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: 19 March 2018  
Paper Number: 18-026
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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 28 February – 14 March 2018, 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 EAAL Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Wales’ Future Relationship with the EU. The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 5 March: Scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, on Wales’ future relationship with the European Union, the Joint Ministerial Committee on European Negotiations and the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill - evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, and consideration of evidence. Transcript.

- 12 March: Monitoring the European Union negotiations, Briefing on Law derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on In Brief. The latest Brexit blogs are Withdrawal Bill Developments; and Assembly debates UK governance after Brexit.

Other

On 2 February the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee published its report on Governance in the UK post-Brexit. The Committee is also continuing work with its inquiry into Powers in the EU (Withdrawal) Bill to make subordinate legislation.

12 March: Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee held an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance on the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill (Transcript) and published its report on the Bill on 13 March.

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.

27 February: Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance: JMC (EU Negotiations) Meeting, 22 February 2018.

28 February: Debate on the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee report: UK governance post Brexit.

28 February: Debate on Continued membership of the Customs Union.

6 March: Motion under Standing Order 26.95 that a Bill to be known as the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill be treated as a Government Emergency Bill and Motion under Standing Order 26.98(ii) to agree a timetable for the Bill to be known as the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.
7 March: Debate on the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee Report on the Scrutiny of Regulations made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.


13 March: Motion to approve the financial resolution in respect of the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

27 February: Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill was published by the Welsh Government in light of the failure of the UK Government and Devolved Governments to reach an agreement to date on amendments to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill – Llywydd’s statement on legislative competence, briefing note. Research Service briefing: Bill Summary: Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

12 March: The Finance Committee started an enquiry ‘What will replace EU funding post-Brexit?’

**Welsh Government**

27 February: New law proposed to protect Welsh devolution.

27 February: EU approval unlocks major funding boost for Carmarthenshire.

28 February: Mark Drakeford in Brussels for annual St David’s Day reception and Brexit talks with MEPs from across Europe.

7 March: Written Statement - Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

8 March: Finance Secretary discusses EU withdrawal with UK and Scottish Brexit Ministers at latest meeting of European Joint Ministerial Committee. Written Statement - Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council (European Negotiations), 8th March 2018.


14 March: First Minister Carwyn Jones to meet Prime Minister for talks on EU Withdrawal Bill.

14 March: Written Statement - UK Government’s analysis of where they consider EU law to intersect with devolved competence.

**News**

27 February: CLA reaction to publication of future of farming consultation by Defra.

3 March: Plaid Cymru launch petition to safeguard European citizenship for UK nationals.

6 March: The Welsh and Scottish continuity bills have been published, but challenges remain (Institute for Government)

7 March: Malmström snubs Welsh post-Brexit trade request (Politico Pro)

8 March: Funding for agriculture in Wales must be delivered outside the Barnett formula (FUW)

8 March: Government must not take a piecemeal approach to future farm policy (Tenant Farmers Association)

14 March: CLA urges caution on government approach to cap farm payments.
3. EU developments

**European Council**

1 March: Keynote speech by President Donald Tusk at the BusinessEurope day.

7 March: Statement by President Donald Tusk on the draft guidelines on the framework for the future relationship with the UK.

7 March: The truth is: trade wars are bad and easy to loose, says Tusk.

8 March: Remarks by President Donald Tusk after his meeting with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

**European Commission**

The Commission has published 47 'Brexit preparedness notes' on the legal and practical implications of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union - subject to any transitional arrangement.

27 February: GDP per capita in 276 EU regions - Regional GDP per capita ranged from 29% to 611% of the EU average in 2016 (Eurostat)

27 February: Remarques par Michel Barnier au point presse à l’issue du Conseil affaires générales (Article 50).

28 February: Press statement by Michel Barnier following the publication of the draft Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK.

28 February: European Commission publishes draft Article 50 Withdrawal Agreement. Q&A.


1 March: Speech by Michel Barnier at BusinessEurope Day 2018.

1 March: European Commission responds to the US restrictions on steel and aluminium affecting the EU.

2 March: Programme of EU-UK Article 50 negotiations 5-7 March.

5 March: Ten years of REACH: making chemicals safer for consumers, workers and the environment.

5 March: Michel Barnier met Michelle O'Neill, Leader of Sinn Féin in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

6 March: Michel Barnier met Arlene Foster, Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.


7 March: European Semester Winter Package: reviewing Member States' progress on their economic and social priorities. Q&A. Country report on the UK.

7 March: More Commission support for industrial regions to build resilient and competitive economies – includes Greater Manchester.

8 March: March infringements package: key decisions - Commission urges United Kingdom to make customs duties available to the EU budget.


13 March: Déclaration par Michel Barnier devant la session plénière du Parlement européen sur les négociations Article 50 avec le Royaume-Uni.

13 March: Speech by President Juncker at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on the guidelines on the framework of future EU-UK relations.


**European Parliament**

27 February: Circular economy: MEPs back plans to boost recycling and cut landfilling.

28 February: European Parliament’s Brexit Steering Group to scrutinise draft Brexit Withdrawal Treaty.

28 February: “Spitzenkandidaten” process is here to stay, insist MEPs.

1 March: Statement of the Brexit Steering Group on the UK paper on EU citizens in the UK.

10 March: Framework for future EU-UK relations (European Parliamentary Research Service Blog)


14 March: We cannot expect more from Europe without giving more to it, says Portuguese PM.

14 March: Brexit: EP recommends association agreement for future EU-UK relations.

14 March: Funding Europe's future: EU’s post-2020 budget must match policy goals.

**News**

1 March: EIB announces enlarged EFTA investment envelope (European Investment Bank)

6 March: EU Brexit adviser deals blow to Theresa May’s free-trade proposal (Guardian)

6 March: Position of the European Sea Ports Organisation on Brexit.

8 March: Blue Finance Principles Unveiled to Support Ocean Health and Investment.

8 March: Calais 'could be 10 times worse than Irish border' after Brexit (Guardian)

11 March: Study: Hard Brexit costs companies 70 billion euros - The German economy demands a customs union with the British - even after the EU exit. The status of the negotiations between Brussels and London after one year, the BDI described as disappointing (Frankfurter Allgemeine, in German)

13 March: London and Brussels warm to Brexit ‘Israel option’ (Politico)
4. UK developments

UK Government
27 February – 13 March: Prime Minister meeting or phone call with Taoiseach Varadkar, Donald Tusk, Chancellor Merkel, President Trump, Guy Verhofstadt MEP, Prime Minister Muscat of Malta, President Macron, President Trump, Chancellor Merkel.

27 February: Britain’s Trading Future – speech by Liam Fox in London.

28 February: The government’s offer for EU citizens and their family members who arrive during the implementation period.

1 March: Downing Street hosts St David’s Day reception to celebrate Wales’ national day. Prime Minister’s address. PM welcomes guests to No 10 to celebrate St David’s Day.


2 March: Prime Minister Theresa May’s speech on our future economic partnership with the European Union.

2 March: Prime Minister Theresa May spoke with the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones and the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon.

5 March: Minister gives Brexit update to the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

6 March: Technical note: other separation issues - phase 2.

8 March: UK Government Statement following the JMC(GEN): The UK will guarantee Gibraltar financial services firms’ access to UK markets as now until 2020.

8 March: Gibraltar and UK Government agree measures to ensure strong relationship continues.

8 March: Prime Minister Theresa May hosted key business leaders from across the EU at Downing Street to discuss progress in the UK’s exit from the EU.

9 March: Frameworks Analysis: Breakdown of areas of EU law that intersect with devolved competence in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.


14 March: PM to meet ministers from devolved nations at Joint Ministerial Committee. Joint Ministerial Committee communiqué.

House of Commons
European Union (Withdrawal) Bill as amended in committee.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19: Summary of Commons Committee Stage – House of Commons Library.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: clause 7 “the correcting power” – House of Commons Library.

Brexit: ‘sufficient progress’ to move to phase 2 – House of Commons Library.

26 February: Home Office questions: EU Nationals: Residence Rights, Tier 2 Visas, Leaving the EU: Preparations.
26 February: **Department for Exiting the European Union.**

26 February: Westminster Hall debate: **Leaving the EU: Live Farm Animal Exports.**

27 February: Westminster Hall debate: **Future UK Fisheries Policy.**

28 February: **Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland: Border Arrangements.**

1 March: Debate on **Seasonal Migrant Workers.**

5 March: Prime Minister’s statement, and questions, on **UK/EU Future Economic Partnership.**

7 March: Scotland questions: **Brexit: Devolution; Leaving the EU.**

7 March: Debate on **European Union Citizenship.**

8 March: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs questions: **Leaving the EU: Food Producers; Leaving the EU: Policy Development; Leaving the EU: Economic Viability of Farming.**

12 March: **Statement and questions on United States Tariffs: Steel and Aluminium.**

12 March: Westminster Hall debate: **UK-Gibraltar Relationship.**

13 March: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy questions: **Euratom.**

13 March: The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave his **Spring Statement,** followed by debate.

14 March: **Wales questions: Welsh EU Continuity Bill; European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.**

14 March: **General debate on European Affairs. General debate on European Affairs (Commons Library debate pack)**

**Committees**

**Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:**

8 March: Government responds to Brexit and civil nuclear sector report.

**Defence:**


**Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:**


**Environmental Audit:**


**European Scrutiny:**

Chancellor (5 March) and Brexit Secretary (6 March) questioned on EU Withdrawal.
6 March: The European Scrutiny Committee has published its weekly report and meeting summary. The Committee's report draws attention for the need for further Scrutiny in future EU Law Enforcement Cooperation.


**Exiting the EU:**


**Foreign Affairs:**

27 February: Lord Mayor of London questioned on Global Britain. Transcript.

12 March: Committee explore Government's ambitions for its post-Brexit foreign policy. 'Global Britain' slogan must be backed by substance, says Committee – Report – Global Britain.

**Home Affairs:**

27 February: Committee holds its first evidence session of a new inquiry into post-Brexit migration arrangements. Transcript.


**International Trade:**

28 February: Australia-US Free Trade Agreement examined.

7 March: Government has much work to do to avoid cliff edge for non-EU trade – Report - Continuing application of EU trade agreements after Brexit.

7 March: Minister questioned on UK-US Trade relations and the UK Trade Remedies Authority. UK-US trade Transcript. Trade Remedies Authority Transcript.

14 March: Legal practitioners, and industry and union representatives questioned on the UK Trade Remedies Authority.

Trade and the Commonwealth: Australia and New Zealand written evidence: Tate & Lyle; Fonterra Europe Co-operative.

Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries written evidence: Transparency International UK; Traidcraft.

Trade Remedies Authority written evidence: Manufacturing Trade Remedies Alliance; Which?

**Northern Ireland:**

28 February: Fisheries written evidence: Northern Ireland Marine Task Force; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

28 February: Secretary of State questioned on restoration of Northern Ireland Executive.

6 March: Northern Ireland's party leaders questioned. Transcript.

6 March: Brexit and Northern Ireland written evidence.
7 March: Devolution and democracy in Northern Ireland—dealing with the deficit. Transcript.

**Public Accounts:**
7 March: Evidence Sessions on Implementing EU Exit: DEFRA (Transcript); and Implementing EU Exit: DIT (Transcript).

**Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:**
5 March: PACAC visits Scotland to discuss the future of devolution after Brexit.
6 March: Publication of comments on the Scottish Devolution and Brexit - tell us what you think web forum.

**Science and Technology:**
6 March: Evidence Session on the Brexit science and innovation Summit. Transcript.

**Scottish Affairs:**
13 March 2018 Scottish Minister for International Development discusses immigration.

**Treasur:**
27 February: Brexit uncertainty for businesses still looms large. The Government has responded to the committee’s report The UK's economic relationship with the European Union.
7 March: The UK's economic relationship with the European Union. Transcript.

**Welsh Affairs:**
13 March: Impact of post-Brexit trade on Welsh economy explored.

**Work and Pensions:**

**House of Lords**
26 February: Second Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued.
27 February: Second Reading of the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill.
28 February: Third Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued.
28 February: Statement on the Northern Ireland Border.
1 March: Second Committee day: Nuclear Safeguards Bill.
5 March: Fourth Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued.
6 March: Questions on Brexit: Aviation.
7 March: Fifth Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued, and continued.
8 March: Questions on Brexit: Employment Protection for Women.
12 March: Sixth Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued.
13 March: Statement and debate: United States Tariffs: Steel and Aluminium.

13 March: First Grand Committee day: Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill [HL].

14 March: Seventh Committee day: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and continued, and continued.

Committees

Constitution:

8 March: 11th report of session - Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill.

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform:

28 February: 15th report of session - Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill [HL]. "The Bill is wholly skeletal, more of a mission statement than legislation".

EU Select:


26 February: Government response to Brexit: Deal or No Deal.

27 February: Tensions in UK position on Brexit and Irish border need to be ‘settled now’ – letter to Karen Bradley.

1 March: Brexit: Overseas Territories – In a letter to David Davis Committee criticises inadequate Government response.

15-16 March: Committee visits Gibraltar to examine impact of Brexit.

EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:


21 February: Transcript of George Eustace giving evidence on post-Brexit fisheries.

28 February: Possible impact of Brexit on the availability and price of food discussed with George Eustace. Transcript.

14 March: Impact of Brexit on EU Emissions Trading Scheme examined.

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

19 February: Letter from David Davis on Brexit: trade in goods.


8 March: Committee takes evidence on CSDP missions and UK co-operation post-Brexit.

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

1 March: Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty inquiry launched.

2 March: Director of Europol gives evidence on the proposed UK-EU security treaty.

5 March: Health Minister gives evidence on reciprocal healthcare post-Brexit.

21 March: Evidence Session on Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty.
EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:
15 March: Committee examines impact of Brexit on UK space sector.

EU Justice Sub-Committee:
6 February: Brexit: enforcement and dispute resolution – Transcript.
12 February: Government response to report ‘Brexit: will consumers be protected?’
27 February: Academics and think tanks questioned on enforcement and dispute resolution post-Brexit. Transcript.
27 February: Letter from Lord Boswell to Immigration Minister on citizens' rights post-Brexit.

International Relations:
28 February: Evidence session on Foreign policy in changed world conditions. Transcript.
7 March: Evidence session on Foreign policy in changed world conditions. Transcript.
14 March: Evidence session on Foreign policy in changed world conditions.

Liaison:
8 March: Eleventh Informal Brexit Liaison Group meeting held.

News
5 March: UK: Talks with US on post-Brexit aviation deal have been positive (Politico Pro)
5 March: Airbus warns it may need to stockpile parts against Brexit (BBC)
6 March: Vauxhall chief warns of Brexit threat to Ellesmere Port (BBC)
6 March: Ford calls for Brexit clarity to help it make UK investment decision (Automotive News Europe)
11 March: UK Cabinet at odds over delay to Brexit immigration bill (Politico)
11 March: Theresa May's Brexit plan to register millions of EU citizens risks descending into 'chaos' (Business Insider Deutschland)
12 March: Post-Brexit border checks 'may triple queues' to port (BBC)

5. Scotland

Scottish Parliament
Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: 27 February; 9 March.
26 February: Migration in post-Brexit Scotland (Scottish Parliament Information Centre)
28 February: Statement: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.
1 March: Debate: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.
6 March: Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.
7 March: Finance and Constitution Committee: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1.

7 March: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1.


8 March: Equalities and Human Rights Committee: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.

8 March: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.

13 March: pre-stage 2 debate: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill.


14 March: Scotland must find a way for Erasmus+ to continue post-Brexit, says Holyrood’s Europe and External Relations Committee.

Scottish Government

27 February: Devolution to be protected post Brexit – Continuity Bill introduced.

8 March: Brexit talks update: Scottish Government makes new proposal to protect devolution. Comment following the latest meeting of the JMC (EN).

11 March: Spring Statement must deliver clarity on Brexit impact.

12 March: EU Withdrawal Bill amendments - “No safeguards” to protect devolution.

6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly publishes a ‘Brexit Brief’ newsletter and Brexit information.

The Assembly’s Research and Information Services has a Brexit Hub with information and links to resources on the subject of Brexit and Northern Ireland.

7. UK-Ireland relations

26 February: Taoiseach and Prime Minister speak on Brexit.

2 March: Statement by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar following today’s speech by the Prime Minister May.

7 March: Northern Ireland: Statements.

9 March: Statement by the Taoiseach during the visit of European Council President, Mr Donald Tusk.

8. Reports published

Brexit: Local and Devolved Government (UK in a Changing Europe)
Continuity and Confusion: Legislating for Brexit in Scotland and Wales (Part I) and Continuity and Confusion: Legislating for Brexit in Scotland and Wales (Part II) (UK Constitutional Law Association)

What are they after? William Davies writes about the Tory Brexiteers (London Review of Books)

Brexit and Welsh firms (Welsh Brexit blogs)

The five alternatives to EU single market and customs union would all make UK poorer (The Conversation)

EU Brexit withdrawal proposal: a lawyer explains the detail (The Conversation)

As the clock ticks towards Brexit Day we’re in danger on multiple fronts (UK in a Changing Europe)

If only Theresa May had given this speech 13 months ago at Lancaster House (UK in a Changing Europe)

Corbyn’s Brexit Speech: a big shift, or very little change? (UK in a Changing Europe)

The Local Government Association’s priorities for Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit means a bleak future for UK public spending and probably for intra-UK governance relations (LSE Brexit)

The UK government is shedding some of its illusions about Brexit, and softening its position (LSE Brexit)

The EU’s current problems are largely of its own making (LSE Brexit)

What the 2015 Greek debt negotiations tell us about Germany’s negotiating stance on Brexit (LSE Brexit)

The EU legal system is not a thing you can leave (LSE Brexit)

How the economics profession got it wrong on Brexit (LSE Brexit)

EU Withdrawal Agreement: the real losers will be British businesses and British citizens (LSE Brexit)

Why cake is going to stay on the Brexit menu (UK in a Changing Europe)

What’s the plan for future trade relations between the UK and EU? (UK in a Changing Europe)

The revenge of ‘the places that don’t matter’? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Is politics finally confronting Brexit? (UK in a Changing Europe)

The regional policy implications of Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

The politics of Brexit in Scotland (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit: shaking up the Scottish constitutional settlement (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit and English identity (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit and the NHS - Brexit could result in longer waiting times, increased pressure on staffing levels and a reduction in rights when travelling new report finds (UK in a Changing Europe)

The impact of Brexit on the health and social care sector (UK in a Changing Europe)
Lord David Owen on Brexit and the NHS (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit didn’t cause the pressures on the NHS, but it will make them more difficult (UK in a Changing Europe)

The impact of Brexit on NHS staff (UK in a Changing Europe)

Known Unknowns: How to ensure Europe’s security after Brexit (LSE Brexit)

The UK shouldn’t be complacent about its high anti-corruption ranking: trouble lies ahead with Brexit (LSE Brexit)

A hard Brexit will see criminals taking back control (LSE Brexit)

What a CETA (or CETA+) free trade agreement would mean (LSE Brexit)

How useful are the estimates of the economic consequences of Brexit? (LSE Brexit)

Why won’t the UK get a good Brexit deal on financial services? One word: Norway (LSE Brexit)

EU Withdrawal Agreement: the real losers will be British businesses and British citizens (LSE Brexit)

Costing Brexit: what is Whitehall spending on exiting the EU? (Institute for Government)