



BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS
Confederation

Friday, 12 April 2019



What Happened This Week...

Today is April 12th, the second planned date the UK was due to leave the EU. However, as MPs have yet to approve the Withdrawal Agreement, we found ourselves still focusing on no-deal contingency planning. The UK has now been [granted another extension](#) of six-months, with next scheduled departure date no later than Thursday 31 October. If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified before this date, the UK will leave the EU on the first day of the following month. The EU has made it clear to the UK that it should [spend the next six months wisely](#) and focus on gaining consensus across MPs and decide a [way forward](#) (approving the Withdrawal Agreement, conducting a general election or another referendum).

This extension however is not without terms and conditions. It would mean that the UK would have to partake in EU Parliamentary Elections on 23rd May; if it fails to do so 'Brexit Day' would be 1st June, without a deal, and the EU again reiterated there will be no reopening of the Withdrawal Agreement. Nominations

for the elections are due in less than two weeks' time, the 25th of April.

Therefore, we find ourselves continuing to prepare for a multitude of paths that Brexit can take us on. While this means there is still a high level of uncertainty that will continue for the coming weeks and months, the Welsh NHS Confederation will continue to support members in preparing for a no-deal scenario, but also we will be focusing on what this means for the NHS in Wales for the medium and longer-term settings. On Monday our new Brexit Admin Support Officer started and has been settling into the team. On Wednesday we attended the EU Transition Leadership meeting, where no-deal contingency plans were further discussed and a presentation was provided by Tracey Cooper, CEO Public Health Wales NHS Trust, on the key findings from their Health Impact Assessment report. We Chaired the Policy Forum to update health and social care stakeholders of the key developments. On Thursday we participated in WCVAs research into empowering communities in the context of Brexit, which is due to be published at the end of June. Also this week we working with NHS Workforce Directors to establish a Preparing for Brexit – Manager toolkit, focusing on the Settled Status application process for EU Nationals.

Nesta Lloyd-Jones,
Interim Director, [Welsh NHS Confederation](#)



Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

We have updated our Brexit FAQs again this week to include updates on Immigration and Settled Status and well as the 'Flexextension' dates.

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



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

Welsh Government News and Guidance

Maintaining high-quality and safe health and social care is our top priority in preparing for the possibility of a no deal. Chief Medical Officer, Frank Atherton, [discusses the situation in Wales here](#).

Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister of Wales, gave a [written statement](#) on the meeting of the European Council on 10 April and [Tweet](#) about the extension of Article 50.

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans, [responded](#) to a potential medicine shortage in the event of a no deal EU exit.

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.

Brexit Bulletin: 08 April 2019

Contingency Plans

We are confident there are clear and strong plans in place to make sure services are protected, as far as possible, from any disruption when we leave the EU. There may need to be some alternative planning or working arrangements in the next few months, but there are well tested contingency plans for this.

We urge you and your colleagues to remain vigilant in your advice to the public, particularly with regards over-ordering or over-prescribing medicines. Local stockpiling is unnecessary and could cause shortages which would put those that need medicines at risk.

Here is a summary of basic guidelines to share throughout your organisations:

- **Medical Devices, Clinical Consumables (MDCC)**

The approach to ensure continued supply of MDCC includes participation in the UK National Supply Disruption Response (NSDR) system, as well as a Welsh Supply Disruption Support Centre (SDSC) being established to support Procurement Services and NHS Wales Health Boards/Trusts.

Any disruptions to supplies will first need to be dealt with by normal 'business as usual' operations led by frontline procurement staff dealing directly with suppliers to determine availability and delivery arrangements of goods. Only when these 'business as usual' processes have been exhausted should the SDSC be approached.

- **Medicines and Vaccines**

There are already well established mechanisms for managing shortages led by the very experienced medicines supply team based at UKs Department for Health and Social Care and we have also established the Medicines Shortage Advisory Group (Wales) chaired by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales.

You should continue to manage medicines supply issues as you currently do.

Any medicines supply issues that you are concerned about, or for which you need more help, should continue to be reported via your Pharmacy Department.

- **Clinical Trials**

A comprehensive assessment of clinical trials has taken place across the UK and supplies will be prioritised on alternative routes to ensure that the flow of all these products can continue.

If you have any issues regarding supplies you should contact the sponsor of the trial or the organisation running the clinical trial or investigation.

- **Bloods and Blood Products**

There is a well-established joint working relationship between the four UK countries to provide assurance around quality, safety and accessibility of blood products across the whole UK. The Welsh Blood Service is planning to hold and maintain around 12 weeks of critical stock for blood supply chain critical items, compared to about a month's supply under normal circumstances.

For issues involving blood and blood products you should continue to use existing channels via the Welsh Blood Service.

- **Organs, Tissues and Cells**

Legislation was passed in November 2018 in case of a 'no deal' EU exit to ensure that the requirements in relation to quality and safety of organs, tissues and cells remain broadly the same once the UK leaves the EU.

For any issues involving organs for transplant, you should continue to use existing channels via NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

For issues involving tissues and/or cells, you should continue to use existing channels via NHSBT, the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) or the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) as appropriate.

- **Public Health Security**

Public Health Wales has identified alternatives to early alerting and response systems currently provided by European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) in the event of a no deal.

- **Food**

There is no evidence to suggest there will be an overall shortage of food, although , there could be a reduction in the choice and availability of certain products imported from the EU, such as some types of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The NHS is accustomed to handling short term food shortages as a result of a seasonal variations so we expect that a common sense approach to menu planning will mean nutritious and balanced meals will continue.

- **Clinical Waste**

No systemic risks to the clinical waste sector have been identified so no action is required.

- **Laundry**

Discussions with suppliers have identified no major risks so no further action is required.

- **Fuel**

The UK Government believes that the fuel industry is well positioned to respond to any disruptions.

No action is required beyond the National Risk Assumption that essential services should be in a position to run for 10 days without fuel supplies.

- **Data**

Health and social care organisations in Wales have taken steps to mitigate the potential impact of no deal by making appropriate safeguards to send personal data from the EU/EEA to the UK.

- **Andrew Goodall, Chief Executive of NHS Wales, message:**

I am very grateful for the work of you, your staff and key partners. As a result, we are as prepared as we can reasonably be for what remains even at this late stage an extremely uncertain outcome with unpredictable impact.

Preparing Wales



Preparing Wales for a no deal Brexit

The Welsh Government has been clear since the EU referendum result that a disorderly no deal Brexit would be disastrous for Wales.

Since the 2016 referendum, we have worked constructively in Wales, Westminster and Brussels to deliver a deal that works for Wales, which protects our people, our economy and our environment. But as it has become clearer a no deal outcome is a real possibility, so we have been actively increasing our preparations to safeguard the interests of Wales and its people.

The Welsh Government has set out a clear vision for a Brexit, which prioritises jobs, the economy and the interests of Wales. More information about this is available in our White Paper, [Securing Wales' Future](#).



National Assembly News

The National Assembly is currently in recess until the 29th of April.

Round-up:

Welsh Liberal Democrats Spring Conference

Leader's Speech

The leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Jane Dodds, [argued](#) that issues such as poverty, cuts to public services and climate change are being ignored due to the Brexit debate. Ms Dodds said Theresa May has put the Conservatives first at every stage of the Brexit process, arguing that she is controlled by the DUP and European Research Group and also that Jeremy

Corbyn is ignoring most of the Labour party. She reiterated her support for a 'people's vote' on Brexit, including an option to remain in the EU.

Brexit

AMs were on standby during the first week of Easter recess as the prospect of leaving the EU without a deal today threatened a recall of the Assembly. This, however, did not materialise, as the UK and EU agreed on a flexible extension until October 31 to allow for the ratification of the withdrawal agreement.

The First Minister has said the six-month delay offers much needed breathing space and should allow for consensus and compromise to avoid another countdown to a no-deal scenario. Mark Drakeford has argued that taking part in European elections is preferable to leaving without a deal. Speaking ahead of the EU's decision to grant an extension, former Conservative Brexit Minister David Jones [refused](#) to rule out voting for a party other than his own if an election is held. The Clwyd West MP also suggested that many Tory members would be reluctant to participate in the vote.

Baroness Sal Brinton addressed delegates in her final conference as president of the UK Liberal Democrats. Baroness Brinton emphasised the party's UK-wide relations, saying she is pleased to see that membership is on the way back up. She focused on the uncertainty of Brexit, noting the possibility of a year-long extension, or that the UK crashes out of the EU on Friday.

Closing the conference, Welsh Lib Dem president, Councillor William Powell, said there is a sense of fracture in the country and the party must ensure it is not part of the problem. Cllr Powell said the selection process for the next European election is underway and that having a Lib Dem MEP is "no longer a pipe dream".

Motions

- An emergency [motion](#) on stopping Brexit, tabled by former MEP Peter Price, was passed. Mr Price outlined his support for a second referendum, arguing that divisions in the UK will not be healed by proceeding with Brexit. Prospective MEP candidates stressed the importance of giving people the right to vote in the full knowledge of the terms of Brexit. Discussion focused on the economic dangers of a no-

deal Brexit, the concerns of UK citizens who live abroad, and the importance of ports and access to medicines.

Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister

Brexit and Healthcare

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West)(PC) asked about the issues Brexit raises for the health and social care workforce. He also asked about the challenges of training more people for the workforce. Mark Drakeford agreed that Brexit “*done the wrong way*” will pose challenges in the ability to attract people needed to work in public services, businesses and universities in Wales. He said mutual recognition of qualifications is an important issue. He said the UK Government’s proposals on migration compound the difficulties that Brexit creates rather than helping to solve them. He said there is a need to further expand indigenous training paths to get a greater supply of people into these professions.

[Flextending Brexit? Scrutinising the First Minister on the latest Brexit developments](#)

By Senedd Research on Wednesday 10 April 2019

On 5 April the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister met to discuss the First Minister’s priorities for the remainder of this Assembly term, including issues relating to Brexit. This blog post provides an overview of recent statements made by the First Minister on Brexit ahead of the meeting, as well as a summary of the key issues raised.

News and Reports

[No-deal Brexit means less food variety - Wales' first minister](#)

Mark Drakeford said there were products on supermarket shelves now which would not be there after a no-deal - something he called a "genuine risk".

[Brexit talks, Newport by-election and Rwanda – Sunday Supplement](#)

Guests include First Minister Mark Drakeford, Prof. Roger Awan-Scully & Baroness Randerson.

[Theresa May urged to show flexibility by Mark Drakeford](#)

Taking part in European elections in May is preferable to leaving the EU without a deal, Wales' First Minister Mark Drakeford has said.

[Brexit blamed for 'poisonous' atmosphere in the Senedd](#)

Brexit has been blamed for creating a "poisonous" atmosphere in the Senedd by a number of AMs.

[Welsh Lib Dem leader presses case for new Brexit poll](#)

There must be a new referendum on any Brexit deal, the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats has insisted.

[Ex-Brexit minister unclear if he will vote Tory in Euro elections](#)

A former Conservative Brexit minister has refused to rule out voting for a party other than his own if a European election is held.

[Welsh Tory MPs Jones and Davies say May must go](#)

Two Welsh Conservative MPs have said Theresa May should go now, after the EU granted her a six month Brexit delay.

[Trick or treat? 31 October Halloween deadline is both](#)

So to get all the terrible metaphors about horror shows, ghosts and ghouls out of the way right now, let's consider straight away some of the reasons why this decision is a treat in one sense, but could be a trick too.

[No-deal Brexit: What is the UK government doing to prepare? \(Operation Yellowhammer\)](#)

European Union (EU) leaders will decide later this week whether to accept the UK's request for a further delay to Brexit. But if they refuse, then the UK could leave the EU on 12 April with no formal agreement. So with the clock still ticking, what is the government doing to prepare for a no-deal Brexit?

['Ball in government's court' on talks, says Sir Keir Starmer](#)

Talks between Labour and the government began last week, with Theresa May saying only a cross-party pact would see MPs agree a deal in Parliament.

[Doctors call for transparency over no-deal drug risk](#)

Doctors' leaders have raised concerns over a lack of clarity about drug

availability highlighted by no-deal Brexit planning.

[Prime Minister's Questions: The key bits and the verdict](#)

While talks continued between the Conservatives and Labour on breaking the parliamentary deadlock on the UK's exit from the EU, the Labour leader avoided the issue of Brexit.

[European elections: Nigel Farage launches Brexit Party](#)

Ex-UKIP leader Nigel Farage has launched his new Brexit Party, saying he wants a "democratic revolution" in UK politics.

Stockpiling stories were posted on [Metro](#), [The Sun](#), and [Vice](#).

[The Brexit Effect](#)

Institute for Government Publication: How government has changed since the EU referendum.

[EU doctors' Brexit dilemma: do we stay or do we go?](#)

They believed they were in a welcoming country. Three consultants discuss how their lives have been upended.

UK Government & NHS England Resources

Overview from Westminster

On Monday evening, Parliament passed a bill brought by Labour MP Yvette Cooper, which aims to force the prime minister to request a Brexit extension - rather than leave the EU without a deal on 12 April, which is the default position; the [government motion](#) on Tuesday passed and the House approved the PM's request to the EU to delay Brexit until 30 June. On [Tuesday](#), the Prime Minister met [German Chancellor Angela Merkel](#) and [French President Emmanuel Macron](#) to urge them to back her request to delay Brexit again until 30 June, while [cross-party talks continued](#). The EU summit was held on Wednesday, where Theresa May [formally asked EU leaders for a short extension](#), and an extension has been granted no later than 31st October as long as the UK participates in [EU Parliamentary Elections](#) (if not, the UK would leave on 1 June).

[Confirmation of UK Government agreement to extend Article 50](#)

Letter from the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU to the President of the European Council concerning Article 50 extension.

[European Council \(Art. 50\) conclusions, 10 April 2019](#)

On 10 April 2019, the European Council (Art. 50) adopted conclusions on Brexit.

[PM statement at the European Council: 11 April 2019](#)

Prime Minister Theresa May's press statement at the EU Council.

House of Commons:

[The Cooper Act and Article 50 – a new role for Parliament?](#)

Commons Library Insight

What does the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Bill mean for extending Article 50? What is Parliament's new role in the process?

[Are we preparing for European Parliamentary elections?](#)

Commons Library Insight

Examines why the Government decided to trigger the process for European Parliament elections on 23 May and what it means for Brexit.

[Brexit and medicines regulation](#)

Commons Library research briefing

Overview of UK medicines regulation, the relationship with the EMA and regulatory agencies in EU member states and post-Brexit options

Guidance

[Technical update to the Withdrawal Agreement](#)

Letter from the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union in response to the European Commission's letter concerning the Withdrawal Agreement.

[Recognition of professional qualifications: guidance for regulatory bodies](#)

Guidance explaining how the recognition of professional qualifications will operate if we leave the EU without a deal.

[Policy paper on the rights of UK nationals in the EU](#)

Policy paper outlining the UK Government's action to protect the rights of UK nationals living in the EU.

[EU Exit secondary legislation laid with impacts on local government](#)

Statutory instruments which have been laid and identified as having impacts on local authorities.

[Overseas visitor charging: guidance for NHS service providers on updates to regulations](#)

How changes to charging regulations will affect how you recover costs from overseas visitors and migrants if the UK leaves the EU with no deal.

[Applying for a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product in a no deal scenario](#)

This guidance covers the process for applying for a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CPP) if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

[Quality and safety of human blood and blood products if the UK leaves the EU without a deal](#)

What you need to do to ensure the safety and quality of blood and blood products

[Brexit and Delegated Legislation](#)

Lords Library research briefing, 29 March 2019

Overview of how scrutiny of delegated legislation takes place in both Houses and considers the impact of Brexit on it

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](#).

[No deal preparations and primary care NHS](#) England has written to primary care contractors informing them of the actions they still need to take locally to prepare for the possibility of a 'no deal' EU exit. [The letter from Prof. Keith Willett](#), EU Strategic Commander at NHS England, covers continuity of medicines' supply, reciprocal healthcare rights, workforce and data-sharing. Professor Keith Willett has advised all NHS organisations to stop their no deal provisions being enacted on 12 April but to keep them on hold. This

message was reiterated by DHSC who said: 'It is important to note the legal default in UK and EU law remains that, until a deal is agreed and ratified, there is a risk of a no deal exit at the end of the extension period on 31 October 2019. We will need to consider how best to prepare for this scenario and the impact on no deal preparations.'

The Department for Health and Social Care [wrote](#) to NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups with information on how updates to the 'Charging Regulations' will affect how they recover costs from overseas visitors and migrants, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, or without agreements on healthcare in place.

Settled Status:

[Example case studies: EU Settlement Scheme](#)

Examples of how EU citizens can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and the status they will get.

[Funding awarded to support vulnerable EU citizens apply for settled status](#)

57 organisations throughout the UK have been awarded funding from £9 million available, supporting an estimated 200,000 vulnerable or hard to reach EU citizens.

[EU Settlement Scheme: community leader toolkit](#)

The community leader toolkit equips local authorities and community groups with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

[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

[EU Settlement Scheme: applying from outside the UK](#)

Information for applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who are applying from outside the UK.

[EU Settlement Scheme: how we use your personal information](#)

How the Home Office will use your personal information to decide whether to grant your application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

NHS Confederation:

[EU qualifications recognised after the UK leaves the EU](#)

The Secretary of State for Health and Social care has announced that EU workers with professional qualifications can continue to practise in the UK after the UK leaves the EU, with or without a deal.

EU staff [will have their qualifications and registration recognised](#) in the UK whether we leave the EU with a deal or without. Cavendish Coalition co-convenor and NHS Confederation deputy chief executive Danny Mortimer welcomed the news and added we hope for similar confirmation from the EU. The Cavendish Coalition was also represented in the House of Lords this week where co-convenor Sara Gorton [gave evidence to the EU Home Affairs Sub-committee](#) on the future immigration policy.

[‘Unlikely’ that NHS will see significant medicine shortages from Brexit, says NHS Confed](#)

Patients in the UK who rely on medicine and medical supplies from Europe are unlikely to face significant shortages of medication after Brexit, Layla McCay, director of international relations at the NHS Confederation told BBC 1 Yorkshire.

“From what I have been able to see, and the assessments that me and my team have done, it does seem that there are safeguards, and then there are safeguards for the safeguards, which mean that its unlikely that there will be significant shortage of medications.”

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



Looking Ahead

Easter Recess for the National Assembly: April 8 – April 28

Easter Recess for the UK Government: April 16 – April 23

Wednesday 17 April

- Health and Social Services Brexit Communications meeting



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