

# Research Briefing

## Brexit Update

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**Date:** 20 November 2017



**National Assembly for Wales**  
Research Service



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Date: **20 November 2017**

Paper Number: **17-033**

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# 1. Introduction

This paper 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 period covered is 31 October – 15 November, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

## 2. Developments in Wales

### National Assembly for Wales

#### External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

*The External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee is the lead Committee in the Assembly for co-ordinating the Brexit-related activities of Committees.*

The most recent session of the EAAL Committee was:

- 6 November: The Committee met with the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee in a joint evidence session on the Implications for Wales of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Evidence was taken from Alun Cairns MP, Secretary of State for Wales and Robin Walker MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

The Research Service's own blogs are published on [In Brief](#). The latest Brexit blogs are two on Brexit and the environment: A look at how the UK legislatures' Committees are preparing. [Part 2- The Scottish Parliament](#) and [Part 1- The National Assembly for Wales](#); and three publications: [The red meat sector](#); [The Dairy Sector](#) and [The food and drink industry in Wales](#).

#### Other

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has published its reports on [Marine Protected Areas in Wales](#), and the [Future of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies in Wales](#).

The Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee is considering the use made of support from the EU and the impact of Brexit as part of its inquiry into [Selling Wales to the World](#).

The Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee is considering the implications of Brexit on Human Rights as part of its inquiry into Human Rights in Wales. The Committee held an informal discussion on the latest developments in relation to Brexit and Human Rights with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and experts from the Assembly Commission.

The Constitution and Legislative Affairs Committee has begun reporting on where subordinate legislation currently being laid before the Assembly may need amending after the UK leaves the EU. They can be found on the Committee's [website here](#).

The Constitution and Legislative Affairs Committee has launched its [inquiry into Powers in the EU \(Withdrawal\) Bill to make subordinate legislation](#). The consultation closes on 30 November 2017.

### News

2 November: [NFU Cymru President warns against 'no deal' at conference](#).

2 November: [The Welsh Government commits to ring-fence funding for Welsh farming](#) (NFU Cymru)

6 November: **Brexit is opportunity to deliver more profitable farming industry** (CLA)

9 November: **Glamorgan farmers discuss future of red meat industry** (FUW)

### 3. EU developments

#### European Council

8 November: **Investment plan for Europe: EFSI extension approved by Council.**

14 November: Invitation letter by President Donald Tusk to the members of the European Council ahead of the **Leaders' Agenda discussion on education and culture.**

#### European Commission

7 November: **Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2018.**

8 November: **Energy Union: Commission takes action to reinforce EU's global leadership in clean vehicles.**

9 November: **EU Emissions Trading System: landmark agreement between Parliament and Council delivers on EU's commitment to turn Paris Agreement into reality.**

9 November: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the "Obbligati a crescere – l'Europa dopo Brexit"** [Obliged to grow - Europe after Brexit] conference, Rome.

9 November: **Autumn 2017 Economic Forecast: continued growth in a changing policy context.**

9 November: **Report: EU trade agreements in place deliver tangible benefits.**

10 November: **Speech by Michel Barnier following the sixth round of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom.**

#### European Parliament

8 November: **Brexit: EP outlines its red lines on latest UK citizens' rights proposals.**

15 November: **European Parliament cancels on Theresa May** Senior MEPs don't want to stay in Brussels on a Friday to meet with the British prime minister. (Politico)

#### News

31 October: **Citizens' Dialogue in Tallinn** with Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger – includes the EU budget after Brexit.

2 November: **"Reflecting on Europe"** at the Västernorrland Regional Development Partnership Meeting (Committee of the Regions)

8 November: **EU ambassadors 'brainstorm' post-Brexit ties** (Euractiv)

8 November: **Denmark warns of 'severe' Brexit impact on fishermen** (Euractiv) **Report** (in English).

14 November: **Theresa May to meet senior MEPs on November 24.**

## 4. UK developments

### UK Government

1 November: The Prime Minister Theresa May chaired a meeting of senior executives from the UK and European automotive sector at Downing Street.

2 November: Prime Minister Theresa May spoke with Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar about the restoration of Northern Ireland's devolved government.

2 November: Government affirms commitment to strong consumer protections post Brexit.

6 November: PM's speech to the CBI conference.

6 November: Every part of Wales must flourish after Brexit.

7 November: David Davis in Rome: 'Our determination to face shared threats will not diminish'.

8 November: In Warsaw, Brexit Secretary reaffirms UK's commitment to shared goals.

7 November: More detail provided on new settled status for EU citizens. Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know. Citizens' rights: administrative procedures in the UK.

9-10 November: UK-EU Article 50 negotiations: Programme, David Davis' closing remarks.

9-13 November: Prime Minister Theresa May will meet European business leaders, The Prime Minister chaired a roundtable with leaders of Europe's key business organisations.

10 November: PM calls with leaders of the DUP and Sinn Fein parties.

13 November: PM speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet 2017.

14 November: PM meeting with Nicola Sturgeon.

### House of Commons

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill list of amendments to date.

1 November: Series of Brexit questions in Welsh Questions, answered by Alun Cairns and Guto Bebb.

1 November: Debate on publishing the Sectoral Impact Assessments of Exiting the EU.

2 November: Series of Brexit questions, answered by Robin Walker, David Davis, Steve Baker.

6 November: Stephen Kinnock's motion for a debate on UK Membership European Economic Area was agreed.

7 November: Debate on publishing the Sectoral Analyses of Brexit.

13 November: The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, David Davis, made a statement on EU Exit Negotiations, and answered questions.

14 November: Debate on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. An amendment requiring consent from the devolved legislatures for Brexit was defeated.

### Committees

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Implications of Brexit for the nuclear industry. Published evidence from the Nuclear Industry Association and EDF Energy - 1 November. Published Government response to committee's report Leaving the EU: negotiation priorities for energy

**and climate change policy** – 6 November. Evidence session on **Brexit's impact on the car industry** – 14 November, **written evidence** has been published.

**Constitution**: Questioned the former Supreme Court President on the EU Withdrawal Bill **Transcript** - 1 November.

**Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**: **evidence session on Brexit: Trade in food. Transcript. Written evidence** also published. Politico article: **Livestock farmers warn MPs of bleak future after hard Brexit** - 1 November. **Another evidence session was held** on 15 November. The Committee has published evidence from the **Farmers' Union of Wales**, also a 12 October **letter from Michael Gove MP to the Chair regarding future commitments within the World Trade Organisation**, and the **chair's reply**. An evidence session was held on 15 November with **UK fishing industry representatives**.

**Exiting the EU**: **Letter to the Secretary of State regarding Brexit impact assessments** - 2 November. **Reply to the Chair from the Secretary of State** – 3 November.

**Foreign Affairs**: **The future of Britain's diplomatic relationship with Europe** - 31 October. **Foreign Secretary transcript** from 1 November. **Transcript** from 7 November.

**Home Affairs**: **Building consensus on immigration policy** - 31 October. Report '**Home Office delivery of Brexit: customs operations**' published – 16 November. **Home Office delivery of Brexit: immigration** – 21 November, and **10 November transcript**.

**International Trade**: **Continuing application of EU trade agreements after Brexit inquiry** launched - 31 October. Questioned the **Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox**, on the work of the department - 1 November. **Transcript**. Evidence session on **Continuing application of EU trade agreements** - 15 November.

**Treasury**: **The UK's economic relationship with the European Union Transcript** - 1 November. Another evidence session was held on 15 November.

**Welsh Affairs**: **Chair writes to Damian Green asking about Brexit and implications for Wales. Text of letter**.

30 October: **Transport Committee**: Aviation and Brexit evidence session. **Transcript**.

31 October: The **Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee** heard from **two of the UK's leading academic experts in public law as part of the Devolution and Exiting the EU inquiry. Transcript**.

1 November: **Northern Ireland Affairs Committee** **looked to Switzerland and Norway in border inquiry. Transcript**. Evidence session with **Gibraltarian witnesses** – 15 November.

2 November: **The Joint Committee on Human Rights is scrutinising the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**.

6 November: The **Procedure Committee** **called for a new and effective "sifting committee"** to be set up to determine which proposed pieces of delegated legislation need detailed scrutiny by MPs as EU law is transferred into UK law.

7 November: The **Health Committee** took evidence on the **nursing workforce**.

14 November: **Scotland's future migration needs** discussed by the **Scottish Affairs Committee**.

14 November: **'Catastrophic' if viable customs system not in place at Brexit** – **Public Accounts Committee. Report**.



15 November: The Chair of the Commons Science and Technology Committee wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking that the UK stays in the [Horizon-2020 research programme](#).

## House of Lords

31 October: Questions on UK membership of and benefit from the [European Investment Bank](#).

2 November: Questions on [publishing the Sectoral Impact Assessments of Brexit](#).

6 November: Questions on the [future of the European Union, Non-chemical Farming Methods and Brexit, farm support post-Brexit, patrolling the UK's exclusive economic zone and territorial seas after Brexit](#).

7 November: Statement on [Brexit: Sectoral Impact Assessments repeated](#), and questions.

13 November: Questions on [Brexit: Financial Settlement](#).

13 November: David Davis' statement on [EU Exit Negotiations](#) was repeated, followed by questions.

14 November: Questions on [Brexit: Food Prices](#).

## Committees

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EU Select: [David Davis and Lord Darling gave evidence on Brexit and "no deal". David Davis transcript. Lord Darling transcript. Letter to David Davis with follow-up questions](#) - 31 October. CBI and TUC evidence session [Transcript](#) – 7 November. Letter from Lord Callanan about the [Brexit impact assessments](#) – 7 November

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee: Letter to Lord Callanan on [Future Customs Arrangements - A Future Partnership Paper](#) - 31 October. Letter to David Davis on the government's response to the EU Committee report - [Brexit: trade in goods](#) – 2 November.

EU Justice Sub-Committee: [Citizens' rights post Brexit, Transcript](#) - 31 October.

EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee: [Financial regulation hearing with the Bank of England, Transcript](#) - 1 November. [Letter to the Chancellor - urgency for transition period for the financial services sector](#) – 8 November. Financial regulation and supervision following Brexit evidence session – 15 November.

1 November: EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee: [Secretary of State for Environment](#) faced questions on impact of Brexit. [Transcript](#).

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee: [Reciprocal healthcare after Brexit](#) - 1 November, and again on 15 November - [reciprocal healthcare post-Brexit](#), followed by [reciprocal healthcare in Ireland and Northern Ireland post-Brexit](#).

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee: [Minister for Small Business gave evidence to Brexit: competition inquiry, Transcript](#) - 2 November.

Economic Affairs: Published [Government response](#) to report: [Brexit and the Labour Market](#) – 1 November.

## News

2 November: Office of Health Economics Lunchtime Seminar: [The UK Biotech Sector and Brexit: Past Performance and Future Prospects](#).

6 November: [Businesses will begin moving jobs across Channel by March unless Brexit transition deal reached, CBI warns May](#) (The Telegraph)

6 November: **EU businesses say goodbye to UK suppliers as Brexit bites into key relationships** (Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply)

10 November: **British-Irish Council 29th Summit Communiqué.**

13 November: **EU business leaders press Theresa May for Brexit deal** (BBC)

13 November: Speaking at a CBI conference, **Japanese ambassador warns that Brexit uncertainty could see companies invest elsewhere** (Chronicle Live)

15 November: Federation of Small Businesses says **'we won't have a Northern Powerhouse' unless EU funding to the region is replaced** (Chronicle Live)

15 November: **Manfred Weber: May knows Brexit will cause damage** Center-right leader in European Parliament left talks with British PM 'more positively than he went in.' (Politico)

15 November: **UK and non-UK people in the labour market: November 2017.** Estimates of labour market activity by nationality and country of birth (ONS). **Number of EU workers in UK reached record high after Brexit vote.** Figures indicate a particular increase among people from Bulgaria and Romania. (Politico)

## 5. Scotland

### Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **1 November, 8 November.**

2 November: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee: Withdrawal from the European Union (Negotiations) **Evidence session with David Mundell MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.**

8 November: Finance and Constitution Committee: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: **Evidence session with David Mundell, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and Robin Walker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.**

8 November: Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: **Evidence session with Robin Walker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, and Chris Skidmore, Minister for the Constitution.**

### Scottish Government

1 November: **Brexit analysis must be shared.**

6 November: **Brexit talks "We will not sign a blank cheque".**

8 November: **Benefits of migration - EU workers' positive contribution to economy.**

10 November: **Brexit negotiations - Clarity needed on withdrawal from EU.**

12 November: **The rise of the north - Summit on the arctic region to come to Scotland.**

13 November: **UK budget must support economic growth - Call for measures to offset Brexit threat.**

## 6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly has published **EU Matters: BREXIT Negotiation Focus**, which includes a summary of the UK government, European Council and European Parliament negotiating positions.

## 7. UK-Ireland relations

2 November: The Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister have spoken by phone in relation to the political situation in Northern Ireland.

2 November: Irish foreign minister says Brexit promises 'undeliverable' (Sky News)

6 November: Irish foreign minister: Progress made but not enough (Opinion piece in Evening Echo)

8 November: Dáil Debate: The Taoiseach gave a statement about the 19-20 October European Council, and answered questions.

10 November: Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is attending his first British Irish Council Summit today on the Channel Island of Jersey.

## 8. Reports published

The Implications of Brexit for UK, EU and Global Agricultural Reform in the Next Decade (Royal Institute of International Affairs)

Why the devolved nations should support Barnett for Brexit money (UK in a Changing Europe)

Was British business destined to leave the EU? (LSE Brexit)

Being young in Brexit Britain - European Institute and the UCL Centre for Global Youth.

Although Britain won't rejoin EFTA, it can learn a great deal from its experience (LSE Brexit)

Understanding the motivations of Leave voters will play an important role in determining the future of globalisation (LSE Brexit)

"Hard Brexit or no Brexit?" that is the question (Brendan Donnelly (former MEP) in The Federal Trust)

On the horns of a dilemma – how should Welsh public services be planning for Brexit? (Welsh Brexit Blogs)

Will nothing change during the transition? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Why we need a modern Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

London alone cannot find all Brexit 'solutions' (Opinion piece by Ashley Fox MEP in EUObserver)

Brexit Britain is in denial over immigration (Politico)

The future shape of UK-EU relations (UK in a Changing Europe)

Post-Brexit UK trade policy: still just a wish list (UK in a Changing Europe)

Cliff edge or bridging a gap? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Why are the white working classes still being held responsible for Brexit and Trump? (LSE Brexit)

'Swallow the lot, and swallow it now': Britain is, and was, deluded about its negotiating power with the EU (LSE Brexit)

What motivated Conservative MPs to back or oppose Brexit? (LSE Brexit)

**You may not like the EU Withdrawal Bill. But if you want to make Brexit real, it's the only game in town** (UK in a Changing Europe)

**Why Britain (usually) obeys the European Court of Human Rights** (LSE Brexit)

**What makes Britain 'Great'? The end of the postwar consensus of liberal internationalism** (LSE Brexit)