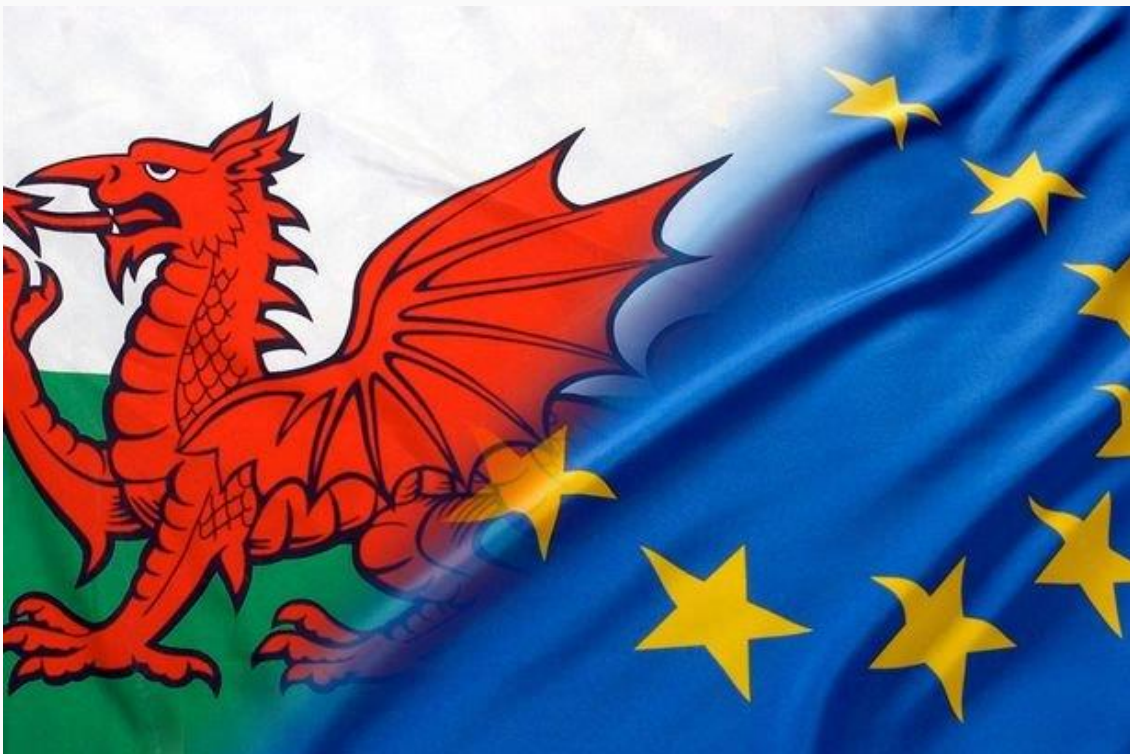




BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 14 June



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

What Happened This Week...

This week, as you can imagine, was dominated by developments in Westminster over the Tory Leadership contest. Brexit specific developments at a UK level have been halted until a new Prime Minister is elected. This pause

enables services and organisations to take stock of all the no-deal preparations that have been put in place and ensure that we are as prepared as we can be for the autumn.

On Wednesday we attended the Welsh Government EU Transitional Leadership. The key areas of discussion included the future health and social care workforce and the developments in the Welsh Government's position on Brexit. Also on this day the Welsh NHS Confederation's [Managing EU withdrawal in health and social care in Wales FAQs](#) document was mentioned during questions in the Assembly to the Brexit Minister, Jeremy Miles, when discussing the no-deal preparations readiness of the health sector in Wales.

This week we have also been looking in more detail around what the medium- and longer-term implications that Brexit has for Wales; specifically, we are focusing on the possible implications the Immigration White Paper. On Thursday representatives across the health and social care sector met to discuss how the removal of free movement will impact our sectors workforce, recruitment and service delivery. We will be drafting a consultation response to the White Paper which will be representative of the health and care sector on an all Wales level. If you would like to be involved in developing this response, please contact Victoria.Hage@welshconfed.org.

If you have any questions about the Brexit process, please see our [FAQs](#) page for more details, 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



Mark Drakeford  @fmwales · Jun 12

Useful meeting with @MichelBarnier earlier.

I urged him to ensure @EUCouncil gives us sufficient time to hold a referendum, in which @WelshGovernment would do all we can to make sure the UK votes to remain part of the EU.

ow.ly/QAQ650uCt3I



Upcoming event: Confed19 – Last chance to book!

As part of the NHS Confederation conference: [1.7 Brexit – What now?](#) 19th June, 11:30-12:30pm, Confed19

Chaired by Dr Layla McCay, Director of International Relations, NHS Confederation, this session will be speaking at the Confed19 Conference where she will address the most pertinent challenges, opportunities, and questions for the NHS associated with Brexit. It will provide key information and include opportunities for interactivity with a diverse panel of experts from the Brexit Health Alliance, NHS and others. The detail of this session will be directed by the evolving political situation, ensuring that the session provides the most current view. To book please [click here](#).

Welsh Government News and Guidance

Minutes published: [Cabinet Meeting, April 29](#), where the FM discussed the European Parliamentary election results, and a Brexit update including *‘that the Health and Social Services Minister had discussed Brexit preparedness matters with the UK Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care earlier that day’*.

[Parliament should compel the Government to bring forward a referendum bill by end of July – First Minister](#) (Statement). The House of Commons has an opportunity to seize control of the Brexit agenda – and it should not stop at preventing a no deal but take steps to force the Government to bring forward a referendum bill by the end of July, the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, has said.

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 Developments

Plenary, Tuesday 11 June

[Statement: Implications of the UK Government's Immigration Proposals](#)

Lack of Engagement with UK Government

Brexit Minister (Jeremy Miles) told AMs that when the UK Government published its white paper last December, outlining its plans for immigration post-Brexit, there had been no prior engagement with the Welsh Government, despite previous assurances that this would happen. Mr Miles said work that the Welsh Government commissioned from the Wales Centre for Public Policy has confirmed that “we are right to remain deeply worried about its approach”, adding that it is highly restrictive and will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh economy and public services. He stressed the need for a migration policy that allows Wales to attract the right type of workers to all areas, **including health and social care.**

Delyth Jewell (South Wales East) (PC) called on the Welsh Government to create a skill shortage occupation register to identify skills gaps, with emphasis being given to ensuring **that Wales' health and social care services** have access to the staff they need. She said that where shortages are severe, the Welsh Government should put plans in place immediately to train extra workers domestically to prevent damaging shortfalls. Mr Miles outlined the government's evidence to the Migration Advisory Committee on arrangements in Wales for occupation shortages and has decided to amend the UK or the England and Wales occupation list.

[Business Statement](#)

No-deal Brexit and the Welsh NHS

Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd)(Lab) called on the Welsh Government to organise a debate concerning the **status of the Welsh NHS in the event of a no deal Brexit**, following privatisation comments made by President Trump, Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage. Rebecca Evans said there are frequent opportunities for AMs to discuss the future of the Welsh NHS and various aspects of Brexit. She further stated that the Welsh NHS is not for sale.

[Debate: The Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

In a debate of the Shared Prosperity fund motioned by Plaid Cymru the following was agreed, despite an attempt to delete points 2 and 3 failing by a vote of 10-34 (with 2 abstaining), which reiterates the Party's stance for 'not a penny less' of funding levels and to respect the role of devolution in Wales.

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes:

- a) that Wales receives around £370m every year in structural and investment funds as a result of the UK's membership of the EU;*
- b) the promises made during the EU referendum that Wales would not lose a penny as a result of the UK leaving the EU;*
- c) the support of the National Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, Finance Committee, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Post-Brexit Funding for Nations, Regions and Local Areas and most stakeholders for future arrangements which respect the devolution settlement.*

2. Regrets the lack of detail from the UK Government about its proposals for a UK Shared Prosperity Fund and that it failed to respect the devolution settlement in developing these proposals.

3. Rejects the idea of a centralised or UK-directed fund or one which seeks to bypass the devolved administrations post-Brexit.

4. Calls on the UK Government to:

a) fulfil the promise that Wales would not lose a penny as a result of leaving the EU;

b) respect devolution and ensure Wales retains the autonomy to develop and deliver successor arrangements for structural and investment funds tailored to the distinctive policy, legislative and partnership landscape in Wales.

Plenary – Wednesday, 12 June

[Brexit Questions](#)

National Health Service

Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd)(Lab) raised concerns over the growing fear among many that the NHS could become “the sacrificial lamb on the altar of a no-deal Brexit”, citing recent comments from Donald Trump on a potential UK-US trade deal. Brexit Minister (Jeremy Miles) reiterated that the Welsh NHS is a public service and will remain so, with Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language (Eluned Morgan) communicating to Liam Fox that the devolution settlement must be respected with regard to UK trade deals. Mr Miles concluded that there is “no prospect of us allowing the Welsh NHS to be part of any negotiation”.

He added that the Welsh Government is working with the NHS in Wales to prepare services for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, especially around medicines supply and workforce planning.

Mark Reckless (South Wales East)(BP) suggested the NHS would not be up for sale in the way that many have been suggesting, and that any involvement of the health service in trade negotiations would be limited to public procurement only. Jeremy Miles pointed to past comments by Nigel Farage endorsing a move to an insurance-based system.

During party spokespeople questions, Delyth Jewell (South Wales East)(PC) also sought reassurances from Welsh ministers that the Welsh NHS would be protected from any UK-US trade deal that “sells off” NHS England. She suggested there is little that the Welsh Government can do, highlighting the fact that some public procurement powers were “given away” by the Welsh Government as part of the intergovernmental agreement on the EU (Withdrawal) Act.

Jeremy Miles said official-level discussions are under way to give Wales a level of protection in advance of trade discussions. He rejected the idea of powers being “given away” through the intergovernmental agreement, and said the Supreme Court made clear in the case of the Scottish Government’s Continuity Bill that the domestic implication of trade agreements is for devolved governments. Delyth Jewell pointed to the UK Government’s refusal to allow the Welsh Government to see draft plans for replacing EU funding and its refusal to listen to Welsh concerns over post-Brexit immigration policy. She called for a Welsh constitutional convention to be set up with independence as an option.

No Deal Preparations

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy)(Con) asked Jeremy Miles to outline what additional no-deal preparatory measures the Welsh Government is undertaking in relation to health and social services prior to 31 October 2019. Jeremy Miles said a review of the sector's preparedness has recently been undertaken, adding that work will continue to ensure preparatory measures are as robust as possible.

Janet Finch-Saunders said that according to the **NHS Confederation's** ['Managing EU withdrawal in health and social care in Wales'](#) document, health boards and trusts have been working to ensure robust plans are in place to manage any public health scenario. Ms Finch-Saunders added that existing systems have been tested and found to be robust enough to withstand no deal related disturbances. She asked for an update on the Welsh Government's workings with the pharmaceutical sector and UK Government to ensure there is not a medicine shortage should the UK leave without a deal in October. Mr Miles highlighted his meetings with Public Health Wales and outlined Welsh Government action. He pointed to the government's warehouse capacity in south Wales to maintain stocks of medical supplies and its work with the UK Government to maintain the arrangements in place in relation to the buffer for medical supplies.

[Answers to questions not reached in Plenary - Questions For - Counsel General and Brexit Minister](#)

Rhun Ap Iorwerth: What assessment has the Counsel General made on the effect that leaving the EU would have on the ability to recruit dentists?

Minister: The future of mutual recognition of professional qualifications and immigration controls is still unclear. However, officials are discussing with health boards, Health Education and Improvement Wales and UK counterparts how to address any recruitment and retention issues that currently exist or may arise after leaving the EU.

Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) met in [London on 13 June](#), and the

Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles will report on the outcomes to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee (*a communiqué has not yet been released summarising the meeting*).

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

The [10 June Brexit update](#) from the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It includes sections on the work of the Assembly and Welsh Government; EU; UK; and Scotland and Ireland. The [12 June Brexit monitoring](#) report provides an update on the UK Government's exit negotiations with the EU. The report provides a summary of the latest developments, including the latest documents and legislation published. It will also provide an analysis of the key issues of interest to the External Affairs Committee and a summary of the Welsh Government's response to the latest developments.

NAW Committees

AMs [approved](#) the following committee nominations for Brexit Party AMs:

- Mark Reckless (South Wales East) – Finance Committee
- Mandy Jones (North Wales) – External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
- Caroline Jones (South Wales West) – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
- David Rowlands (South Wales East) – Standards of Conduct Committee

News and Reports

[We must protect status of EU citizens in Wales - Jeremy Miles](#)

Ahead of a statement on the National Assembly, Counsel General and Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles has reaffirmed his commitment to those EU citizens who have chosen to make Wales their home.

[Not a penny less – Welsh Government calls for commitment on Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

Welsh Labour Minister for Finance and Trefnydd Rebecca Evans has issued a stark warning that Wales still doesn't know what will happen to millions of pounds of regional investment due to a lack of clarity from the UK government.

This week also saw a [falling out](#) between the UK and Welsh Governments over provision of a car for First Minister (Mark Drakeford)'s visit to Brussels. The spat massively overshadowed Prof Drakeford's [calls](#) for a second referendum bill to be brought forward by the UK Parliament by the end of July.

An analysis by Communities In Charge which [claimed](#) that if the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is intended to replace structural funding was allocated according to pre-existing formulas, Wales could end up £2.3bn worse off over six years.

Plaid Cymru: [We don't need to look to the US to fear the privatisation of our Welsh NHS](#)

[Tory AM says post-EU aid 'must not row back devolution'](#)The replacement of EU funds should not lead to a rowing back of devolution and the powers of the assembly, Welsh Conservative AM Nick Ramsay has said.

[Court action threatened if trade deals affect Welsh NHS](#)

The Welsh Government "would probably" take the UK government to court if it struck an international trade deal that tried to "trample on" the Welsh NHS, a

minister said.

[Labour accused of 'hypocrisy' over Welsh NHS privatisation](#)

Plaid Cymru have accused Labour in Wales of 'hypocrisy' over NHS privatisation following attempts to privatise a major NHS service.

[NHS struggling with 100,000 unfilled posts as EU workers flee UK in run-up to Brexit](#)

Public services such as the NHS are facing "big gaps" in recruitment as they struggle to replace EU workers who are leaving the UK, a new study suggests.

[Brexit to cost Wales over £2.3 billion in lost EU investment, analysis shows](#)

If the new Shared Prosperity Fund is distributed in the same way the government allocates current spending on economic affairs, it will unfairly benefit more prosperous areas, they say.

The British Medical Association sent [an open letter](#) to the Conservative Party leadership candidates asking them to commit to explicit safeguards for the health service against the dangers posed by Brexit

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

This document was [mentioned](#) in a Plenary session on 12 June, when referring to the preparedness and robustness of the Welsh NHS for a no deal Brexit.

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 in health and social care in Wales: Frequently asked questions

UK Government & NHS England Resources

Overview from Westminster

- **10 candidates for the Conservative Leadership contest.** Over on the committee corridor, MPs will continue taking evidence from experts and scrutinising the Government's preparations for Brexit. Select committees will be examining the movement of goods in a no-deal scenario, human rights after Brexit and the impact of the UK's decision to leave the EU on investment. See below for more details.
- In her first [PMQs](#) since standing down as Leader of the Conservative Party, Prime Minister Theresa May took questions on Brexit, the possibility of prorogation of Parliament, a second referendum.
- **Brexit debate** took place on 12 June in an effort to block the UK from leaving with no deal on 31 October and to take over parliamentary business on 25 June. [This motion failed by 309-298.](#)
- **First ballot** of Leadership candidates was held on 13 June with Boris Johnson topping the [leadership poll](#), while Mark Harper, Esther McVey and Andrea Leadsom failing to meet the required amount of support. Matt Hancock has also dropped out of the contest.

Guidance

[EEA nationals in the UK: access to social housing and homelessness assistance in a no deal scenario](#)

Information for local housing authorities on the rights of EEA nationals in the UK to access social housing, including supported housing, and homelessness assistance if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. **This applies to England only.**

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](#).

[Prorogation of Parliament](#)

Commons Library research briefing

Explains what it means to prorogue Parliament and the two specific contexts in which it has been raised in the Brexit debate

[Can the Withdrawal Agreement be renegotiated and can Parliament prevent 'no deal'?](#)

Commons Library Insight

Clarifies whether there is scope for renegotiation of the Withdrawal Agreement and whether Parliament can prevent no-deal Brexit

[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

Monday 17

- [Jeremy Miles: Brexit and Devolution](#) 09:30 – 12:30, 17 June 2019, the Pierhead Building, Cardiff
- Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness - consideration of correspondence to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister ([External Affairs and Addition Legislation Committee](#))

Tuesday 18

- Successive ballots, eliminating candidates with the least number of votes until only two remain

Wednesday 19

- As part of the NHS Confederation Conference: [Brexit – What now?](#) 11:30 – 12:30, Manchester
- Successive ballots, eliminating candidates with the least number of votes until only two remain
- Plenary: [Brexit Party debate - Leaving the European Union](#)

Thursday 20

- 20 - 21 June - meeting of the European Council (EU Heads of State) to formally review the progress of negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU
- Successive ballots, eliminating candidates with the least number of votes until only two remain

Friday 21

- 20 - 21 June - meeting of the European Council (EU Heads of State) to formally review the progress of negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU
- First hustings and postal ballot of Conservative party members



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