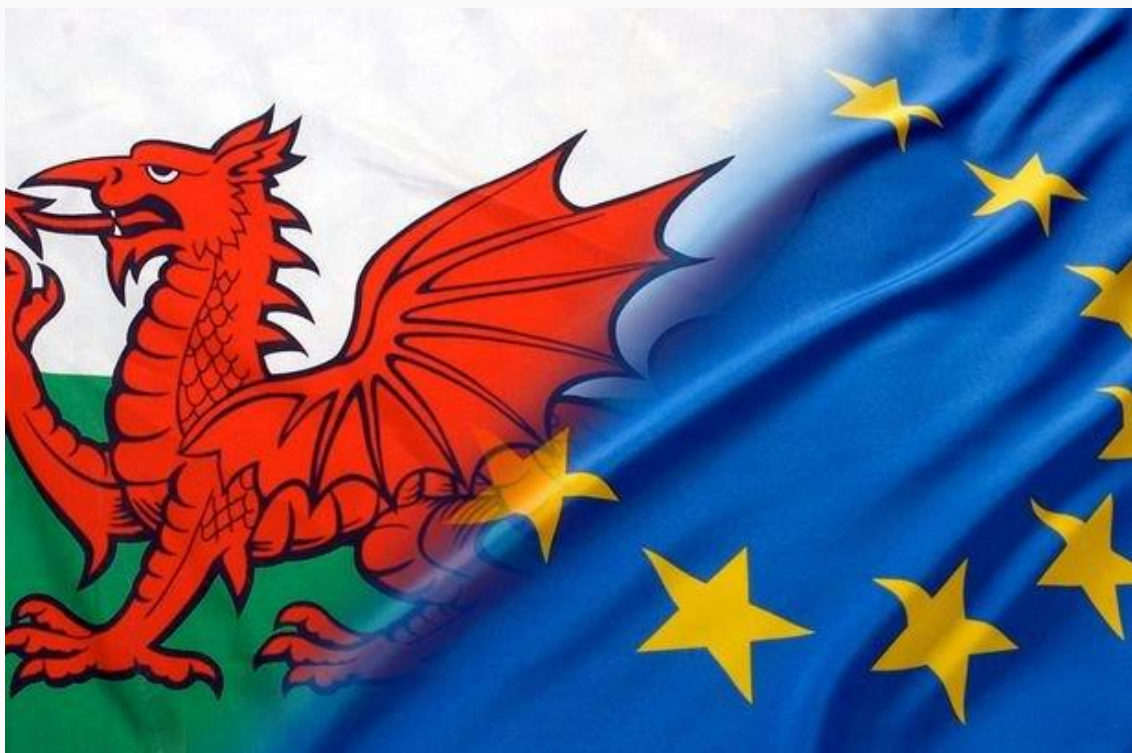




BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 25 October



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

What Happened This Week...

Brexit remains a significant challenge for the NHS and social care in Wales, with no-deal presenting the most challenge. Given the political developments over the last few days (with the Prime Minister's Withdrawal Agreement Bill

(WAB) passing second reading but failing to agree a parliamentary timetable, and EU leaders agreeing to an extension but no announced date), a large degree of political uncertainty continues.

Whatever the outcome, we are confident that the Welsh NHS has made all the preparations we can make to maintain a high standard of service, ensuring patient safety isn't compromised. Until more certainty is gained a no-deal scenario is still possible. This is not ideal and relies on more than the NHS getting their preparations right for contingency plans to be effective.

In addition to preparing for a no-deal Brexit, we continue to highlight the significant contributions European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) nationals working in the health service make and are raising awareness of the Settled Status Scheme. We want to encourage and support EU nationals working in health and social care to apply for the [settled status scheme](#). The scheme is free meaning there will be no charge for applications. For complex cases [Newfields Solicitor](#) can provide free assistance.

Don't forget – we have a series of briefings where you can find more information on how Brexit could impact health and social care services in areas such as [reciprocal healthcare](#), [mutually recognised professional qualifications](#) and [EU funding](#).

If you have any questions about the Brexit process, please see our [FAQs](#) page for more details which have been updated today with streamlined information, 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 News and Guidance

[Welsh and Scottish First Ministers demand time to scrutinise Brexit deal](#)

Leaders of the Scottish and Welsh Governments have written joint letters to the Prime Minister and the European Council President urging them to agree more time for scrutiny of the proposed Brexit Bill.

The First Ministers of Wales and Scotland [gave](#) a press conference on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill. Nicola Sturgeon said an extension to Brexit should be long enough for a general election or referendum, adding that the former would likely lead to the latter. Mark Drakeford said the Welsh Government has no intention of giving its consent to the Bill in its current form. Prof Drakeford said the deal is bad for Wales as well as the UK, adding that it would damage – if not destroy – essential supply chains in manufacturing and food sectors. He said no-deal is not off the table, noting that the Welsh Government had been

invited by UK counterparts to more no-deal planning over the weekend. Mark Drakeford said an Article 50 extension would give Parliament time to scrutinise the Withdrawal Agreement Bill and allow time for a public vote on the deal, with an alternative of remaining in the EU. He stressed that Welsh Labour is eager for this opportunity.

Jeremy Miles [provided](#) an overview of the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) and Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) that took place on Thursday, October 10. The meeting focussed on preparedness, the role of devolved legislatures in negotiations and Common Frameworks.

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

[Negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU – Special Edition EU Council Summit](#)

By Senedd Research on Wednesday 23 October 2019

Senedd Research publishes regular negotiation monitoring reports for the Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, on the latest position papers, announcements and developments in Brexit negotiations of importance to Wales.

[Brexit: Where are we now?](#)

By Senedd Research on Tuesday 22 October 2019

On the 17 October, the UK Government and EU announced that they had reached an agreement on a new deal for the UK's withdrawal from the EU and a revised political declaration on a future relationship. The revised agreement was supported by the EU 27 Member States at the latest EU

Council meeting on 18 October. This blog post provides an overview of the revised agreement and political declaration, explains how the ratification process works and looks at the next steps in the Brexit process.

[Debate: Brexit](#) – Tuesday, October 22

Withdrawal Agreement

AMs [passed](#) the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru [proposal](#) (Legislative Consent Memorandum) that the National Assembly for Wales does not agree to the UK Parliament enacting the Withdrawal Agreement as introduced in the House of Commons. There were 37 for, no abstentions and 16 against. The motion also noted that the Welsh Government will lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum to inform the Assembly's formal consideration on consent in due course.

[Topical Questions](#) – Wednesday, October 23

Brexit Developments

Andrew RT Davies sought an update from the Welsh Government after the approval of the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill at second reading in the House of Commons. Mr Davies warned the Welsh Government against blocking the will of the Welsh people. UKIP's Neil Hamilton echoed such sentiments. Counsel General Jeremy Miles said Parliament had rejected Boris Johnson's "artificial timetable". He set out the Welsh Government's concerns on the draft bill, notably that it did not contain provisions for the Assembly to have a final say. Plaid's Delyth Jewell expressed anger that Boris Johnson had breached the Sewel Convention by declaring that he would not pay any heed to the views expressed by the Assembly and Scottish Parliament. She described it as "constitutional vandalism". Mr Miles said the Prime Minister had "scant regard" for the constitution at all

levels. He agreed there was a serious need to reform the Sewel Convention.

[External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#) – Thursday, October 24

Brexit Preparedness

In a highly charged evidence session with Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, the External Affairs Committee repeatedly challenged the UK Government's treatment of the devolved administrations. Plaid and Labour AMs argued that the Sewel Convention was meaningless if the UK Government chose to disregard the views of AMs and MSPs. Huw Irranca-Davies argued that a lack of time for scrutiny also meant a lack of time to put assurances for key sectors. Delyth Jewell said it was astounding that no assessment of the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the port of Holyhead had been conducted. David Melding expressed his concern that 14 months was not long enough to conduct WTO negotiations while committee chair David Rees called for the Welsh Government to be involved in the early stages of setting direction for negotiations to ensure devolved priorities were considered from the start.

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
CONFEDERASIWN **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 include updates for the current situation and given the more concise answers to important 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

- The meaningful vote planned for (Super) Saturday with withdrawn and replaced with a vote after the adoption (322 to 306) of a [cross party amendment initiated by former Conservative MP Oliver Letwin](#) that brought the [Benn Act](#) into play. As a consequence, [PM Boris Johnson was forced to request the EU for an extension](#).
- The Speaker rejected a call for another meaningful vote on Monday, instead moving to debate the amended [Withdrawal Agreement Bill \(WAB\)](#). The WAB will give legal effect to the withdrawal deal negotiated by Mr Johnson. The bill contains protections on workers' rights, such as a "non-regression principle" and the promise that parliament would get a vote on the negotiating mandate for the EU future relationship and the form of a final trade deal.
- Wednesday saw the vote on the WAB pass by a majority of 30, but the second vote on the timetable to the bill fell by 14 votes.
- While EU leaders have agreed to allow another extension to Article 50, news on the specific date is not expected until after Monday or Tuesday

when MPs will vote on whether to call a snap general election, with rumblings that the UK Government would go on 'strike' if a general election is not called.

The House of Commons has published a variety of papers examining [the potential economic impact of the new withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU](#) and [how the special immigration status that Irish citizens have in the UK may be impacted by Brexit](#).

Guidance

Social care:

[Actions for adult social care providers and local authorities to prepare for Brexit](#)

What adult social care providers and local authorities need to do to prepare for a no-deal Brexit. **Information added on measures to take regarding equipment, food, working with suppliers and making contacts in your local area, taken from the letter sent to the adult social care industry in October 2019.**

Reciprocal healthcare:

[Providing healthcare for overseas visitors from the EEA and Switzerland: information for primary care staff](#)

Information for primary care staff providing healthcare for overseas visitors from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. **Updated with information on the healthcare entitlement of overseas visitors from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland following Brexit.**

Guidance has also been issued for UK nationals living in [Liechtenstein](#), [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), and [Slovakia](#).

Supply of medicines:

[Government services to help medical supply businesses manage Brexit](#)

Three government services that supply businesses can use to keep medical products flowing into the UK after 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 new guidance ‘Comparator products in Bioequivalence/Therapeutic Equivalence studies after Brexit’ under the ‘Marketing authorisations, variations and licensing guidance’ heading.**

[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 presentation slides.**

[Renewing Marketing Authorisations for medicines after Brexit](#)

The way Marketing Authorisations (MAs) are processed will change after a no-deal Brexit. **Now more accessible with no change to the actual content.**

Funding:

[EU funding after Brexit](#)

What to do if you receive funding from an EU programme or you’ve applied to one. **Added more detail about what users should do, depending on the programme they get funding from. This includes links to registration where appropriate, plus links to further guidance and contact details at government departments. Most of this content was previously published**

on “The government’s guarantee for EU-funded programmes if there’s no Brexit deal”.

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](#).

[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

[UK government accused of “dangerous con trick” over Holyhead port](#)

Michael Gove confirms that no impact assessment has been carried out on the Brexit deal’s effect on Holyhead

Giving evidence to the National Assembly for Wales’s External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove MP, confirmed that no assessment has been made of the impact of the so-called Brexit deal on the port of Holyhead.

[Plaid Cymru says referendum must be priority to “end Brexit chaos”](#)

Rejecting Boris Johnson call for a December 12th election, Plaid Cymru’s leader **Adam Price MP** said that the only way to end the Brexit chaos was with a “final say referendum”. The Plaid Cymru Leader said that the Prime Minister should resign, and give opposition parties the opportunity to form an administration to deliver a referendum, if Boris Johnson fails to secure a snap election on Monday.

[Brexit: What happens now?](#)

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he will seek an early general election on

12 December. MPs have already twice rejected an election and are now expected to vote again on Monday.

[Brexit Temperature Check](#): as Britain prepares to leave the EU at the end of October, the NHS Confederation have spoken to trust and CCG leaders across the UK to gather views on how prepared organisations are and what issues are causing concern. The Confederation working with the Government and its arms-length bodies and have shared the analysis.

Trade deals and the NHS: the NHS Confederation has also been examining the potential implications for the NHS of any trade deals post-Brexit. In a new report, it is argued that trade deals should be assessed to make sure that commercial advantage is not made a priority at the expense of human health or the wider national economy. Read [the briefing in full](#).

[What Johnson's deal means for workers' rights, the NHS and the economy](#)

The PM's renegotiated deal opens the way to a much looser relationship with the EU than envisaged by his predecessor, Theresa May, and allows for more "divergence" with EU regulations. As such, instead of writing into the legally binding withdrawal agreement that the UK will abide by EU standards on workers' rights and the environment, these "level playing field" commitments have been shifted to the forward-looking political declaration.

Looking Ahead

Autumn half term for the National Assembly Monday 28 October 2019 - Sunday 3 November 2019.

Monday 28 October

- Motion: Early Parliamentary General Election - [Boris Johnson](#)

- **Potential day EU leaders could return a decision on granting an extension to Article 50 after the verdict of calling an early preliminary general election**

Thursday 31 October

- **Currently the default day the UK is set to leave the EU, pending the announcement of the confirmed extension date.**

Friday 1 November

- **The new EU Commission sits for the first time**

Upcoming Brexit events

07 Nov: “Trade, Health and Well-being Symposium” (in relation to Brexit), organised by the Wales Health Impact Assessment Unit. For more info and to register click [here](#).