



BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 3 May



What Happened This Week...

With both the UK Parliament and the Welsh Assembly back from recess after the Easter break, there has been a series of developments and information being released. While there was a smaller focus on Brexit (mainly the continuation of the cross-party talks which focused on trade implications, the possibility of a Customs Union and the launch of several EU Parliamentary Campaigns), other Parliamentary issues such as the local England and Northern Ireland [elections](#) (which main parties lost seats over, [claiming due to Brexit](#)) also made headlines.

The main guidance released this week largely dealt with trading with other countries within and outside the EU in a no-deal scenario. Policy papers were also published summarising the pilot programme of the EU Settled Status Scheme.

On Monday we attended the EU Transitional SRO group meeting. Due to the fact that Article 50 has now been extended by 6 months and the next date where the UK could leave the EU without a deal is the 31st of October, it has been decided that the SRO Group will stand down. If a deal is not agreed between now and September the group will meet again in early September to prepare for a no-deal scenario. The Leadership Group and the Communications Sub-Group will now meet monthly instead of fortnightly. While we continue to await the outcome of events in Westminster to determine the next steps and whether we are facing a no deal Brexit or an arranged Withdrawal Agreement we will continue to support members to prepare for a potential no-deal scenario on the 31st of October.

We regularly update our [FAQs document](#), so if you have any questions about Brexit and how it could impact on the health and care service please see this document 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



Cardiff & Vale UHB

@CV_UHB

Following

Need help with applying for the EU Settlement Scheme? @cardiffcouncil is offering a range of support, including a number of face to face sessions: bit.ly/2HAb031



4:40 AM - 2 May 2019



Welsh Government News and Guidance

[Counsel General warns on Brexit and the Union](#)

Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles has warned of a new crisis facing the UK and says that the time is right to consider fundamental constitution change post-Brexit. Ahead of an appearance at a Four Nations conference on '[Brexit, Devolution and Civil Society](#)' in Belfast, the Counsel General and Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles made statement.

The Welsh Government [responded](#) to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee report: [Wales' future relationship with Europe and the World](#).

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

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

On Monday the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee [held](#) a scrutiny session with the First Minister. Mark Drakeford warned that the latest Brexit deadline has removed a sense of urgency and could become another date which repeats the risk of leaving the EU without a deal. Questioned on a people's vote, the First Minister reiterated the Welsh Government's position that a deal can be struck, but that if the House of Commons cannot find a way through this, the decision should return to the people.

There was discussion on the spending by the health department on a [warehouse](#) in preparation for a no-deal Brexit. A letter from Revd Gethin Rhys, Cytûn, to the First Minister: Arrangements for devolved legislation before and after Brexit, available [here](#). The Committee also received a letter from the Counsel General and Brexit Minister (available [here](#)) on the Common Frameworks Analysis, and a letter regarding the Wales Audit Office report on preparations for Brexit in Wales (available [here](#)).

The Welsh Government [responded](#) to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee report: [Wales' future relationship with Europe and the World](#).

Plenary

In a [Statement Update on the Brexit Negotiations](#), Counsel General and Brexit Minister (Jeremy Miles) [told](#) AMs that the decision to extend Article 50 has provided breathing space, and an opportunity to reflect, but it has not provided certainty that a no-deal Brexit will not happen, merely moved the horizon. Mr Miles stressed that the negotiations between the UK Government and the opposition remain crucial, calling on both parties to engage fully and responsibly. He argued that the government appears to view these negotiations as an opportunity to try and sell its deal rather than find a compromise.

Two oral questions were received by the [Counsel General](#) on Wednesday:

- Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy) (Con): What steps is the Counsel General taking to work with all local authorities across Wales in preparation for a **no-deal Brexit**?
- Helen Mary Jones (Mid and West Wales) (PC): What recent discussions has the Counsel General had with the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the impact of **Brexit on the Welsh NHS**?

Assembly research

[Putting Wales on the map: How should Wales approach international engagement after Brexit?](#)

In a post-Brexit world Wales will need to position itself, redefine its priorities for international relations, and develop new mechanisms for international engagement. In this context, the Assembly will debate the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's report into Wales' future relationship with Europe and the World on 1 May.

News and Reports

[Public Health Wales prepares for Brexit](#)

Public Health Wales has established a programme of work to ensure business continuity following Brexit, particularly in the event of a “no-deal” scenario. Colleagues are focusing on business continuity, health security, the wider and longer-term public health impacts of Brexit, and the implications for our staff and resources. As part of the programme, the team is undertaking specific continuity planning to make sure we’re able to minimise any potential disruption.

The [Grant Thornton report](#) was published examining the Brexit Transition Support Programme with the WLGA. The report captures feedback on the preparedness of Welsh local authorities for Brexit. It identifies some of the key risks facing local government, as identified by the councils themselves, and it articulates a number of potential areas where further support could be provided.

['Hold Wales independence vote if no further Brexit poll'](#)

Wales should hold an independence referendum if Brexit happens without a further EU poll, Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price has said.

[Brexit means the NHS on a platter in trade deals - and both main parties are ducking crucial questions](#)

Both a hard Tory Brexit or a soft Labour one would worsen every aspect of the NHS crisis, from staffing to drug prices to privatisation. Why aren't we talking about this more?

[EHIC renewals drop 23% in the Brexit run-up – even though travellers DO still need one](#)

The number of people with a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) has dropped by more than 450,000 since last year, with renewals plummeting in the first quarter of 2019 as the UK prepares to leave the EU,

MoneySavingExpert.com can reveal.

[English local elections difficult for Tories says Welsh leader](#)

The leader of the Conservatives in the Welsh Assembly has admitted that the English local election results will prove "difficult" for the party.

Brexit Negotiations

[May hopes UK will leave 'well before' 31 October deadline](#)

Theresa May has said she hopes the UK will leave the EU well before the new 31 October Brexit deadline. She told MPs there was no reason the UK could not leave in a matter of weeks once MPs backed an agreement, which they have so far rejected three times. She signalled she hoped to get Labour backing for any new customs proposal before putting it to Parliament again.

[UK to ask EU for citizens' rights assurance](#)

The government will ask for assurances from the European Union on what happens to British citizens living in the bloc - and EU citizens in the UK - in the case of a no-deal Brexit.

[Theresa May sets seven-day deadline for Brexit deal with Labour](#)

A government source said the talks – which have been ongoing since early April – needed to be brought to a conclusion one way or another by the middle of next week. Labour insiders insisted they knew nothing about the deadline set by Downing Street.

[Cross-party talks 'productive' and 'constructive'](#)

The latest talks between ministers and Labour to try to end the Brexit impasse were "positive" and "productive", the PM's de facto deputy has said.

[Theresa May will have 'no option' but to agree to a customs union, says Labour](#)

Theresa May will have “no option” but to offer Labour a customs union if she wants to get her Brexit deal through Parliament, the shadow business secretary has said.

[Jeremy Hunt warns against Labour's customs union plan](#)

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has warned Theresa May against agreeing a Brexit deal with Labour that involves a customs union with the EU.

[Theresa May Faces Triple Brexit Questions as She Runs Out of Moves](#)

Cross-party talks on a Brexit compromise started at the beginning of April after May failed for a third time to persuade the House of Commons to accept the divorce agreement she negotiated with Brussels. A person familiar with the prime minister’s thinking said Tuesday she wants a conclusion one way or another next week. Long-Bailey, who has taken part in the negotiations, described them as “positive” and a “two-way street.”

[UK government cancels Brexit ferry deals](#)

The Department for Transport is cancelling contracts to provide extra ferry services after Brexit.

EU Election

According to [reports](#) the elections are considered by many as a second referendum and consequently a higher turnout is expected in comparison to previous [European Parliament elections](#).

Patrick McGuinness, a European Election candidate for Plaid Cymru, [wrote](#) about the party’s policy to remain in the European Union.

[Tell MPs to make Brexit happen, says UKIP](#)

Voters should back UKIP in the European elections later this month to "make Brexit happen", the party's lead candidate in Wales has said.

[Tories aim not to have to fight campaign](#)

Brandon Lewis has refused to say when the Tories' European election campaign will launch, saying his priority is not to have to fight them at all.

[Plaid blames Greens for Remain alliance pact failure](#)

Plaid Cymru has blamed the Greens for the two parties failing to work together in the European elections.

[Brexit Party kicks off campaign in Wales](#)

This week also saw a major rally for the newly formed Brexit party which attracted 2,000 people to an event in Newport. Despite being less than a month old, the party is already doing well in the polls. The Brexit Party's lead candidate in Wales has called for leave supporters to use their European election vote to send a "strong message" to Westminster.

[Wales' first minister refuses to back another vote](#)

Wales' first minister has refused to back a promise to hold another Brexit referendum as part of Labour's manifesto for May's European elections.

[Labour under fire in Wales over Brexit 'fudge'](#)

Labour's leadership have been criticised after they announced that the party's manifesto for the European election will not include a firm pledge to hold a People's Vote. The move came after all four Welsh Labour candidates for the European elections [wrote yesterday](#) calling on the party to promise another Brexit referendum in its manifesto.

[EU election: Labour 'in danger of handing Farage victory' say AMs](#)

Two Welsh Labour AMs have warned their party is in danger of handing victory to Nigel Farage unless it pledges to campaign for a further referendum in the European elections.

[Labour supports a referendum with caveats](#)

Labour's governing body has agreed to support a further referendum on Brexit under certain circumstances. The National Executive Committee met to decide the wording of its manifesto for May's European elections. It rejected the idea of campaigning for a referendum under all circumstances - as supported by deputy leader Tom Watson and many ordinary members.

[Plaid courts Labour voters with Brexit poll appeal](#)

Plaid Cymru is calling on anyone wanting another EU referendum to back the party in the European elections. Plaid says Wales should hold an independence referendum if Brexit occurs without a further EU referendum.

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

The Brexit FAQs were updated last week to include information on latest guidance and developments. Visit the [FAQs page](#) to get the latest version as it's updated and send in any questions to BrexitFAQs@welshconfed.org

THE WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION
CONFFEDERASIWN 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

UK Government & NHS England Resources

House of Commons

This is a quiet week for Brexit business in the House of Commons Chamber. However, over on the committee corridor [Wednesday 1st May](#) is the one to watch. In the morning, the Brexit Committee heard from four experts on the topical issue of customs unions, trade and Brexit. In the afternoon, the Prime Minister faces oral questions from the [Liaison Committee](#).

Behind the scenes, talks between the Government and the Official Opposition to find a single unified approach on Brexit continue this week. If these talks do not succeed, [the Prime Minister has committed to put a small number of options for the future relationship to the House of Commons in a series of votes](#). Peers then consider a series of Brexit-related SIs on international sanctions against Burma, Venezuela, Iran and Guinea-Bissau, before moving on to a short debate on the governance, operations and performance of the Student Loans Company

Guidance: Settled Status

[Response to an inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme](#)

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An Inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme

[EU Settlement Scheme public beta testing phase report](#)

The document sets out the key findings of the public test phase of the EU Settlement

Scheme. The key performance data for the public beta testing phase was as follows:

200,420 applications were received over 68 days. Applications were received from citizens of all EU27 countries and applications from family members who are nationals of over 120 non-EEA countries.

187,959 of these applications had been decided by 16 April 2019:

- 69% were granted settled status, with over 13% granted settled status on the basis of holding a valid permanent residence document or existing indefinite leave to remain
- 31% were granted pre-settled status
- 0 applications were refused status under the scheme
- applicants usually received a decision within 1-4 days. Where extra evidence was required from the applicant or the applicant was required to send in their identity document, this took longer

Looking Ahead

Tuesday 7 May

- **House of Lords:**
 - EU Justice Sub-Committee - Oral Evidence Session, *Rights after Brexit*
 - European Union Committee - Private Meeting
- **House of Commons:**
 - Westminster Hall debate on the Future of regional development funding in Wales

Wednesday 8 May

- **National Assembly:** [Questions to the Brexit Minister](#) tabled on 30/04/2019

1. What discussions has the Counsel General had regarding the future of the waste incineration directive post Brexit? (Mike Hedges, Swansea East)
2. Will the Counsel General make a statement on the distribution of financial support to community-based enterprises through the Wales European Funding Office? (Hefin David, Caerphilly)
3. What steps is the Welsh Government taking to prepare for a people's vote on the UK's exit from the EU? (Sian Gwenllian, Arfon)
4. What is the Welsh Government's policy on implementing the decision made in the EU referendum? (Mark Reckless, South Wales East)
5. What steps is the Counsel General taking to work with all local authorities across Wales in preparation for a no-deal Brexit? (Janet Finch-Saunders, Aberconwy)
6. Will the Counsel General make a statement on whether the Welsh Government has undertaken an analysis of the possible effects of Brexit on supply chains in Wales? (Delyth Jewell, South Wales East)
7. Will the Counsel General make a statement on the European Transition Fund? (Suzy Davies, South Wales West)
8. What recent discussions has the Counsel General had with the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the impact of Brexit on the Welsh NHS? (Helen Mary Jones, Mid and West Wales)

- **EU Transitional Leadership meeting**
- **House of Commons:** Exiting the European Union - Oral Evidence Session, *The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal*
- **House of Lords:** Oral question: Production of a comprehensive list of, and the reasons for, movement between the UK and the EEA

countries under Freedom of Movement and related provisions, as defined by the Treaty on the EU, the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU - [Lord Lea of Crondall](#)

Friday 10 May

- **Attending the Home Office Future Border and Immigration System National Advisory Group in London**

Upcoming Events

EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), Home Office event

Wednesday 8th May, 10:00 - 11:30

1 Caspian Point, Caspian Way, Cardiff, CF10 4DQ

The **EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)** is now open to applications for all EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK. HM Government have put in place an extensive engagement programme with local government, employers and third sector groups to ensure all EU citizens are informed about how EUSS will protect their rights to live and work in the UK after we leave the EU and how to apply. As part of this engagement, we are inviting representatives from the social care sector in Wales to attend an EUSS information event hosted by Home Office officials. This event will include:

- Overview of the EUSS
 - Support for vulnerable citizens
 - Right to work checks
 - No deal scenario
-

- Q&A

For any queries please contact peter.keeling@homeoffice.gov.uk

Future Border Immigrations System, Home Office event

Wednesday 8th May, 12:00-1:30pm

1 Caspian Point, Caspian Way, Cardiff, CF10 4DQ

On the 19 December 2018, the Government published a White Paper setting out its proposals for the **United Kingdom's future skills-based immigration system** after our exit from the European Union – available [here](#). The paper sets out the framework for the future system – we are now in the process of engaging with a range of stakeholders on developing some of the policy detail. The Home Office is currently delivering this engagement programme across all parts of the UK. A Home Office official will attend to provide an overview of our proposals before facilitating a structured discussion on key aspects of the White Paper that the audience wish to raise with the Government to inform the shape of the future immigration system.

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity in more detail, please contact:

charlotte.dawson2@homeoffice.gov.uk

[European Election Briefing 2019](#): Wales Governance Centre

Hosted by Cardiff University

Wednesday 8th May, 10am – 12pm

Pierhead Building, Pierhead Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre is pleased to invite you to our European Election Briefing 2019. With Brexit unresolved and an extension secured, Wales and the UK look increasingly likely to participate in elections to the European Parliament on May 23rd.

Professor Roger Awan-Scully, Professor Laura McAllister and Jac Larnier will provide the expert guide to the European election. Drawing on data on public opinion and voting intentions in Wales, including some new findings, they will explore how this unexpected election will work - and what results it could produce.

Please contact nicholasl2@cardiff.ac.uk for more details.

Brexit and devolution: The impact on relations between the four nations of the UK

Thursday May 9th, 13:00 – 14:00, *Institute for Government*

Brexit will not only affect the UK's relationship with the EU, but also the relationship between the four nations of the UK. This project considers the impact of Brexit on devolution, and how all governments can prevent Brexit from undermining intergovernmental relations. [The First Minister of Wales is due to speak at this event](#) (available via livestream).

It is imperative that Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England reach agreement on the UK's Brexit terms and negotiating strategy - and set out a clear plan for how they will work together.

In October 2016 we published [Four Nation Brexit](#) and, continue to be active participants in public debate on Brexit and devolution as the process unfolds.

**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](#).



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