



BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 10 May



What Happened This Week...

While Brexit may not be the making the headline news currently, this week the Brexit Minister, Jeremy Miles, answered the question we've all been asking: **What will be the impact of Brexit on the Welsh NHS?** And the answer, in short, a potential effect on the workforce. The Minister didn't elaborate but just reiterated how Wales and the NHS need and welcome EU citizens.

This sentiment was echoed in the Welsh Government Brexit Leadership Group

on Wednesday, that we had attended. The update from the meeting was that the workforce implications of Brexit are the top priority for the Welsh Government. These meetings will continue on a monthly basis.

We attended the Home Office regional engagement events on the EU Settlement Scheme and Immigration White Paper. We heard that there has been 500,000 applications since the Settlement Scheme opened and there has been no refusals to date. The Home Office reiterated that there is sufficient time for EEA nationals to apply for settled status but employers, including the NHS, need to raise awareness of the scheme and the possible impact for staff if they have not applied by 31 December 2020 (if the UK leaves the EU without a deal) or 30 June 2021 (if there is a deal).

During the discussions around the [Immigration White Paper](#) the Home Office provided an overview of the key proposals within the Bill and the key message was that free movement is ending and the UK will be moving to a single immigration system which will encompass EEA and international citizens. While some of the proposals within the White Paper, including lifting the current monthly cap on the number of doctors and nurses, the key concern by representatives from across health, social care (but also the University and private sector) was that the proposal to introduce a [£30k salary threshold](#) could have a potentially destabilising effect on our sector.

With Downing Street announcing that Britain would have to take part in the European Parliament elections on the 23rd of May, we attended the European Election briefing hosted by Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre. The event discussed the [Ipsos Mori data](#) which evidenced the two things people are most concerned about in March 2019 is EU/Brexit and the NHS. Compared to in May 2014, where the top two concerns were the Economy and Immigration.

The implications of Brexit on the Welsh NHS are unknown and are still a concern. That is why we are currently working to produce a toolkit on the

subject to help our members. As well as a number of briefings on the impact of Brexit on workforce, qualifications and funding.

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



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What does the future look like for devolution after [#Brexit](#)? Watch or listen as [@MarkDrakeford](#), First Minister of Wales, reflects on 20 years since the first elections to the Welsh Assembly and where next for devolution instituteforgovernment.org.uk/events/future-

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Welsh Government News and Guidance

On Wednesday we attended the Welsh Government Brexit Leadership meeting. Welsh Government want to continue to have these monthly meetings to ensure that every area has been considered and contingency plans tested for a possible no-deal Brexit.

The workforce implications of Brexit is currently the top priority for the Welsh Government and the impact of the proposed £30,000 salary threshold, as stated in the [Immigration White Paper](#)) on the health and social care workforce in Wales. We will continue to highlight our concerns on behalf of members through the Cavendish Coalition and will be working with organisations in Wales to respond to the White Paper. In addition we will be producing a briefing in due course providing an overview of EEA workers rights and professional qualifications.

[Radical changes needed in Whitehall to catch up with devolution and protect the Union](#)

On Thursday the First Minister explored the impact Brexit will have on devolution in the keynote speech at the Institute of Government.

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

[Plenary](#)

European Union funding was the key issue, in this week [First Minister's Questions](#). with Mark Drakeford stating, *"we know nothing about the money, we know nothing about where the powers lie, and it's the UK Government's responsibility to make sure that both of those things flow to Wales and remain in Wales in the future."*



On Wednesday, the Brexit Minister [answered questions](#) on the impact of Brexit on Welsh NHS. The session was heavily focused on workforce related questions. The key points messages from the Minister were:

- Wales' health and care services depend on EU citizens, noting that there are particular issues around registered nurses in social care.
- Welsh Government will ensure it understands and provides support in relation to the workforce in the health and social care services generally.
- Welsh Government is looking at what cross-cutting work it can do to understand the impacts that decisions elsewhere can have.
- Brexit is a threat and stressed the importance of reminding EU citizens working in public services that they are valued and welcomed.

Round Up: Welsh Conservative Spring Conference

At his first conference since being elected leader of the Welsh

Conservative group in the Assembly, **Paul Davies**, tried hard to make the conference about more than just Brexit. Choosing to briefly touch on the topic in his [leader's speech](#), saying *"The people of Wales want their politicians to get on with the job of delivering Brexit so that we can start focussing once again on the issues that matter to them."*

The Prime Minister on the other hand, couldn't escape it. Theresa May's speech was interrupted at the start by Stuart Davies, a party member and ex-councillor, shouting *"Why don't you resign? We don't want you."* Mr Davies was swiftly removed from the hall and Mrs May continued her speech. Which focused on selling her Brexit deal and the importance of the union.

News and Reports

[Ministers spend extra £160m on Brexit consultant contracts](#)

The government has signed a round of new Brexit contracts with outside consultants worth almost £160m.

[NHS looks abroad for thousands of nurses](#)

The NHS is to begin a global recruitment drive for tens of thousands of foreign nurses over the next five years as it struggles to fill gaps on wards.

[Marr puts Welsh leader on the spot over attempt to THWART Brexit - 'Views haven't changed'](#)

Andrew Marr blasted Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price for coming out in support of a second Brexit referendum despite views in Wales "not having changed" since the European Union referendum.

[Theresa May was heckled and told to quit at the Welsh Conservative party](#)

[conference](#)

The Prime Minister was speaking at the Welsh Conservatives party conference in Llangollen

[NHS nursing crisis worsened by Brexit exodus](#)

Dramatic fall in number of nurses and midwives from EU countries causes alarm

[Brexit: UK will take part in European elections, says David Lidington](#)

The UK will have to hold European elections, despite hopes from the government a Brexit deal would be done by then, says the PM's de facto deputy.

[Brexit: 'Nothing agreed' in cross-party talks](#)

Shadow business secretary Rebecca Long Bailey has said nothing has been agreed in the ongoing cross-party Brexit talks

[Brexit: May vows to cling on to power until UK leaves EU - despite growing Tory pressure to quit by summer](#)

Backbench Tories have demanded a guarantee the prime minister will quit for a summer contest - but will not get one

[London-centric decision-making led to Brexit, says Andy Burnham](#)

Greater Manchester mayor says government must trust regions to make their own decisions

[Gauke: Brexit deal will return as soon as possible](#)

A vote on the prime minister's Brexit deal should take place "as soon as possible", says Justice Secretary David Gauke

[Brexit tears apart big parties' support ahead of European poll](#)

The Brexit crisis is tearing into the support for both main UK political parties,

according to an FT analysis of recent polls, with most Tory voters shifting to more Eurosceptic groups and over a quarter of their Labour counterparts switching to pro-Remain parties.

[Donald Tusk: chance of Brexit being cancelled could be 30%](#)

EU chief says good reason to believe leave vote could be reversed in second 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

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

UK Government & NHS England Resources

[Overview from Westminster](#)

Theresa May's hopes of an early cross-party Brexit deal ended on Tuesday, as Downing Street announced Britain would have to take part European Parliament elections later this month. Brexit talks between senior Conservative and Labour figures ended without any firm conclusion. Downing Street [described](#) them as **“constructive and detailed”**, however shadow business secretary Rebecca Long Bailey [said](#) the discussions were **“very robust”** and that nothing has been agreed. Further cross-party Brexit talks are expected to continue next week.

[Devolution at 20](#)

A report by the Institute for Government on the 20th anniversary of UK devolution, states that Brexit has put the relationship between the UK nations under serious pressure. The UK Government and devolved administrations must agree on how to manage the powers repatriated from Brussels because of Brexit.

House of Commons

Westminster Hall debate: [The Future of Regional Development Funding in Wales](#)

During the debate, Hywel Williams MP said: “The UK Shared Prosperity Fund must deliver for Wales. Otherwise ever more of our citizens will conclude, rightly I believe, that we are better out than in. Out of the UK and back in the EU.” Plaid Cymru have put forward detailed proposals for a replacement regional development funding system in a recent paper [Not A Penny Less](#).

Oral Evidence session: Exiting the European Union - [The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal](#)

[Brexit: a reading list of post-EU Referendum publications by Parliament and the Devolved Assemblies](#)

Commons Library

This reading list brings together briefings on Brexit by the Parliamentary libraries and the Devolved Assembly research services with reports by Parliamentary and Devolved Assembly committees following the result of the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016.

[Brexit: devolved legislature business](#)

Commons Library

This paper is a record of Brexit-related business in the devolved legislatures. It is updated every Monday when the legislatures are in session.

House of Lords

On Wednesday 8 May, the House of Lords examined [four statutory instruments](#) preparing for Brexit. The proposed SIs made changes to laws on:

1. Common agricultural policy and market measures
2. Trade in firearms and dual-use items
3. Company directors' remuneration policy and report
4. Swiss qualifications under the Architects Act 1997

Guidance

[Public-sector procurement after a no-deal Brexit](#)

Information for public authorities, businesses and other organisations on the outcome for public procurement policy in a no-deal Brexit scenario.

For more information check the 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](#).

For more information check the [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 13 May

- **Welsh Assembly: External Affairs Committee:** Oral Evidence Session 'Changes to [Freedom of movement after Brexit](#): the implications for Wales - scene-setting session with academics'

Wednesday 15 May

- **House of Commons: Exiting the European Union Committee:** Oral Evidence Session - [The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal](#)
- **Institute of Government:** In conversation with Liam Fox, to discuss the future of UK trade after Brexit.

Upcoming Events

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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