



BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS
Confederation

Friday, 5 April 2019



What Happened This Week...

While we are now in April and past the original deadline for the UK's departure from the EU, we continue to unclear what will happen around Brexit. The Yvette Cooper Bill, which was passed on Wednesday night, gives us some reassurance that the UK will not leave the EU without a deal. We need to continue to plan for no-deal because it is not just the UK who are involved in these negotiations. If the EU do not grant an extension after April the 12th or there is no deal agreed by then, the default remains. Whatever happens we will continue to support our members in Wales to be as prepared as they can be for whatever happens in the coming days or weeks.

This week our priority has been working with our members to promote and raise awareness of the Home Office Settled Status Scheme which went live last Saturday, 30th of March. We have been working with NHS Directors of Workforce and OD to develop a presentation on the Settled Status Scheme and the key information that EU staff need to be aware of so that they can apply. On

Monday we had an initial conversation with Home Office and Wales Office representatives to discuss the regional events they are planning to discuss the Settled Status Scheme and the Future Skills Based Immigration System. We will keep stakeholders informed once the dates have been finalised.

Communication and engaging with the media around the key public facing messages continues to be a priority. Last week I wrote a [blog](#) highlighting the collaborative working between health and social care when preparing for a no-deal Brexit and how this has led to increased reassurance across the system. I was also able to reiterate these messages to Victoria Macdonald, Health and Social Care Correspondent at Channel 4 News, when she was conducting interviews in Wales following the purchasing of a warehouse to increase the capacity for consumables and supplies as part of the preparations for Brexit.

Many eyes will continue to be on Westminster to come up with a solution and way forward which is needed to move from immediate no-deal contingency planning to more medium and long-term policy development. As part of this we will work with our members, stakeholders, the Welsh Government and the Brexit Health Alliance to ensure that the population continues to receive high quality care and support in the future.

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,
Interim Director, Welsh NHS Confederation



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Last week our Interim Director [@NestaLloydJones](#) gave her thoughts on the work being done across the health and social care sector to mitigate the risks of a no-deal [#Brexit](#). Take a look here: buff.ly/2JY1smP



6:00 AM - 2 Apr 2019

Welsh Government News and Guidance

On Monday during a press conference the First Minister (Mark Drakeford) [told](#) journalists that there is still time for MPs to compromise and find a way forward to avoid a no-deal Brexit. Prof Drakeford said a general election looks less likely. He said the UK Labour party's handling of Brexit has been frustrating for many of Labour's members, but he praised Keir Starmer's navigation of the process.

On Thursday, the Director General Health and Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief Executive sent a letter to NHS CEOs in relation to Preparations for Exiting

the EU. The letter will be on the Welsh Government website in due course.

<https://gov.wales/health-and-social-care-sector-planning-no-deal-brexite>

[Wales in the world post-Brexit: “UK government needs to do more to promote Wales abroad” – Eluned Morgan.](#)

Speaking at a Wales Governance centre/Welsh Centre for International Affairs conference the International Relations Minister, Eluned Morgan, discussed how the UK government departments need to do more to work with the Welsh Government to promote Wales across the world post-Brexit.

[Written Statement: Updated analysis of the economic implications of the UK’s exit from the European Union.](#)

The annex to this Written Statement covers an updated analysis by the Welsh Government’s Chief Economist of the economic implications of the UK’s exit from the European Union, drawing on material released recently and with a particular focus on the shorter run economic effects of a no-deal Brexit.

[Written Statement: Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

The following Written Statement has been laid before the Assembly - Notification in Relation to Statutory Instruments made by UK Ministers in devolved areas under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 not laid before the Assembly [Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

[Food supply chain preparations for social care sector if there is no deal](#)

Update on food supply preparations in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

[Welsh Government preparing for ‘economic shock’ of No-Deal – Ken Skates](#)

The Welsh Government is doing everything it can to prepare for the economic shock of a no-deal Brexit, Economy Minister Ken Skates will tell UK government ministers today.

[EU exit: no deal preparations for schools in Wales](#)

In the guidance you will find information relevant to schools in Wales and those who work in our schools, including advice from the UK Government and

Welsh Government.

What is the EU Settlement Scheme?

The EU Settlement Scheme is a simple process for EU and Swiss citizens and their family members who want to stay in the UK to get the UK immigration status they need. It is available either on a 'settled status' basis for those who have been in the UK for five years, or on a 'pre-settled status' basis for those who have lived in the UK for fewer than five years.

How can EU nationals apply for the Settlement Scheme?

The Home Office Scheme is now fully open until at least 31 December 2020. To apply, EU nationals will only need to complete three steps – prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions. It's free to apply and can be done online.

Will the Scheme be affected by a 'no-deal'?

The EU Settlement Scheme will continue regardless of how the UK leaves the EU. EU citizens who are resident in the UK before the UK leaves the EU will continue to be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. For EU citizens arriving after the UK's exit from the EU, transitional immigration arrangements will be put in place.

Where can you find out more about the Settlement Scheme and apply?

For more information or to apply now, go to: www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

On [Wednesday](#) Theresa May met [Mark Drakeford](#) for talks.

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.

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

On Monday, the [External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#) met in private to discuss their future Brexit work plan and consider the next batch of [international agreements](#), and the [Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee](#) continued to scrutinise subordinate Brexit legislation.

The following letters were sent by the Minister to the Assembly Committees:

- [Letter](#) from the Minister for Health and Social Services (Vaughan Gething): Four Nations Ministerial Meeting.
- [Letter](#) from the Minister for Health and Social Services (Vaughan Gething): Healthcare (International Arrangements) Bill.

On Tuesday the Counsel General and Brexit Minister (Jeremy Miles) provided a [Statement: Update on EU Negotiations](#). The Counsel General said the Welsh Government recognises the vital importance of achieving a compromise and urged Parliament to find a stable consensus. He said the Welsh Government

continues to believe the best outcome would be a future economic relationship that guarantees full participation in the single market across the whole economy as well as participation in a customs union. Jeremy Miles told AMs that he has written to David Lidington to urge the UK Government to commit to a statutory role for the devolved administrations in future negotiations. He welcomed increasing support for a confirmatory vote and said that while the Welsh Government continues to believe that uniting around a soft Brexit will deliver the quickest route to a less damaging Brexit, Parliament must also back the option of a referendum as an alternative.

During [Finance Questions](#) on Wednesday in Plenary Delyth Jewell, AM for South Wales East (Plaid Cymru), asked about the total financial resources allocated by the Welsh Government in preparation for the event of a no-deal Brexit. The Minister for Finance, Rebecca Evans, said £34m has been allocated through the EU transition fund and the Welsh Government has been increasing preparations for a no-deal exit. Ms Jewell argued that the Treasury should compensate the Welsh Government for any funds spent on preparations *“since it is the fault of the Westminster government that these valuable funds have been squandered”*. Ms Evans agreed, adding that the level of resource that the Welsh Government is having to turn away from day-to-day core business is *“absolutely huge and it is dominating the work of all departments”*. Andrew RT Davies pointed out that the UK Government has made £31m available to the Welsh Government for no-deal planning. Ms Evans told AMs that funding has been allocated to the Business Resilience Fund.

On [Friday](#), the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister scrutinised the First Minister on numerous Brexit issues of importance to Wales.

[Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report](#)

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 means Brexit... but not quite yet](#)

This blog post explains why and how things have changed and takes a look at this week’s Brexit goings-on in Westminster and Wales.

News and Reports

- Wales minister [Nigel Adams quits](#) over talks with Corbyn
- [Welsh Brexiteer David Jones attacks PM on talks offer](#)
- [Mark Drakeford meets PM for Brexit talks](#)
- [NHS suppliers in Wales may be offered Brexit stockpiling space](#)
- [Welsh NHS cash for no-deal Brexit wasteful, says minister](#)
- [Inside the giant NHS No Deal Brexit warehouse home to £4m worth of supplies](#)
- [£4m of NHS supplies stockpiled in 'secret warehouse' in preparation for Brexit](#)
- [How is the NHS preparing for a no-deal Brexit?](#)
- [UK asks EU for further extension until 30 June](#)
- [EU's Donald Tusk 'suggests 12-month flexible delay'](#)
- MPs ['need to accept Brexit compromise'](#), Davies warns
- [No deal more likely but can be avoided](#) - Barnier
- MPs push to [prevent no-deal](#) in law
- [EU healthcare qualifications to be recognised after no-deal Brexit](#)

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

We have updated our Brexit FAQs again this week to include more information on settled status and links to the Welsh Government social media videos with the Social Care Wales and the CMO.

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

UK Government & NHS England Resources

Overview from Westminster

One Monday there was another [set of indicative votes](#) on Brexit options to see if MPs could agree on a way forward, however none of these were able to gain a consensus in the House of Commons. This was followed by the Prime Minister chairing a day of meetings with her Cabinet which concluded in her releasing a [statement](#) announcing she will be asking for another short term extension to Article 50. On Wednesday the House of Commons [voted 313 to 312](#) in favour of passing a backbench bill that would require the Prime Minister to ask the EU for an extension to the Article 50 process beyond 12 April and would give Parliament the power to decide the length of this delay, however the EU would once again have to unanimously agree to another extension. Theresa May also had a series of talks with [with the leader of the Labour party](#), Jeremy Corbyn, in an attempt to [secure support](#) for the Withdrawal Agreement. The PM confirmed that if neither side can come to an agreement “we would instead agree a number of options for the Future Relationship that we could put to the House in a series of votes to determine which course to pursue”. On Wednesday Theresa May met with Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Wales' First Minister Mark Drakeford where he said the Prime Minister seems "[genuinely willing to listen](#)". The House of Commons approved a Private Member's bill in the name of Yvette Cooper. The Bill requires the PM to request an extension to Article 50 in the absence of an approved deal. The bill is now with the House of Lords for consideration. On Friday [Prime Minister Theresa](#)

[May wrote to European Council President Donald Tusk](#) to ask for another extension of Article 50 until 30 June 2019, which will be discussed at a special European Council summit on Wednesday 10th April.

Guidance

There have been a number of written statements, guidance etc. issued in the last few weeks covering a range of topics to address the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, many of which deal with the recently [fully launched Settled Status Scheme](#) and other papers relating to immigration, recognised qualifications, preparedness etc.

[The UK's future skills-based immigration system: engagement programme](#)

Over 2019 the government is engaging across the UK and internationally to listen to the views of a range of stakeholders, to shape the future immigration system.

[Policy paper on citizens' rights in the event of a no deal Brexit](#)

Policy paper outlining the UK Government's action to protect citizens' rights in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

[Prescriptions issued in the EEA and Switzerland: guidance for pharmacists](#)

Guidance for pharmacists that will take effect from 12 April 2019 if the UK leaves the EU with no deal.

[EU workers' qualifications will be recognised after EU Exit](#)

Health and social care workers from the EU with professional qualifications can continue to practise in the UK as they do now.

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](#).

[Professor Dame Sally Davies: public health, Brexit, and breaking barriers](#)

A podcast about big ideas in health and care. We talk with experts from The King's Fund and beyond about the NHS, social care, and all things health policy and leadership. New episodes monthly.

[Health and social care staff: EU Exit preparations update \(UK\)](#)

Letter from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to health and social care staff updating them on EU Exit preparations.

The [NHS Improvement letter about estates and facilities](#) is now available online and includes [guidance](#) in the case of a no-deal Brexit.

There's new [guidance for pharmacists about what to do with EU prescriptions after we leave the EU](#).

Settled Status:

[Over 50,000 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme on opening weekend](#)

Over 50,000 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme were received on the opening weekend of the scheme going live, the Home Office has today confirmed.

[Stay in the UK after it leaves the EU \('settled status'\): step by step](#)

Find out how and when to apply for settled status after the UK leaves the EU.

[EU Settlement Scheme: evidence of UK residence](#)

How to provide evidence that you've been living here if we can't confirm this through an automated check of UK tax and some benefits records.

[EU Settlement Scheme: application processing times](#)

Current expected processing times for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

[EU Settlement Scheme: application fee refunds](#)

Information for applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme on how refunds are processed if you paid an application fee.

[Settled status for EU citizens and their families: translations](#)

Translations of the settled status for EU citizens and their families guidance in European languages.

[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

Brexit Bulletin is likely to be published providing an overview of the contingency plans.

Monday 8 April

- EU Transitional SRO meeting (cancelled); Leadership meeting scheduled
- The House of Lords will further debate and consider Yvette Cooper's Private Member's bill. If this Bill is passed, the Government would need to move a motion the following day saying that the Government will seek an extension to Article 50 (this could be on the Monday or Tuesday).

Wednesday 10 April

- Emergency summit of EU leaders to consider any UK request for further extension

Thursday 11 April

- Depending on the outcome of next week's European Council, the Government may need to approve a different extension date on Thursday or Friday.

Friday 12 April

- Earliest possible date for the UK to leave the EU



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