

What Happened This Week...

As we get closer to the general election, work is ongoing to ensure the health and care sector in Wales is prepared whatever the outcome of the election and Brexit overall would be.

The Welsh NHS Confederation was mentioned in two articles this week (one from [Deeside.com](#) and the other from [Personnel Today](#)) on how the possible changes to immigration after Brexit could impact the NHS in Wales, which comes following the National Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee's [report](#) on freedom of movement after Brexit. EU citizens are valued members of our workforce and communities, and we want them to remain and feel welcomed in Wales.

On Monday [I appeared before the Assembly's EAAL Committee](#) with representatives from Universities Wales and the WLGA. During the session we provided the Committee with an update on our various sectors preparations for a no deal Brexit. The key areas I discussed included seasonal implications if a no deal situation occurs in January, the cost and public understanding of the plans in place for a no-deal Brexit, as well as the implications of future free trade agreements and freedom of movement on the Welsh NHS workforce.

Also coming out of the EAAL Committee this week was a [summary document of the focus group sessions with EU nationals](#) and their experience with the EU Settled Status Scheme. During the sessions EU nationals identified the need for communication plans with key messages to be circulated by public services, including NHS bodies and local government, anecdotal evidence suggesting EU nationals have been denied access to services (including healthcare), and that some frontline staff are not sufficiently trained on how the possible changes to freedom of movement rules impact on access to services. About a month ago we released a [briefing on how reciprocal healthcare](#) policies will impact on EU nationals. In short, there will be no changes to how EU nationals already access healthcare in Wales.

Lastly, several reports were published on a variety of topics including how a no deal Brexit could impact on [food availability for vulnerable people](#), what [Brexit could mean for drug prices](#) and the [implications of a no deal Brexit for the Union](#) (e.g. the four nations within the UK).

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.

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