labour Party at a UK level has now committed to a second referendum. Andrew RT Davies called for an election to break the Brexit deadlock and Neil Hamilton criticised the Supreme Court ruling on prorogation. On behalf of Plaid Cymru, Rhun ap Iorwerth asked if the First Minister would back a potential effort to impeach the Prime Minister. In response, Mark Drakeford outlined Welsh Labour's support for a second referendum and said he would have to analyse news that opposition MPs are considering impeachment.

Emergency Question: Supreme Court Judgement

Tuesday, September 24

Supreme Court Judgement

Adam Price used an Emergency Question to ask the First Minister for a statement following the Supreme Court judgement that the prorogation of the UK Parliament was unlawful. Mark Drakeford responded that the

finding was “*striking, totally clear and unanimous*” and that he cannot see any way Boris Johnson can remain in his office following the judgement of the court. Paul Davies said the Conservative Party respects the rule of law and the outcome of the proceedings. Mr Davies blamed the Brexit impasse on Labour MPs frustrating the Brexit process and argued that the only way to resolve the situation is to have a general election as soon as possible. Prof Drakeford accused Boris Johnson of attacking the decision of the court, saying this is not respecting the rule of law.

[Brexit Party Debate: The UK and the EU](#)

Wednesday, September 25

The UK and the EU

Mark Reckless led a Brexit Party debate on the UK and the EU, proposing that the National Assembly supports Wales’ membership of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and its indefinite continuance. Mr Reckless outlined the motion’s support for further devolution in specific areas which would benefit Wales such as rail and air passenger duty. Jeremy Miles argued that radical reform is needed of the way in which inter-governmental relations between the devolved nations and the UK Government are conducted, and that securing a brighter future for Wales depends on the UK remaining in the EU. The Brexit Minister also called for increased commitment to investing in infrastructure in Wales and to provide full replacement funding, free of interference in how it should be best used, for the European funding Wales will lose post-Brexit.

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 include new details on reciprocal healthcare arrangements, details on European Temporary Leave to Remain arrangements and clearer guidance in light of the Welsh Government's No Deal Preparations report released last 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

The UK Government is hosting free [Brexit Business Readiness Events](#) across the UK to meet government advisers and to find out what actions businesses need to take to prepare. The events will combine a keynote address, interactive support, advice stands and in-depth sessions led by subject matter experts to provide specific business-focused advice and help. **Dates in and around Wales include:**

Week commencing 14 October

Monday Cardiff

Monday Liverpool
Tuesday Wrexham

Overview from Westminster

Following weeks of rumours, the Supreme Court determined the decision to prorogue Parliament was unlawful. [Delivering its conclusions](#), the Supreme Court's president, Lady Hale, said: "*The decision to advise Her Majesty to prorogue Parliament was unlawful because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of Parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without reasonable justification.*" UK Parliament returned last Wednesday and as you could imagine the PM has many questions put before him.

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

We are seeking evidence from stakeholders to help inform our review of the salary threshold and points-based system (PBS) commission. **Annex A and B have been updated: updates to the questions on these documents.**

Guidance

[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. **Added new section on how to get help paying for treatment after Brexit, and update on student EHICs.**

[Healthcare after Brexit: living in the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland](#)

How healthcare access might change for UK nationals after the UK leaves the EU. **Added new section on how to get help paying for medical treatment after Brexit.**

[How healthcare providers can prepare for Brexit](#)

What providers and commissioners of healthcare services can do to manage the risks of a no-deal Brexit.

[Exceptions and modifications to the EU guidance on good pharmacovigilance practices that will apply in a no-deal Brexit](#)

This guidance clarifies the expectations on the application of the EU guidance on good pharmacovigilance practices (GVP) in a no-deal Brexit.

[MHRA guidance and publications about a possible no-deal Brexit](#)

Information about the regulation of medicines and medical devices if there is a no-deal Brexit. **Added a new publication ‘Exceptions and modifications to the EU guidance on good pharmacovigilance practices that will apply in a no-deal Brexit’, in the section ‘Regulatory submissions and vigilance activities’.**

[Benefits and pensions for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens in the UK if there's a no-deal Brexit](#)

This guidance explains the rights of EU, European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens to UK benefits and pensions if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Updated the guidance on the rights of EU citizens to claim UK benefits if they arrive in the UK after Brexit.**

[Applying for a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product after Brexit](#)

Applying for a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CPP) if there's a no-deal Brexit. **Clarified that the way you apply for a CPP will not change if there's a no-deal Brexit – but that there are some extra steps before you apply for a CPP for a centrally authorised product.**

[Public-sector procurement after a no-deal Brexit](#)

Information for public authorities, businesses and other organisations on the

outcome for public procurement policy in a no-deal Brexit scenario. **Updated section on what will change for businesses.**

The Brexit page on [UK Government](#) provides 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: employer toolkit](#)

The employer toolkit equips employers with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Added social media graphic: applying to the EU Settlement Scheme

[EU Settlement Scheme: letter](#)

Minister of State for the Home Office Brandon Lewis has written to Guy Verhofstadt about the EU Settlement Scheme. In the letter, the minister gives an update on the EU Settlement Scheme and emphasises the UK government's commitment to citizens' rights.

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

Operation Yellowhammer: the Operation Yellowhammer report makes for worrying reading and, despite all the planning for Brexit, we remain concerned that a no-deal Brexit will affect people's health. [Layla McCay, director of international relations at the NHS Confederation, reports on the situation.](#)

News and Reports

Brexit related research

Our colleagues from the Public Health Wales Research and Evaluation division have published a new report this week, “**Supporting farming communities at times of uncertainty**”. The work was funded by Welsh Government and carried out in collaboration with the Mental Health Foundation. The findings demonstrate that many challenges the farming sector faces are long-standing. The report also proposes solutions, informed and co-produced by organisations that work with farmers and the farming community, focused on the need for better awareness of the support available, working across organisations to recognise stress and anxiety, and for farmer-led, peer-to-peer solutions. The full publication is available in [Welsh](#) and [English](#).

[Ministers still do not know if NHS can cope with no deal, says watchdog](#)

Ministers will not know whether there are enough medicines, medical supplies or freight capacity to support the [NHS](#) if the UK leaves the EU without a deal next month, Whitehall’s spending watchdog has found. With just five weeks to Britain’s scheduled withdrawal on 31 October, the National Audit Office (NAO) said there were still risks, with the Department of [Health](#) and Social Care (DHSC) still to do a “significant amount” of work.

[PREPARATIONS IN WALES FOR A ‘NO-DEAL’ BREXIT – AN UPDATE](#)

Auditor General issues letter to Assembly Committee on progress made by public bodies. Today, the Auditor General for Wales has written to the External Affairs & Additional Legislation Committee with his observations on the progress made in recent months by devolved public bodies across Wales in preparing for a potential ‘no-deal’ Brexit.

Infographic on the [The impact of Brexit on the NHS workforce](#)

News from the BMJ: [European health experts emphasise dangers to patient safety of no deal Brexit](#)

Letter from a broad range of European Health stakeholders [calling for additional contingency measures to Protect European patients in the event of a no-deal Brexit](#)

Three UK Non Papers to the EU: [Confidential documents that "reflect the ideas the UK has put forward" on Brexit have been shared with the EU, the UK government has said.](#) A leaked memo from the European Commission said [the UK had confirmed its proposals for replacing the Irish backstop "do not amount to legally operational solutions](#) and would have to be developed during the transitional period". The memo also said the UK's proposals did not avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland, or preserve the integrity of the single market. However, a UK government source insisted their proposals were "serious and workable" and would avoid a hard border.

[Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October](#)

Government commits to funding healthcare for over 180,000 UK nationals living in the EU for 6 months following Brexit if we leave without a deal.

[Boris Johnson to tell Trump NHS is 'off the table' in post-Brexit trade deal](#)

Boris Johnson has promised to tell Donald Trump that the NHS is "off the table" in negotiations over a post-Brexit trade deal with the US. The prime minister claimed his red lines for negotiations included any idea of American firms buying parts of the state-funded health service.

[STATEMENTS ON BREXIT – British Association and Irish Association of Social Workers.](#)

In addition to the specific concerns relating to the island of Ireland, BASW UK wishes to highlight the wider impact of Brexit on social work across the UK.

There is a significant number of EU nationals currently employed as social workers in all parts of the UK, and also in the wider health and social care workforce. Portability of social work qualifications between nations should be maintained, meaning that UK qualified and registered social workers can continue to practice in nations of the European Union and vice versa.

Looking Ahead

Monday 30 September

- EU Transitional SRO and Leadership meetings
- **House of Lords:** Orders and regulations - Draft Human Medicines and Medical Devices (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

Tuesday 1 October

- **National Assembly:** Oral Questions: [First Minister](#)
- 5. Michelle Brown: What assessment has been made of how a **no-deal Brexit** would impact the Welsh economy?
- **National Assembly:** Statement: [Brexit update](#)
- **National Assembly:** Statement: [Preparing the health and care services in Wales for a no-deal Brexit](#)
- **National Assembly:** Statement: [Preparing public services in Wales for a no-deal Brexit](#)

Wednesday 2 October

- Ministerial Advisory Forum meeting
- **National Assembly:** Oral Questions: [Brexit](#)

- **House of Commons:** Westminster Hall debate - Proposed changes to free movement of EU nationals
- **House of Commons:** Public Accounts - Oral Evidence Session *Exiting the EU: supplying the Health and Social Care sectors*

Friday 4 October

- **“Brexit and mental health: how are you coping?”** organised by the European Parliament Liaison Office in London. For more info and to register click [here](#)



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